



VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2022

WELCOME TO THE HILL HOUSE VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER!

The garden is beginning to look very autumnal, with plenty of leaf raking and general tidying to be done by our fantastic volunteers. We are near the end of a wonderful crop of apples. It was very satisfying that one of the Quaker visitors from Devon took a big bagful down to give to Asylum claiming residents of a hotel in Torquay, as they are always short of fresh fruit. Others have mostly been taken to Bristol refugees. We also have Hill House apple cider vinegar and quince jelly to assist our trading activities! Inside the house, Mike has re-papered and painted the wall of the music room. It looks great.

HILL HOUSE NEWS

Hill House Resident



We currently have a resident at Hill House. Alex is staying at the house for a month and in exchange she is supporting Caroline with developing the project, housekeeping, and generally bringing in some new energy as well as her expertise. Alex has a background in human rights and discrimination law. She has participated in many community development projects in Stroud, and has many contacts who could be involved in what Hill House has to offer. This is a great opportunity for Hill House to expand its contacts; we are pleased to have Alex on board.



Days out from GARAS

We had another successful day with 4 guests from GARAS on October 4th. Our guests were joined by 4 volunteers for a good walk around the Horsley area. The next day with GARAS will be on November 1st. The plan is for a day at Hill House with activities and lunch there. If anyone would like to be involved, please let Caroline know. We are also looking for drivers who would be able to pick guests up from GARAS in Gloucester at 10.30. Again, please let Caroline know if you are able to help.

House Guests

This month the house has hosted two paying groups. Between the 13th – 16th, a climate justice group who work primary with young people of colour came for rest and recuperation. On the weekend of the 21st – 23rd a Quaker group used the house for silent retreat practice. Hill House is a calming and welcoming space for groups to use for such events and the income generated is essential for us to maintain the house so that people seeking sanctuary in Gloucestershire and Bristol, or further afield can access it free of charge.

Stroud Together with Refugees

On October 15th, Stroud Together with Refugees group set up a stall outside the Sub Rooms in Stroud town centre, with the theme of 'safe passage for refugees'. Hill House volunteers were involved, and the event was well received by the public. Many passers-by engaged with the stall, keen to learn about and discuss the myths and facts of safe passage to the UK. In just two hours, almost 90 letters to Siobhan Baillie were signed by members of the public. The Stroud Times report and pictures can be seen [here](#). If you would like to see a copy of the leaflet from the event and/or sign a copy of the letter to Siobhan Baillie, please use [this link](#). On Wednesday 19th the letters were delivered to Siobhan Baillie's office. There's now a [Facebook page](#) for the campaign group



DATES FOR THE DIARY

The next volunteer Mondays are:
7th and 21st November
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The next day with GARAS is on
November 1st