

## Big Event Tickets, on sale now

Tickets for the Hands Together Ludlow Fundraising Banquet & Auction on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2025, in the impressive setting of St Laurence's Church, are now available to purchase. We are pleased to be partnering with Wild Shropshire for this event.

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.

Hendra House are our headline sponsors for the event this year and we are very grateful for their support, along with mfg Solicitors who are also a sponsor. For more information about sponsorship opportunities, please email [susie.ohagan@handstogetherludlow.org.uk](mailto:susie.ohagan@handstogetherludlow.org.uk).

Due to a limited number of tickets, we advise you don't wait to buy them! Tickets can be bought online here: [The Big Event 2025 Ticket](#).

We will be looking for volunteers to help us with the event across 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](mailto:vol.coord@handstogetherludlow.org.uk)

## A fond farewell to Janna Vigar

Next month, one of our Trustee's, Janna, will be leaving Ludlow to pursue a lifelong dream of travelling the world! We asked Janna if she could sum up her experiences with Hands Together Ludlow and the Good Grief Café.

"It's such a pleasure to have been asked to write a piece about The Good Grief Café. 8 years ago, the inspiring David Harlington approached me and said, "we really need to do something to help those people in Ludlow that are bereaved". Being a Probate Solicitor I said "Absolutely – there is nothing out there to help people at what is the most awful time in people's lives". And so, between me and Victoria Allen, The Good Grief Café was born! Our first meeting was at The Pea Green Café in the Mascall Centre and having put posters up all-around town we had about 15 brave and courageous people turn up – a few of those lovely people still come along today. In this time we've seen over 200 people pass through our doors.



The biggest question I get asked is “What happens at a meeting?” It’s very simple I say. There is nothing formal, no talks, it’s just a safe space to meet other people who are also bereaved to offer mutual support and friendship. We have between 15 and 20 people come along every month.

And in 8 years, the highlight for me has to be the amazing and beautiful friendships that have been born out of the group. People turn up often nervous and upset and after a few months of coming along, tell me how they now regularly speak to someone they have met and go out for the occasional lunch outside of the group. The Café does not wave a magic wand on the devastation caused by grief, but it does offer hope and helps people to take a few, often small steps in the direction of learning to cope.



The Café has been a big part of my life for so long and I am absolutely delighted that whilst I take some time out to go travelling, it can carry on with our dedicated and kind volunteers, Jane, Karen and Abi. Thank you to you because it wouldn’t work without you.”

We hope you will join us in thanking Janna for her long-standing commitment to Hands Together Ludlow and the Good Grief Café. We wish you all the best for the future!

## Social Space updates

Unfortunately, our Social Space will no longer be opening on Mondays, starting from 30<sup>th</sup> June. This as we do not have a volunteer available to cover the shift.

The Space will still be open on Wednesdays and Thursdays 11am-1:30pm for refreshments and a light lunch. We apologise for any inconvenience caused.

If you, or someone you know, has time to volunteer we have a number of vacancies and would welcome the help! [vol.coord@handstogetherludlow.org.uk](mailto:vol.coord@handstogetherludlow.org.uk)

## Ludlow Men’s Shed

Ludlow Men’s Shed will have a stall at this year’s Ludlow Green Festival.

There will be a great range of items made from salvaged materials and, judging by last year, quite a few people started buying their Christmas presents from us!

The Green Festival is focused this year on promoting good farming practice and practical advice on well-balanced diets, cooking from scratch and avoiding food waste. Our range of wooden kitchen items should go down well!

Our Food Coordinator, Julia, will also be there to deliver a 40 minute presentation and demonstration on this year’s theme: Food for Thought. A wide brief, but fortunately we have plenty of food in the Community Fridge for Julia to give her thoughts on! The demo is scheduled for 2pm.

Ludlow Green Festival is taking place on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> July in the Castle Square (10am-4pm).



## The first six months of 2025

We can't quite believe how fast 2025 is going! As we are now over the halfway mark for the year, we thought it would be a good opportunity to share some of what we've been up to.

