

Bradford City of Sanctuary



NEWSLETTER | MAY 2022



Hello, and welcome to the May edition of our newsletter. We've had a brilliant few months this year with lots going on - but also with a few changes happening here at Bradford City of Sanctuary. Read on to hear more!

Schools of Sanctuary

Last month we were very sad to say farewell to the wonderful Sarah Cartin, who has been coordinating our Schools of Sanctuary work for the past 3 years. Sarah has helped a number of new schools to gain the School of Sanctuary award, and many more who are currently actively working towards it. She has worked tirelessly to ensure young people, teachers and parents have a greater understanding of the reality of seeking sanctuary and are able to fully welcome and support them in their schools. Her work has been valued nationally too, as she has helped to significantly improve the award application process and develop resources for schools.

We are however, also thrilled to welcome the new person into the post. Kate Hart will begin with us this month and with her, brings a whole host of experience and enthusiasm to the role. We're really excited to start working together!

If you would like to welcome Kate, or chat about anything related to Schools of Sanctuary, please contact Kate on:

schools@bradford.cityofsanctuary.org



UNIFY FESTIVAL 2021

CULTIVATE • COLLABORATE • INNOVATE

Last month we held a Market Stall at the Community Open Day which launched the week-long UNify festival at Bradford University. Thank you so much to everyone who attended or supported this event in March. Bradford City of Sanctuary were proud to be stood shoulder to shoulder with all the brilliant organisations in Bradford supporting refugees and asylum seekers. We met and chatted with lots of people - many of whom are newly arrived into the city.

It was a great event to connect, and explain about our work. A huge thank you to The University for the space, and arranging the day.

We look forward to UNify 2023!

Garden Partners *With Northcliffe Park* 2022

Do you enjoy gardening and growing fruit and vegetables?

Northcliffe Allotment Society (NAS) would like to welcome Refugees and Asylum Seekers to partner with us in working on our Community Garden and allotment plots. Who is involved? NAS is a friendly group of allotment holders who all enjoy growing their own fruit and vegetables. We manage Northcliffe Allotments and we meet regularly for social events such as plant swops, bonfires and gardening talks.

What is it?

Allotments are plots of land for growing vegetables, fruit or flowers. We have over 150 separate allotment plots, a communal orchard and a communal area we are developing into a wildlife garden. There are a variety of tasks we would like help with throughout the year including weeding, clearing, planting, harvesting, site maintenance, construction and conservation.

Where is it?

Northcliffe Allotments are part of Northcliffe Park, in Shipley, BD18.

What would I need?

We don't require any previous experience and we will provide all tools and equipment. You will need some clothes that you don't mind getting dirty.

When is it?

Our Community Gardening group is on the first Saturday of each month. The dates for the start of 2022 are:

**BUS
FARES
CAN BE
PROVIDED**

**7th May
4th June
2nd July**

How do I get there?

There are good bus links from Bradford to Northcliffe Park and travel expenses will be paid.

If you are interested in working with Northcliffe Allotment Society or would like more information, please email **gardening_partners@outlook.com**

Horton Community Farm

Horton Community Farm (HCF) is a charitable organisation run by a small number of dedicated workers and directors with the aim of creating an inner-city sustainable farm. It has been in its current location for a number of years and has always been involved in working with asylum seekers and refugees.

Although it has been hit hard during lockdown and the pandemic, it has bounced back and is offering a wide range of activities for asylum seekers and refugees as well as working with schools and other organisations.

Some of its current activities include Mindfulness Gardening, Forest Schools, Social and Therapeutic Horticulture as well as Seeds of Hope. Asylum seekers and Refugees are welcome to become involved in a variety of ways which include volunteering or joining in one or more of the activities. Next month HCF will be assessed by City of Sanctuary in order to become a Garden of Sanctuary, the first in this area which is exciting for everyone connected. To find out more about HCF, go on to their website at <https://hcf.org.uk>

Moving On

This month, we are also sad to say farewell to our Coordinator Mike Auger.

Mike has been with us for two and a half years and has brought incredible energy, creativity and enthusiasm to our work. Despite the impact of Covid lockdowns, he developed our Help into Volunteering programme, led important work on our Sanctuary Awards (see article below on Bradford Interchange!), built excellent relationships across the city and massively improved our communications.

He will be greatly missed by all who worked with him. We wish him all the best as he commits more of his time to developing the great work of

Displace Yourself Theatre.

The INTERCHANGE is a SANCTUARY!

We are so happy to announce that Bradford Interchange has been presented with a Station of Sanctuary Award. Over the past year, the team at the station have worked to create an environment of welcome, and their application includes:

Training for all Staff

Creating a quiet/ prayer room onsite

A commitment to advocating for cheaper travel for asylum seekers

A commitment to improving the timetables

Bolton City of Sanctuary piloted a Station scheme a few years ago, to see what was possible. This inspired us to contact the Interchange and their response was incredible. We would like to say a huge thank you to Karen Buckroyd and the whole team at the Interchange for your hard work on this, and we look forward to continue working together.



Woodwork at Bradford Refugee Forum

BRF are pleased to have a good relationship with the Hive in Shipley, who run a variety of art workshops for people to learn new skills and do activities that are good for wellbeing.

For the past couple of months, BRF have partnered with Hive to put on a woodwork course for some of the people we work with – including people who had no experience of woodwork before! The Hive were fantastic, and by the end of the course participants had made a wooden box, complete with hinges and a coat of brightly coloured paint, and a mixed-wood chopping board. Thank you to Awards for All for funding these sessions!

Our woodwork adventures have been concluded for now, but we are looking forward to what's next at the Hive. We are hoping to run some more art sessions soon... Watch this space – and let us know if you're interested!

Meanwhile, BRF continues to run our Befriending Project, connecting asylum seekers and refugees with volunteers, who help them find community groups and support, and help them with issues affecting them. If you might be interested in volunteering and would like to find out more, or to find out how to refer someone, please email info@bradfordrefugees.org.uk



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