



VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

NOV/DEC 2022

WELCOME TO THE HILL HOUSE VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to the final volunteer newsletter of 2022! We have welcomed lots of new, enthusiastic volunteers this year and I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for giving their time to Hill House. We couldn't do what we do here without the support of our volunteers. We are planning another volunteer recruitment drive in February so if you know anyone who might like to be involved, please mention us to them and watch this space for the date. We are particularly looking for people who can do heavy work, even if it's just occasionally.

In the house, the music room is almost finished, Mike is doing a great job. Our garden volunteers have planted bulbs ready for spring, as well as lots of autumn tidying and leaf raking.

HILL HOUSE NEWS

Days out with GARAS

We have had two good sessions with GARAS in November. The first was a day at Hill House. We had three guests who spent the morning working with us in the garden: sawing, heaving big branches to the bonfire and moving pallets to make new compost bins. We enjoyed a good lunch together of soup from the vegetable garden and Hill House homemade Membrillo with Manchego cheese, much to the delight of our Honduran guest who thought the Membrillo was wonderful! In the afternoon our guests took part in an art session with Clare, where they enjoyed making collages.

On the second day with GARAS, Bud and Caroline went to Gloucester and met guests in the friendship café where they had lunch and played scrabble together, followed by a visit to the city farm. We made lots of good contacts in the café and the city farm and one of our guests from GARAS would like to come and cook a Sudanese meal at hill house – watch this space for more info.

Please email Caroline if you would like to be involved with the next day with GARAS.



Other news

Alex has set up an open day for organisations to come and see the house with a view to booking next year. She has also made contact with Cheltenham Welcomes Refugees, who are a voluntary group supporting refugees in Cheltenham and Gloucester. We hope they will make use of the house in the future.

<https://www.cheltenhamwelcomesrefugees.org.uk/>

On Saturday 19th as part of Hill House involvement with the Homes for Ukraine scheme, we arranged a workshop for people who are in hosting or support roles with refugees. Trauma Foundation Southwest <https://www.tfs.co.uk/> facilitated the morning workshop; they are the experts on therapeutic work with refugees in the region. Nailsworth Rotary Club gave a grant to the Stroud Ukraine Community Support Hub for this work, however, this was a crossover between the Ukraine Scheme, GARAS and the Afghan Resettlement Programme. It was very positive and successful.

Christmas Lunch

On December 19th, instead of our usual work session, we will be having a Christmas bring and share lunch. Everyone is welcome.



DATES FOR THE DIARY

The next volunteer Monday: December 5th



The next day with GARAS: December 6th



Volunteer Christmas lunch: December 19th