

January 2025

Brenda Coleman, fondly remembered

We were saddened to hear of the death of Brenda Coleman. Brenda was the first Chair of Hands Together Ludlow in its early days when it became a charity, taking on the role of bringing together a new organisation. Our thoughts are with her family.

Company at Christmas round-up

Company at Christmas was yet again a huge success!

We were able to hold our Open Table again this year, with a huge variety of items available to take, and manned by a team of fantastic volunteers throughout the morning. It was lovely to have Nicola, who was our Volunteer Coordinator until September when she moved onto a new role with the NHS, and her son's back to help out.

On Christmas Morning alone, we were able to distribute just over 185 kilos of surplus! Thank you to everyone who came for some last-minute goodies, all the supermarkets and local organisations who donated surplus, and to our team of volunteers who collected and bought the items to Helena Lane.

Those who joined us at Helena Lane were treated to a stunning performance of Christmas Carols from representatives of Bella Acappella and Ludlow Male Voice Choir, led by Amy Evans. Thank you to everyone involved in bringing some festive cheer to the day. This really made the day feel extra festive and was a lovely welcome to the building.

Our team of volunteer cooks treated our attendees to a delicious full Turkey Dinner, kindly donated by Ludlow Farm Shop, with all the trimmings, with a choice of Christmas Pudding (also kindly donated by Ludlow Farm Shop) or Fruit Trifle to follow for pudding.

As always, we couldn't do any of this without our team of volunteers who ensured everything ran smoothly on Christmas Eve and on the day. Thank you so much to everyone who helped contribute towards the success of another Company at Christmas.

Volunteer and staff training

Staff and volunteers have undertaken Level 2 Food Hygiene training and Equality and Diversity training over the past month.



New Kitchen Update

We have been hugely busy getting our kitchen upgrade done and will share pictures in February but massive thanks to Kelvin (electric), Stephen and Mark (plumbing and much more!) and our volunteer Andy (shelving). We will do our first, newly moved, Community Lunch from The Hub today! Check 'Some events...' below for other changes to the Social Space week.

Volunteering in Ludlow Survey

Hands Together Ludlow, with over 100 volunteers contributing hundreds of hours each year, is just one part of Ludlow's vibrant volunteering community. Last year, we carried out a survey to find out how many people volunteer in Ludlow and with how many different groups. We received 136 responses, identifying 86 Ludlow-based organisations. The collective effort of hours given translates to an incredible social value of £294,595.24 annual, though this is just the tip of the iceberg.

To celebrate, our Volunteer Coordinator, Teresa, contacted the organisations listed through the survey, and others, to create a poster to recognise, celebrate and promote volunteering opportunities. 18 organisations provided a poster, which we were able to have printed through USKPF funding and displayed at Ludlow Assembly Rooms during the first week of January.

On Monday 6th January, the Poster Exhibition was opened by Graham Cheshire, Hands Together Ludlow Trustee and Beverly Waite, Ludlow Town Mayor, to members of the public and representatives from the organisations involved.

Thank you to everyone who got involved with this Exhibition.



Hedge planting volunteers needed in Ludlow area

Would you like to help plant a new hedgerow in Coreley? This winter as part of the Hedgerow Heroes projects, Countryside Charity Shropshire will be planting well over 4km of new native mixed-species hedgerows on around 30 sites! CPRE Shropshire are planting a new native species hedgerow on a working regenerative farm, set among 80 acres of ancient trees and rolling pastureland. Just under 10 miles from Ludlow, Planton Farm is embarking upon an ambitious project to return of 12 hectares of land to wood pasture habitat (where trees are planted on pastureland) and scrub.

Bring a family member or friend along on Thursday 23rd January 10am-1:30pm – if you cannot spare a whole morning, come along when you can! Spades are provided and all sessions are led by a volunteer who will provide guidance if you have not planted before. Please bring gardening gloves and wear stout boots.

Planting is a great experience, working outside in interesting locations with like-minded people doing something practical for nature in the lovely Shropshire countryside.

Booking is required to give an idea of numbers for tool availability.

Further information is given on booking. Book via

www.cpreshropshire.org.uk/help-us-plant-hedges or email admin@cpreshropshire.org.uk



The countryside charity
Shropshire

Some events this month (more information available on the Events page of our website)

Lucky Dip Social Lunch: Every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday. from 12:00pm – 1:30pm. Come along for a light meal and good company. Last meal order taken at 1pm.

Help Hub: Wednesday and Thursday mornings by appointment only. Support available for online forms (strictly not Personal Independence Payment (PIP)).

Mindful Colouring: Every Thursday between 11am-12pm at our Social Space. Supplies provided by Hands Together Ludlow.

For more details of any of our events please call **01584 873062** or visit our website: [Events \(handstogetherludlow.org.uk\)](http://Events(handstogetherludlow.org.uk))

HANDS TOGETHER LUDLOW is grateful for funding and support provided by the community and many other organisations, such as Millichope Foundation and the Hall Garth Trust.



HANDS TOGETHER LUDLOW

connecting our community

Hands Together Ludlow

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