

WITH LOVE FROM THE TEAM

Well hello there!

With the warmer weather (and the odd snow shower), the daffs and tulips peeking out and the longer daylight hours it feels like hope is springing up all around us. Hopefully by now most of you will have had your first job, maybe even your second, and it feels like there is a bit more freedom on the horizon. We know that the last year has been a challenge like no other, but as we creep cautiously out of the worst of it Aspire is here to support you to regain a sense of normal and enjoy seeing your friends again.

We have pencilled in starting our groups back in the summer, so in between now and then we have lots of health and safety risk assessments to carry out to make sure we can get up and running! Be sure that we will keep you posted as soon as plans for dates are finalised.

We miss you all. We are here for you, and hope to see you all face to face again soon!

Love, Susanna x
CEO & Occupational Therapist

A FOND FAREWELL TO JOYCE HARBER

Joyce Harber, Aspire volunteer and group member passed away after a short and very brave battle with cancer. Joyce joined Aspire a few years ago declaring that she didn't do crafts, but soon she was taking on all the crafts and particularly enjoyed needle felting.

Joyce will be greatly missed.



Aspire Creating Communities

Unit 3, Ingfield Enterprise Centre, Deighton, Huddersfield, HD2 1JD
email: enquiries@aspirecreatingcommunities.org.uk

Charity Number 1186846

NEW DIGITAL TABLET SUPPORT PARTNER

Aspire has partnered with Ability Net to help offer you a better service.



AbilityNet supports people of any age, living with any disability or impairment to use technology to achieve their goals at home, at work and in education. We do this by providing specialist advice services, free information resources and by helping to build a more accessible digital world.

AbilityNet's ITCanHelp volunteers provide free IT support to older people and people with disabilities of any age. Our volunteers can support people located anywhere in the UK. They are all disclosure-checked and can help with all sorts of IT (information technology) challenges, from setting up new equipment, fixing technical issues, showing you how to stay connected to family and use online services.

If you need any help with your tablet please contact Ability Net on the details below.

email abilitynet@aspirecreatingcommunities.org.uk
or by calling 0800 048 7642.

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS



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VOLUNTEER VOICES



I began volunteering with Aspire in Oct 2018 at the Birkby Croft group. I already knew Susanna Shotter through church & she texted one day to say that her volunteer couldn't make the session so asked if I could help by coming to make the cups of tea. It was completely out of my comfort zone. As has happened for a few of us, I stayed on!

I've been a trustee since December 2019 - As a teacher & a school governor, I felt that I had something to be able to offer. I am now Chair of Trustees & volunteer regularly with the Birkby Croft & Sandy Mount groups. I love being with people, sharing life & a cuppa. The best thing about the crafting sessions is that if it all goes wrong it doesn't matter - it's the process not the product. My favourite craft is the wet felting as you can keep talking whilst you do it.

The charity isn't unique in that others have similar aims of reducing isolation, however Aspire is unique in the way that we do it. It is so diverse in what is offered, even if there is a week when someone doesn't enjoy what we are doing, we can say 'Come back next week & try something different'. I believe that the best part of Aspire is the forming of friendships. At a time when connections may end, it is really important to be able to come & form new relationships with others.

Anyone could volunteer with Aspire whatever skills you do or don't have. If you can remember how someone takes their cup of tea, you can make someone feel valued & treated as an individual. These little things are the difference between a friendship and a purely professional relationship.

This last year has been a steep learning curve - full of productive growth & establishing for the charity & but also heartbreaking at times when difficult decisions have needed to be made like closing the sessions during lockdown knowing that they were the highlight of the Aspire member's weeks. Aspire has been so creative over the last 12 months. The easy option would have been just to close completely, however everyone involved with Aspire is concerned for people. It's not just a job, love for people has driven the different projects which have been running - Monthly Craft & Wellbeing Bags, Weekly Telephone Support Calls, Creating Connections Tablet Project. People are at the heart of it all.

March 2021, Karina Gledhill, Chair of Trustees.

COULD YOU BE AN ASPIRE VOLUNTEER?

Volunteers are crucial to the work of Aspire. If you are interested in joining the team contact our Volunteer Co-Ordinator: volunteers@aspirecreatingcommunities.org.uk or call 07411 879609.