

August 2025

Big Event, Auction Lots sneak peak

Tickets for the Hands Together Ludlow Fundraising Banquet & Auction on Friday 12th September 2025, in the impressive setting of St Laurence's Church, **are now very limited**. Please do not wait to buy! Tickets can be purchased through the following link - [The Big Event 2025 Ticket](#).

We are pleased to be partnering with Wild Shropshire for this event and express our thanks to Hendra House who are our headline sponsors for this year, as well as mfg Solicitors who are also a sponsor.

The **Fundraising Banquet & Auction** will celebrate HTL's work and showcase Wild's skill with an innovative culinary experience that embraces the challenge of creating a high-quality, three-course banquet using surplus and seasonal ingredients – our version of The Great British Menu.

The evening will culminate in an auction, offering an exciting opportunity for attendees to support HTL's mission. Many thanks to everyone who has donated auction lots, items include: A long weekend in a central London flat; a limited-edition magnum of wine; a stable tour (with breakfast!) at Kim Bailey & Mat Nicholls Racing, a round of golf at Ludlow Golf Club; hampers from Broad Bean and Ludlow Nut Company; a guided visit to Parliament, including lunch on terrace & seats for Lords Question Time; 1 week in seaside cottage in Wales; 7 self-catering nights in Cornwall; a glamping pod for 2 nights; a visit to GB News including a tour, breakfast with the breakfast hosts, rail fare and accommodation; and much more.

We will be looking for volunteers to help us with the event on the day. Roles include help with table dressing, waiters and help with the clear up. If you are a current Hands Together Ludlow volunteer and are interested in helping out, please speak with Teresa or email her: vol.coord@handstogetherludlow.org.uk

Chief Operating Officer Job advert

Our current Chief Operating Officer, Susie O'Hagan, is off to pastures new following a hugely successful four years at Hands Together Ludlow. This means we are looking for an experienced leader to join our team to lead us going forward. You will be responsible for all aspects of the charity, including the day-to-day leadership, funding, operational delivery and development, supported by a Board of Trustees, staff team of five and around one hundred volunteers.

For more information, including access to the application pack, please visit our website - [Find out about current opportunities to join our team](#).

Susie says: 'August marks the end of my 4th year with Hands Together Ludlow and in that time the organisation has changed a great deal. My role was created to take the charity forward into a more

structured, professional and robust organisation that could remain flexible to the needs of the people of Ludlow, firstly by identifying what those needs were as we came out of lockdown.



In November 2022 we opened our building at 15 Lower Galdeford, along with the Community Fridge and the expanded Men's Shed. Since then, we have developed a staff team with specific areas of expertise, developed our networks and partnerships and provided help and support to a huge number of people in the town through a vast range of interventions and activities. Behind the scenes we have launched a new website, social media platforms, established policies and practices to keep us all safe and well, secured funding, managed budgets to ensure the charity is sustainable and much more.

All this activity, although being exhausting, has been a joy for me. Working with the amazing volunteers who give their time and energy, the dedicated staff team, the organisations I have networked with and the beneficiaries who we support has been an honour. There are lots of happy (and funny) times I will take with me as I go now for a lie down! I am confident that HTL is in an excellent place to welcome a new COO to take the charity into its next phase and I wish it, the staff, the volunteers and the beneficiaries the very best.'

Citizens Advice are coming back to Ludlow

We are pleased to announce that from Thursday 7th August, an advisor from Citizens Advice will be available for face-to-face appointment at the Hands Together Ludlow building.

Appointments will take place on Thursdays between 9:30am-12:30pm and must be booked in advance, there is no drop-in service available. Please give us a call on 01584 873062 and a member of staff will take details of the appointment needed, which is then passed to Citizens Advice who will directly contact you to confirm the date and time of the appointment.

Summer Lunch Club – Important Update

The government has recently announced that they will be providing children in receipt of Free School Meals with food vouchers for the full six weeks of the summer holidays. This therefore means that there will not be a need for us to run the Summer Lunch Club this summer.

We apologise for any inconvenience caused to those who had already signed up. Please don't forget that we are still here and our Community Fridge is open every weekday if you are passing! We always have a good selection of bread, eggs and fresh fruit and veg which can be added to your basket up to 5kg for a £1.00 minimum donation.

Bucket Collections



At the recent Live at Ludlow Castle events, we were kindly asked if we would like to have three nights worth of bucket collections. Staff and Volunteers collected on Thursday 17th, Friday 18th and Friday 25th July and were blown away by people's generosity. In total we have raised an amazing amount of £668.05, thank you to everyone who donated to us and to Ludlow Castle and Future Sounds for allowing us to collect.

Join our volunteer team!

Surplus food collector needed on Wednesday and/or Thursday morning, anytime between 8:30am-10am. We need reliable, committed helpers who are happy to lift (sometimes heavy) crates of food to bring to our Community Fridge from local supermarkets. In 2024 just under 15,000kg's was redistributed back to the community, as well as just over 1,000kg used in our food projects like Community Lunch.

