



VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2023

WELCOME TO THE HILL HOUSE VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER!

Welcome to the Hill House newsletter. Volunteers have been busy in the garden as usual, planting, weeding and harvesting. Mike has begun working on a much needed new woodstore on the outside of the house wall. The nice weather at the beginning of the month enabled us to enjoy a last outdoor coffee time and shared lunch of the year before we move indoors for the winter.

HILL HOUSE NEWS

Charity Status

Good news! On 31st August Sanctuary Breaks got charity status – as a CIO (Charitable Incorporated Organisation). Registered charity number 1204540. The 6 trustees are also the Management Committee of Hill House Retreats CIC, which will be the trading arm of Sanctuary Breaks. This means Hill House Retreats CIC can make money however it likes (within reason and its terms of reference!) in order to make the house good for Sanctuary Breaks and can send profits there too. We will be setting up a new bank account for the CIO so that we can then take Gift Aid and are better placed to get grants. We can also more easily get DBS checks for people when needed.

Volunteer Policy

Rachael and Jean are helping Caroline and the Trustees to put together a suitable volunteer policy for Hill House Retreats / Sanctuary Breaks. This will cover things like signing up, expenses, where to find relevant policies and information, how we will support you as volunteers and what to do if something doesn't seem right.

GARAS

On 5th September 10 guests and five volunteers shared a day blackberrying and enjoying the rope swing on the common, working in the garden, playing Dobble and eating a delicious meal prepared by two of the guests – Zareena and Farhad.

We have received some good news – Gabi, the eldest daughter of Mario, one of our frequent attenders, has got her Biometric Residence Permit and can now work. The rest of the family are also optimistic and we are hoping they also receive positive news soon.

On 21st September, GARAS used the house for another sleep therapy session. These sessions have been immensely positive for the young people involved and we are glad we are able to offer them a place they find safe, calming and welcoming in which to hold these sessions.

And finally, we have put in a funding application as Sanctuary Breaks for next year's Day's Out programme – so fingers crossed!

Airbnb and other uses of Hill House

We have our first long term guest staying, who will be here mid-week for 4 – 8 weeks – It all helps! Also, Bud hosted a family party at Hill House this weekend with around 35 day guests and a number of guests staying at the house overnight. It was very successful and great for them to have a large space where they could bring everyone together. Do bear us in mind if you are thinking of planning anything similar.

Other News

On Sunday 22nd October, Stroud Refugee Aid Choir will perform one of the most significant and beautiful choral works,, Monteverdi's Vespers of 1610, in St. Laurence Church, Stroud. The event aims to raise thousands of pounds for local and international refugee charities, and Caroline, Jean and Sally will be singing with the choir. If you would like to attend, tickets can be booked on the following link: www.ticketsource.co.uk/stroud-refugee-aid-choir

