



Summer Newsletter for Season 2024/2025

Dear friends,

As our shelter season comes to a close, we want to take a moment to thank each and every one of you for your incredible generosity, hard work, and dedication.

This season has certainly brought its challenges — especially as the shelter was full towards the end — but we are so pleased to share some positive news. Thanks to the collective efforts of our volunteers, partner organisations, and supporters, we were able to secure housing for three of our guests.

Two guests have now moved into our shared house where they will benefit from stable accommodation and ongoing support. A third guest has settled into the flat, providing him with a safe and welcoming space as he takes his next steps.

As some of you will know, the flat had previously been home to two women who have now moved on. As they left, we were able to take the opportunity to decorate the flat before welcoming one of our shelter guests and another guest from the house. It's wonderful to see the space refreshed and ready for new beginnings.

Looking back at the shelter season, we welcomed 41 guests in total. We're proud to share that 22 of them moved on in a positive direction whether through receiving Home Office accommodation, securing housing with other charities, or moving into one of our permanent properties. These successes are only possible thanks to the dedication of our volunteers and the support of our community.

These outcomes are a testament to what we can achieve together, even in the most difficult circumstances. Thank you for standing with WYDAN and for helping us offer hope and dignity to those who need it most.

Following the refurbishment of all the bedrooms in the shelter last summer, this year our focus will be on our house in Harehills. We know there's a lot of work to do to make it a truly lovely and comfortable home for the four men who are now living there. Two of the house guests have been with us for some time, and the other two moved in when the shelter closed.

It will be a challenge to fully decorate and refurbish the house while it's occupied, but we're confident that the residents will support the effort and help where they can. Together, we'll work to make the house a warm, welcoming space.

Following the refurbishment of the Shelter bedrooms last year we plan to upgrade more of the facilities at the Shelter over the summer using grants we've gained for this purpose. We also plan to look at the longer term provision at our house and flat, in partnership with the landlords, to make improvements which will give our Guests a good standard of accommodation.

Some comments from our guests, and some of the others at WYDAN;-

It is good clean home and everything works well, and I am a good friend to my house mate and between us there is respect and co-operation in everything.”

A word from one of our Lead Volunteers.

‘I have volunteered not just as part of the management committee but as a volunteer and eventually becoming a Lead Volunteer. Although this role makes more demands on you, I have thoroughly enjoyed being part of a team that is working to help support asylum seekers that are in need of help, whether that is shelter, food, communication, information or just being there for a chat. WYDAN has offered me different way of giving something back, which is time to help others. I have come to realise that the Lead Volunteer role is a vital role in helping keep those 'cogs' turning for abetter outcome.”

As we look ahead, we will be holding volunteer training again during September. We'll circulate the dates as soon as they're confirmed. Shelter training is a requirement for all volunteers, and there will also be optional sessions covering the asylum process, and drug and mental health awareness.

SAVE THE DATE!!!

We're also pleased to share that we'll be holding a coffee morning on the 2nd August from 10am - 12pm and we would love to see as many of you there as possible. It will be a great chance to catch up, share idea's over a coffee and cake. We will also welcome your thoughts and idea's for next season.

We were pleased to welcome Steven Francis as a new Lead Volunteer last season, and we're looking forward to having Sunita Wasson join the Lead Volunteer team for the coming season.

Finally, if you know anyone who might be interested in volunteering at the shelter — or if you yourself are considering becoming a Lead Volunteer — please do get in touch. We'd be happy to provide more information and answer any questions.

Thank you, as always, for your ongoing support. Together, we continue to make a real difference to some of the most marginalised people in our community.

The WYDAN Team