A lot of the services we provide rely on the surplus being delivered to us ideally before our Community Fridge opens at 10am. Therefore, the need for someone to be reliable and committed is essential and have access to their own vehicle.

This is a great opportunity to not only have a positive impact on your community but also feel part of your community! It will help give your week structure, provide opportunities to meet new people and help reduce perfectly good surplus from going to waste. You can claim your mileage back and are encouraged to use the Community Fridge; you are entitled to one free basket of surplus (up to 5kg) each week you have a shift once you have begun volunteering for us. There are social events throughout the year to be involved with as well.

If you are interested, please email Teresa Bailey, Volunteer Coordinator – vol.coord@handstogetherludlow.org.uk or fill out the application form [here](#).

Walks for All – new group

We are very excited to be launching a brand-new Walks for All route starting Monday 11th August from Rockspring Community Centre.

A gentle 1km around the local area, with no time expectations and at a pace that suits the group, this is ideal if you're looking to add some light exercise into your routine, build up your fitness or just to get out of the house and enjoy some company.

The walk finishes with a stop at the Café at the Community Centre – a great opportunity to chat more over a cup of tea. No booking required – just turn up on the day, walk leaders will be ready to leave at 10:30am. Everyone welcome!



What we found out from our Volunteer Survey

We recently asked our volunteers to complete an annual survey on their volunteering experience with Hands Together, and we would like to share some of the results with you.

51% of our volunteers have been with us for over two years, 26% for between 1-2 years. We are pleased that this shows a good retention of volunteers. The top reason for people beginning their volunteer journey with us is to help the community (71%) followed by giving something back (67%) and to meet new people (55%). The top benefits for our volunteers are as follows: 67% feel like they are making a positive difference to the community, 61% feel part of the community and 40% have made new friends. This is showing a good correlation between reasons for volunteering and what they ultimately get out of it. 26% have learnt new skills and 14% said their confidence has improved.

Additional comments made include: "It is good to be helping on organisation with such positive aims, where people are friendly and welcoming" "I feel appreciated for my work" "Volunteering at HTL has been and

continues to be a major boost to my self-esteem and wellbeing. Nice to feel that I might have achieved something in life and that I'm now helping others along the way".

Volunteer Coordinator, Teresa Bailey, says "Thanks to all our volunteers who took part in this survey, it is great to have an insight into your experience with us. This helps us learn and make changes where possible. We couldn't do any of what we do without this fantastic team of volunteers, your support is vital to us".

Ludlow Men's Shed

One of the attendees of the Women's DIY Day, Jayne, has been busy making some signage which has since been put up in her garden in memory of her late husband.



Volunteers from Ludlow Men's Shed had a stall at the recent Ludlow Green Festival back in July. Despite the hot weather, it was great to see so many people enjoying the festival. Here's volunteer, Mark, with the range of items that were available to purchase, a great time had by all!



Staff and Volunteer Training

Over the past month, staff and volunteers have taken part in Induction training, Befriender Training and Community Fridge training.

Return, Reuse, Recycle

Do you have any community equipment that was prescribed to you, and you no longer need it?

All equipment with a Medequip or NHS sticker can now be left in the special bin at each of Shropshire's five household recycling centres. It can then be passed on to others in need.

Follow this link to find your nearest recycling centre - [Household recycling centres | Shropshire Council](#)

You can also contact Medequip to arrange a free collection. Call 03330 917769 or email shropshire@medequip-uk.com

VJ DAY Celebration

Ludlow Town Council, Ludlow Castle and Ludlow Chamber of Trade are inviting residents to a special community event at Ludlow Castle, commemorating Victory in Japan Day on Friday 15th August.

Between 7pm-10pm, Ludlow residents are invited to enjoy a free evening of live music and performances, including a stirring performance by the Ludlow Town Band. There will be an appearance by the Ludlow Town Crier, a speech from the Mayor of Ludlow, followed by the lighting of the Beacon. Visitors are welcome to

bring a picnic or own refreshments, however there are several food vendors who will be serving throughout the evening. There will also be crafting sessions for children to get involved with.

Get Men Singing in Ludlow!

As part of Ludlow Male Voice Choir's 20th anniversary celebrations, the group are running free singing workshops for men! No experience needed, just a willingness to come along, have a go and enjoy singing with others in a relaxed, welcoming environment.



Where: Ludlow Racecourse, Bromfield, Ludlow, SY8 2BT

When: Saturday 9th August, 3pm start.

Free entry but please register or email so numbers can be confirmed for refreshments.

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/booking/t-xmejzrx> ludlowmalevoicechoir@gmail.com

The workshop will be led by the Male Voice Choir's Musical Director and a group of friendly choir members. Singing in a group has many benefits for mental wellbeing, confidence and connection. The event will also shine a light on prostate cancer awareness. Family and friends are welcome to join in the singing after the workshop at the bar at 6pm.

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

Lucky Dip Social Lunch: Every 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: Monday afternoons 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 \(handstogetherludlow.org.uk\)](https://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

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