



MAKING A DIFFERENCE

YOUR SPRING VOLUNTEER AND DONATIONS NEWSLETTER



Photo: Time to Talk Day session with Volunteer Services

Hello everyone, and welcome back to the Spring edition of the Volunteer Newsletter. We are delighted to share our latest updates and stories with you.

We hope you've all been well. To those who observed Ramadan, we hope you had a peaceful and fulfilling month and a joyous Eid celebration. We also extend our warm wishes to everyone who celebrated Easter, and hope it was a meaningful and happy time for you and your loved ones.

As always we would like to thank all our volunteers for their continued hard work, commitment and dedication. We are truly grateful for everything you do.

We hope you enjoy reading this newsletter. If you would like to share anything for the next edition, please feel free to get in touch, we would love to hear from you.

Shaheen
Volunteer Services Manager

Volunteer Services participated in Time to Talk Day on Thursday 5 February. The day is an annual campaign that encourages people to check in and have open conversations about mental health with each other. As a result, we help to reduce stigma, create connection, and make it easier for people to reach out for support.

We were joined by many of you and had an engaging discussion around health and wellbeing.



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Our numbers since January 2026:

57

Number of volunteers
(22 Board Members
and 35 volunteers)

55

Owt for Nowt
visits

49

Different donations
received

57

Families / people
supported

Nidha is Volunteer of the Season!

VOLUNTEER of the SEASON



Nidha Latif is an Activity support volunteer at Fairmount.

She was nominated by colleagues at Fairmount who said: "Nidha's contribution at Fairmount stands out as a quiet, consistent force for good. Since starting with us, she has got stuck in with absolutely experiencing all the aspects of the service – such as helping us move a tree that had fallen from the neighbouring allotment into Fairmount's car park, as the elderly gentlemen who it belonged to was too unwell. She delivers cook and eat sessions turning the task into a moment of warmth, routine and care. Her reliability gives the people we support something steady to look forward to, and her presence in the kitchen has become part of the rhythm of the building.

Nidha attends meetings with the people we support and really gets involved with conversations and implementing their ideas.

Our donation room is on top form too – Nidha goes in and always makes sure it is in order and easy accessible for people to come in and get items they need.

Her support doesn't stop at Fairmount. Nidha extends the same compassion to people living in dispersed properties, offering guidance, encouragement, and a listening ear whenever it's needed. She shows up with patience, dignity, and genuine commitment, often filling gaps that aren't formally asked of her but make a real difference to people's lives.

Nidha is always supportive and kind to all at Fairmount. Her dedication reflects the best of what volunteering can be: consistent, grounded, and deeply human. We're proud to have Nidha at our service. Thank you from everyone here at Fairmount, We look forward to the future with you here with us, Nidha!

We presented Nidha with her gift for winning Volunteer of the Season – we all decided she deserved a pamper kit so she can put her feet up after all the hard work she does, as well as a 'Queen of the Kitchen' apron for her superb cooking sessions at Fairmount."

Nidha said:

"I have been a volunteer at Horton Housing, and more specifically at Fairmount for a few months now, and so far it has been an absolutely lovely experience. From seeing people we support on a regular basis and building that rapport, to also shadowing the team on their daily tasks. I've been able to manage a few Cook and Eats which have been very well received by all. There has always been something to learn in each volunteering session.

The volunteering has not only been pleasurable and great due to being able to directly work with people in Fairmount, the team play a huge role in the fact that I love to come in to work. All of the team from management right down to support workers are genuinely so pleasant, approachable and kind, and definitely one of the best teams I have worked with so far. To feel comfortable in the work environment is really a bonus. I look forward to the future at Horton Housing and what it brings."



Chris is Volunteer Mentor of the Season!

VOLUNTEER MENTOR *of the* SEASON

**Chris Slingsby, Maintenance Operative**

Chris was nominated by Moulid (Maintenance volunteer), who said: "I would like to nominate Chris. I am nominating him because he has been extremely supportive, helpful, and approachable. He takes the time to explain tasks clearly and ensures I understand what needs to be done. He is also hardworking and sets a great example through his attitude and professionalism. He encouraged me to apply for a job advertised on the company website, which showed that he believes in me and recognises my abilities. This support gave me confidence and motivation to take the next step. Working with him has been a very positive experience, and I have learned a lot from his guidance. For these reasons, I believe he truly deserves this nomination."



