



# VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

JULY 2022

## WELCOME TO THE HILL HOUSE VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER!

July has been a busy month at Hill House with lots of activities and visitors. Volunteer Mondays continue to go well, and with about 6 or 7 helpers each time much is being achieved. Mike has put the first coat of blue paint on the door, the vegetable garden that volunteers have worked hard to get going is becoming productive and the apricot tree is bearing fruit. Jean has been tidying the area around the summerhouse, which was long overdue. Inside the house volunteers have been busy ironing and preparing rooms for guests. Ann has made a single duvet out of a double one as we have decided to gradually move to more single beds than doubles. Thank you to everyone who has given their time, your work behind the scenes in the house and garden makes it possible for Hill House to provide positive experiences and a warm welcome to our guests.

### HILL HOUSE NEWS

#### Days out from GARAS

We now have a regular system for our days out with friends from GARAS. Martin collects our guests from Gloucester in the morning, we then make a picnic or plan lunch together and take people back for about 4pm. It's a great chance to meet and chat and enjoy the local area together.

On July 5th we walked in St Chloe woods and across to Rodborough Common with a picnic.

On the 19th the heatwave made it too hot to walk so we stayed at Hill House, dug and picked veg - shelling peas together under the shade of a tree. Afterwards we cooked together, introduced one friend to Scrabble and made art in the craft room together.



### DATES FOR THE DIARY

The next volunteer Mondays are:  
1st and 15th August

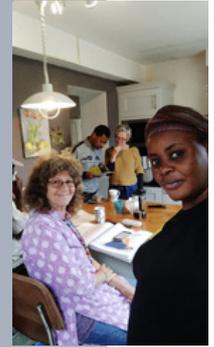


The next GARAS walks are: 4th and 18th August - Please contact Caroline or Rachael if you would like to be involved.

## Bristol Hospitality Network Sanctuary Break

From 1st-3rd July, six guests from BHN came to stay. Everyone had a great time. They played croquet on the lawn, walked on the common, enjoyed a Qigong session with Clare Ballard and a visit to Clare Bassett's lovely garden and studio, where everyone did some creative work. There was also lots of cooking, which was especially appreciated by people who are living in temporary accommodation in hotels, who aren't allowed to cook their own food. At the end of our time together we had a very touching mutual appreciation session. It was lovely to see people's faces relaxing over the two days.

From BHN - "Thank you so much - we loved the flowers, the bonfire, we slept well, we hope we will come back, we felt at home :)"



## Imayla Women's Group

From 26th-29th July, a group of seven Somali and Sudanese women came to stay and had a lot of fun. Sadly the home office didn't give permission for two hotel women to come. There was lots of volunteer involvement, with Pilates and yoga sessions, several people came in the evening for supper and chat, and there was a visit to Alice Fiddler's Artist Hide for an art session. We received some lovely feedback from the women: "We Created unforgettable memories with our friends and made new ones"

"Thanks for making connections the local women, the arts, your neighbours, and Sarah (Hughes - Trustee)"



## Ukraine Guests, Hosts and Helpers Social

On July 31st, Hill House hosted a social event, which was planned by the Amberley Ukraine Welcome Group. It was a lovely afternoon with children playing, good food bought by both guests and hosts, and plenty of Pimms! It was also a great opportunity to extend support to everyone involved and to extend ties between Hill House and other organisations who can benefit from the work that we do.

## Further News...

Hill House will shortly be putting in a funding application to Barnwood for a development worker. John Patrick (long-time trustee and friend of Hill House) is having a party at the house to celebrate his leave to remain after 17 years. More details to follow!