



VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2022

WELCOME TO THE HILL HOUSE VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER!

Once again, this month has seen a good turnout of volunteers at Hill House, both regulars and some new faces. Thank you to everyone who has given their time, it is always very much appreciated. April has seen lots of progress made in the garden. Clare has been working diligently on the flower garden, along with keen helpers, and it's looking lovely. Jean, Jackie and Cathy have been working hard clearing brambles and digging the new path. They've done a fantastic job. The decorating of the upstairs bathroom is finished and it looks bright and fresh, thanks especially to Mike, who did most of the decorating in there. I would also like to thank Caroline, who keeps us fed and watered, nettle soup was a new experience for a few of us - it was delicious!



HILL HOUSE NEWS

Caroline and three of our volunteers met with staff from GARAS (Gloucestershire Action for Refugees and Asylum Seekers) to discuss setting up a walking programme for people seeking sanctuary in Gloucester to come and enjoy the countryside, using Hill House as a base. GARAS welcomes and supports people seeking asylum in Gloucestershire, advocating for them in their daily struggles and supporting them if they face being sent back, as well as helping them adjust to life in the UK for the long term if they are recognised as refugees. We may be asking for walking volunteers and people to help with transport in the near future - so watch this space!



Heather and Noosh from Aid Box Community came to plan the refugee weekend on May 20-22nd. Thank you to everyone who has volunteered their time for this. Aid Box Community are a welcome hub and free shop in Bristol, who offer practical aid, support and community to people who have been forcibly displaced.



Over coffee and lunch this month, many people have expressed their shock at the government's proposal to send asylum seekers to Rwanda. Some of our volunteers took part in vigils in Stroud on April 23rd and 30th to show their feelings, as well as writing to Siobhan Bailey with their concerns.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

The next volunteer Mondays are:
9th and 23rd May

Asylum Process Information Evening
7th June - Location TBC.

Summer Fundraiser
26th June

IMPORTANT:

Please note that due to the bank holiday, volunteer Mondays in May will be on the 9th and 23rd. We will return to the regular first and third Mondays in June.