(photo: Chris receiving the gift voucher from Service Leader, Lisa Whelan)

Horton's Senior Leadership Team (SLT) had a tough decision to make, as the level of support shown to volunteers by all those nominated was excellent. SLT were particularly impressed with Chris Slingsby as he isn't a manager and mentoring volunteers isn't something that is included within his day-to-day role. Despite this, he gave his time to support and mentor the volunteer, making a positive difference. SLT would like to pass on their thanks to all nominees, as well as to the volunteers who took time to nominate them.

Chris said: "A big thank you to Mo for the nomination. It's been a pleasure showing him the ropes and watching him get to grips with how we operate. Mentoring is all about passing it on, and I'm just glad to see that my 'methods to the madness' are paying off for him!."

Congratulations, Chris! As Volunteer Mentor of the Season, Chris received a gift voucher.

Other nominations we received for Volunteer Mentor of the Season were:

- **Charlotte Norris**, Head of Culture, Communication and Insights - nominated by Faith
- **Kristina Batty**, Volunteer Services Coordinator - nominated by Buddhika
- **Sean King**, Maintenance Manager, Property Services - nominated by Kristina
- **Tanya Phillips**, Volunteer Coordinator, Young Persons' Prevention and Support Service (YPASS) - nominated by Chamini.

A huge congratulations to everyone who was nominated and thank you for all the fantastic work you do in supporting our volunteers!

THANK YOU



Faith started volunteering with the Culture Group at Horton after the Volunteer Services Team sent her details of the volunteer opportunity in December 2025.

Soon after Faith started her role in the Culture Project, she kindly sent positive feedback and a thank you note to our Volunteer Coordinator, Kristina, saying:



“I just wanted to thank you for your support and guidance during the initial application stage.

I have now started in the culture project role and have been introduced to the team and made a full induction. Things are going really well, and it's all thanks to your initial guidance.

I'm genuinely grateful that you took the time to point me in this direction - it's a meaningful and impactful role, and I can't wait to make meaningful contributions and support to the work being done here. I really appreciate your help in making this happen.”



CONGRATULATIONS

Your success stories



Adil

Adil joined our NewStart Bradford service as a Service Volunteer. He has successfully secured full-time employment at Waythrough.

He said: "Starting my volunteering journey with Horton Housing was a completely new experience for me. I entered the role with no prior background in the sector, no formal qualifications, and a limited understanding of how supported housing and services operate. Initially, I felt unsure and hesitant, as I didn't want to make mistakes in a field that supports vulnerable individuals.

As a volunteer, I was given the opportunity to be involved in many aspects of the service, which allowed me to gain valuable insight into the day-to-day work of support colleagues.

I was able to sit in on assessments and support sessions, observing how experienced colleagues interacted with people they support and managed complex situations.

I took part in a wide range of service activities, including: helping to organise and run snooker tournaments, shared meals, arts and crafts, and film sessions. I also supported general duties, such as preparing rooms for people who are referred to the service, completing paperwork, and assisting wherever needed. These experiences allowed me to build confidence, take initiative, and become a reliable part of the team.

One of the most important things I gained during my time volunteering was knowledge. I developed an understanding of confidentiality, GDPR, how supported housing services operate, and how to support individuals with a range of needs. This helped me feel more confident in understanding what support looks like in practice and how to approach situations professionally and appropriately.

A key highlight of my experience was how included I felt within the team. Being trusted to take on responsibilities within my role helped me grow in confidence and feel valued.

Through this experience, I realised that I wanted to pursue a career in this field. The exposure, knowledge, and confidence I gained played a significant role in helping me take that next step.



CONGRATULATIONS

Your success stories



Adil (continued)

"I am now working as a Support Coordinator with Waythrough, where I can apply the skills I learned during my volunteering in a more hands-on role.

Volunteering with Horton Housing has been a key stepping stone in my journey. It gave me the foundation I needed to enter the sector and develop both personally and professionally. I would highly recommend volunteering to anyone considering a career in support work, as it provides invaluable experience and a real understanding of what the role involves."



Antony

Antony volunteered as a Van Driver's Mate for the Owt for Nowt shop. He has now successfully secured full-time employment at the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP).

He said: "I volunteered to help with collections for the Owt for Nowt shop in July 2025, working one day a week.

The people I worked with were all fantastic and I was made to feel welcome from day one. I had not worked for some time and volunteering gave me confidence and purpose, and eased me back in to a work environment. Horton Housing is a great place to volunteer and I would absolutely recommend volunteering in any capacity.

