

WYDAN  
NEWSLETTER 2024/25



What's Happening at the WYDAN Shelter 2024/2025

We've worked tirelessly at the shelter during the summer months making vast changes and improvements to the accommodation for the guests. This includes big changes to the bedrooms and they are all now individual spaces with lockable doors and ceiling so the men have much more privacy while they are in the shelter, and we felt that if we were going to improve the bedrooms we should also fit the bedrooms out with new beds and bedding, bedside tables and lamps and drawer units for all.



The work didn't stop there, we also have new windows throughout the shelter and new curtains in the lounge giving it a lovely homely feeling. We were also given a beautiful new oak dining table and chairs which means that when we are all in together we can sit around one table rather than having to squash up together, or having to use two tables. Being able to have everyone around the single table gives a feeling of belonging rather than a split group.

After doing all this work during the summer we were keen to show off our new shelter to the guests when we opened in October, we were all ready. shelter, volunteers and cooks all keen to start.

The changes that have been made have been warmly received by our new guests and also the volunteers that have seen them for the first time. The number of guests we have at the moment are fluctuating week by week but this is expected as the guests' needs for our help changes.

WYDAN did have 3 properties, two houses and a flat, one of the houses was on the other side of Leeds and it was difficult for the guests (who were housed there) to get to the Shelter and also to their agencies to meet with their caseworkers on a regular basis, so after careful consideration we decided that it would be better to close that house. Three of the guests that were staying there, had already moved on and the remaining guest was able to move to our other house in Harehills.

Many of our previous volunteers have returned again this season to continue to help us deliver this amazing service but we are always open to new volunteers joining us. One of our regular volunteers has agreed to take on a Lead Volunteer position which is going to be a great help to our other LV's.

The company "Cook" at the Springs Retail Park have kindly accepted us again this season as their Charity and are supporting us by supplying 16 meals a week, and two members of staff at Cook have also expressed an interest in volunteering at the shelter.



Over the Christmas/ New Year weeks we have been able to keep the shelter open for the guests to stay inside all day as there is understandably no where open for them to go to. We are also able to give all the guests some lovely Christmas gifts that have been donated by our volunteers for and those who support the shelter. A huge Thank You to all from our guests who were all extremely grateful. The guests were also invited to All Hallows Church to enjoy the usual Christmas Day Meal that is supplied and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

After the busy Christmas period we are now looking for new volunteers and we have two training dates coming up on Saturday 25th January 10am-12pm. Please contact [Office@Wydan](mailto:Office@Wydan).

### Inspirational Women.

We were delighted to hear that Katrina (our Project Manager) has been nominated as an "Inspirational Woman" for the tireless work she does to help the plight of destitute asylum seeker in Leeds and in honour of this her name has been added to this new ribbon sculpture which has been erected in Leeds outside the Playhouse.



### Sunflower ESOL Gardening Group.



Clare Jackson from Sunflower has very kindly agreed to come back again this season to work with the guests in the shelter teaching them about gardening and in particular growing house plants. While they are busy taking cuttings, repotting and learning about how often to water they are also able to develop their English. It has been very successful and we now have some beautiful plants covering the window ledges in the lounge and also dotted around the shelter.

### Your Voice Your Photo Project.

Some of our House Guest were invited to take part in a project called "Remembering What's Forgotten" and ask to join in with "Your Voice Your Photo" They were all issued with a disposable camera and asked to capture their untold stories through photography as a form of self expression and to give a voice to their experience and to inspire change. During one of the workshops they had to attend, they were asked to describe each photo which then made the caption to do alongside it. The guests that had taken part and the Lead Volunteers from the shelter were all invited to attend the exhibition that was held at Leeds Playhouse. We are hoping to be able to get some of the guests photographs and display them in the lounge at the shelter. The whole experience was enjoyed by everyone.

Here is a selection of their photos



Perseverance



Life in Limbo



Unhappy Man



The Woods



Loneliness



Homeless Man

**Financial donations are always welcome!**

By post to WYDAN, % Gipton Methodist Church, Oak Tree Place, Leeds, LS9 6SX cheques made payable to WYDAN.

Direct to the WYDAN.

Bank Account No. 20323123.

Sort code 60-83-01.

Online via the Charities Aid Foundation platform <https://cafdonate.cafonline.org/15943>

Gift Aid: Please let us know if we can claim gift aid on any donation (provide first line of address and postcode).

A small number of supporters make regular donations by Standing Order. We would love more people to consider support in this way.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUING SUPPORT**