I will definitely miss my time at Horton Housing, but mostly the people I've met."

Alina

Alina joined our Young Persons' Prevention and Support Service (YPASS) as an Administrative volunteer. She has now successfully secured a part-time role at WH Smith Travel.

She said: "I decided it would be a good idea to take up a volunteering role in administration with Horton Housing and give back to society. I also wanted to work with young people and support them, and to meet new people and learn new skills."

Congratulations, Adil, Antony and Alina on behalf of the Volunteer Services Team and the organisation!



We successfully recruited 10 new volunteers. A warm welcome to...

- **Faith Tumba** - Culture Project volunteer
- **Alina Ali** - Administrative volunteer, Young Persons' Prevention and Support Service (YPASS)
- **Natasha Hussain** - Activities Support volunteer, Housing and Community Support (HACS) 4 Men
- **Natali Revelo** - Activities Support volunteer, Bradford Temporary Accommodation Service (BTAS) (Octavia Court)
- **James Wolfenden** - Van Driver's Mate volunteer, Donations and Volunteer Services
- **Abdirahim Nur Mohammed** - Maintenance Support volunteer, Property Services
- **Shazia Zia** - English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) volunteer, BTAS
- **Wendy Garner** - Befriender volunteer, Fairmount
- **Bronwyn Jones** - Activities Support volunteer - BTAS Family
- **Montgomery Hartigan Davies** - Activities Support volunteer, YPASS



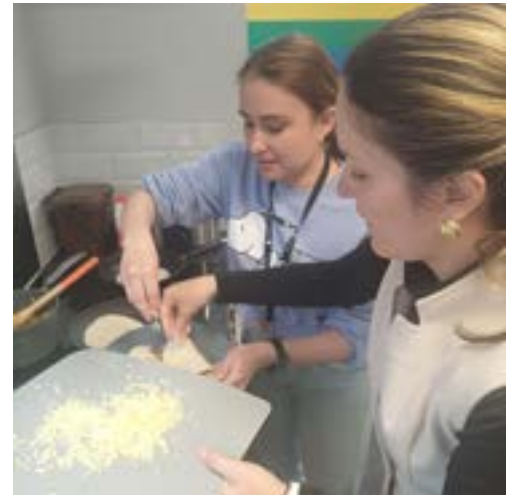
Latest activities of our Young Persons' Prevention and Support Service (YPASS) volunteers

Cook and Eat

Laura (Activity facilitator volunteer) and Natalia (Service support volunteer) have been delivering YPASS's weekly Cook and Eat sessions with people in the service.

The group have cooked up lots of tasty meals over the last couple of months, including Russian salad, hot dogs with a side of chips, and stuffed courgette with salad. The meals have been enjoyed by all.

Laura and Natalia have also been delivering Spanish lessons to the young people before each Cook and Eat session. The classes are going well! The group have learnt lots of useful beginner phrases.



Photos: Laura and Natalia at YPASS Cook and Eat sessions.

Exciting upcoming events!



Bradford - Saltaire Arts Trail (2nd - 4th May)

The Saltaire Arts Trail is an annual event that transforms the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Saltaire into a vibrant open gallery. Visitors are invited to view contemporary art and craft in over 20 locations across the village, in people's homes, businesses and public spaces. Families can also enjoy a chance to get inspired and learn new skills in artistic workshops. Special exhibitions will be on display at Salts Mill during the weekend. A Makers Fair will be held at Victoria Hall on Sunday and Monday for visitors to browse and buy a variety of handcrafted items and artwork.

For more information, visit: <https://saltaireinspired.org.uk/events/saltaire-arts-trail/>

Huddersfield Literature Festival 2026 (6th - 17th May)

The Huddersfield Literature Festival is celebrating its 20th year in 2026. This award winning festival is held every Spring in Huddersfield to celebrate and showcase a diverse programme of authors, poets, performers and entertainers. Come along to see performances, talks from authors, workshops, discussion panels, and take part in some family-friendly activities. Tickets will be available to book with differing prices, some are low cost and a number are free to book onto.

For more information, visit: <https://www.huddlitfest.org.uk/>

Eid al-Adha (27th May 2026 - date may vary)

Eid Mubarak to everyone celebrating! We hope you have a happy and peaceful Eid.

Volunteers' Week (1st to 7th June)

Volunteers' Week takes place every year across the UK in the first week of June. The week is about celebrating and thanking volunteers for giving their time to make a difference. Plans are taking shape for Volunteers' Week activities at Horton... watch this space! We will let you know more details soon.

Horton Academy Training Courses



It is really important that you complete your core training in your first six months of volunteering with us. The courses can be accessed remotely online. It is our responsibility to ensure that you are able to carry out the roles you have been recruited to do.

If you are looking for something to keep you occupied and you have access to a PC, tablet or smartphone, then please log in and complete the modules listed below.

If you have any questions or need help with logging in, then please contact the Volunteer Services Team on **01274 743480** or email **Volunteer.applications@hortonhousing.co.uk**

Mandatory courses for volunteers are:

- **Professional Boundaries**
- **Safeguarding and Protection**
- **Health and Safety**
- **Data Protection**
- **Basic Personal Safety**
- **Equality and Diversity**

You can log in to Horton Academy at home (if this is your preferred way of completing training) via the link below using your name e.g. josephb and password:

<https://hortonhousing.learningpool.com/login/index.php>



Our latest volunteer roles



Please note that most of these roles require an enhanced DBS Check, of which we will cover the cost.

Roles in Bradford

Befrienders

You will provide regular social contact to someone who may be experiencing social isolation or other vulnerabilities. As a Befriender, you will listen actively and empathetically, be friendly and offer a safe space for conversation.

You will encourage the person to develop their confidence and independence, sometimes supporting the person to engage in social activities or access services. This role is based at our male-only accommodation service in Shipley.

Knitting / Sewing Group Volunteer Tutor

The knitting / sewing group volunteer tutor will use their skills and knowledge to encourage and to teach people basic knitting/sewing skills. The knitting/sewing group is held every Friday at Horton Housing's Training Centre. The role requires a weekly commitment.

Activities Support Volunteer

You will assist colleagues with organising and engaging in group activities, including: arts and crafts, coffee mornings, community trips, and much more. The role will require you to attend the scheme once-a-week.

Our latest volunteer roles (continued)

Roles in Kirklees

Peer Support Volunteer

You will provide guidance, support and encouragement to people in the service. You will also support people to manage their money and direct them to local support services if needed. This role is based at our Horton Intervention and Prevention Service (HIPS) in Huddersfield.



Roles in Calderdale

For more information or to apply for any of our Calderdale roles, please contact YPASS Volunteer Coordinator Tanya on **07809 203876**.

Arts and Crafts Facilitator Volunteer

The ideal candidate will have a passion for arts and crafts to lead a group in creative projects. The role involves researching and planning our arts and crafts sessions. You will encourage members to express their creativity and work together in a social, relaxed atmosphere.

Yoga Instructor Volunteer

You will deliver in-house yoga sessions in our communal space. You will engage and encourage group members, and adapt sessions to correspond to people's abilities. The ideal candidate will have knowledge of facilitating yoga sessions and a yoga-related accreditation.

Early Intervention and Prevention Assistant Volunteer

You will engage and offer support to young people who have been referred to YPASS, while the young person waits to be allocated a support worker.

The role involves: In-person and telephone befriending, encouraging people to attend sessions in the scheme and in the local community. You will also assist with referrals by uploading documents to a secure, online database, logging notes and completing forms.

Keep up to date!



If you're not already on social media, why not sign up and follow us to keep up to date with the latest volunteering opportunities, news and events and get to know other Horton volunteers.



Like us on Facebook

Horton Housing Association volunteers: [@hortonvolunteer](#)

Horton Housing Association: [@hortonhousingassociation](#)



Follow us on Instagram

Horton Housing Association: [@hortonhousing](#)

Subscribe to our mailing list to receive the latest Horton news in your inbox.

Scan this QR code or visit the link below:

<https://dashboard.mailerlite.com/forms/609122/111442207316117152/share>



SCAN ME

Get in touch



We would love to know what you think about your volunteer newsletter!

Please get in touch via the details below to give any feedback, or if you have any news stories or suggestions for future issues.

Get in touch!

Email: volunteer.applications@hortonhousing.co.uk

Phone: **01274 743480**

Write to us:

**Volunteer Services Manager
Fieldhead Business Centre
18-24 St Martins Avenue
Bradford
BD7 1LG**

For the latest volunteering opportunities, please visit our website: <https://hortonhousing.co.uk/>



Have a story to tell? We'd love to hear from you. Get in touch today.