So far in 2025, we have worked with 268 individuals, 96 of whom were new to us this year, over 737 sessions (Community Lunch, Befriending, Ludlow Men's Shed and more).

Our Community Fridge continues to thrive, remaining open Monday to Friday, 10am–4pm. Thanks to generous daily and weekly donations from local organisations including Myriad Organics, Sainsbury's, Aldi, Lizzie's Layers, Planton Farm, and Evans Family Grocers—we've been able to redistribute an incredible 6798.93 kg (nearly 7 tons!) of surplus food directly back into the community. – To the kitchen gardeners amongst you: don't forget we are happy to take any surplus veg you produce!

We've also strengthened partnerships with local support services: 251.70 kg of surplus food has been shared with Ludlow Food Bank, and 55.5 kg has gone to Ludlow Foyer to benefit its residents.

As always, we could not do anything without the commitment and dedication of our fantastic volunteer team who give their time to support our community. Since the beginning of January, our volunteers have given us 4418.93 hours of their time, this equates to £71,012.20 in Social Impact which is truly incredible. Thank you to you all, we are beyond grateful for your continued support.

## Summer Lunch Club

Hands Together Ludlow are excited to be running the Summer Lunch Club again this year.

This is a project where we provide children in need with a packed lunch for the last three weeks of the Summer Holidays. There is small provision from the Government for these families during the holidays, but only for three weeks. We are going to fill that gap with our nutritious and healthy lunches specifically designed for children.

Last year we were delighted to give out 630 lunches to pre-registered children over the course of the project. We are hoping to increase those numbers this year, as we know there are more children who could do with this help. Registration is done through the individual schools in Ludlow; all Primary and Secondary Schools are signed up and taking names. Hands Together does not store any data on the children participating.

If you know anyone who could do with this type of help, please ask them to get in touch, equally encourage them to register with their school. And, if you are a HTL volunteer with a Food Hygiene Certificate, please do come and help! We need lots of hands to put these lunches together fresh every day!

For more information, please get in touch with your child/children's school directly.



## Staff and volunteer training

Volunteers have taken part in Induction training and staff have undertaken Advanced Principles in Sexual Violence training.

## Sylvia's Memorial Raffle

Don't forget to buy some tickets for the chance to win a beautiful handmade quilt, "Autumnal Bliss" (in partnership with Ludlow Quilters and Stitchers).

Sylvia, one of the Quilters and Stitchers members, began the Autumn themed quilt which was then finished for her by the group with the raffle being held in her memory. Funds raised will be shared between Hands Together and Ludlow Quilters and Stitchers.

"Autumnal Bliss" is currently available to view at The Wool Shop, before being displayed at St Laurence's Church from July 14<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>.

Tickets can be purchased from Hands Together Ludlow (15 Lower Galdeford, SY8 1RU) and The Wool Shop (13 Broad Street, SY8 1NG) for £1.00 each.

The draw will be held on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September at the Ludlow Quilters and Stitchers AGM at St Peter's Church, Henley Road, SY8 1QZ.



## Elton Plant and Book Sale, Saturday July 12<sup>th</sup>

There will be a Plant & Book Sale on Saturday, 12th July at Elton Church SY8 2HQ from 10am to 12pm.

On sale will be pre-loved books, locally grown plants as well as tea and home-made cakes, all in the delightful setting of the idyllic church grounds. Payment can be by cash or card and all proceeds will go to Hands Together Ludlow.

Many thanks to everyone who is involved for their hard work in fundraising for us!

## Hill Stories, Summer Holiday Workshops

Bookings are open for the next two Hill Stories groups in the Summer Holidays.

Hill Stories is a free outdoor arts and digital media project for young people aged 12-18, funded by Arts Council England and Shropshire Hills National Landscape Conservation Fund, in partnership with South Shropshire Youth Forum.

Booking is required and spaces are now limited. Email [workshops@pieceofstringmedia.co.uk](mailto:workshops@pieceofstringmedia.co.uk) or call Nick (she/her) on 07718 2274884 if you have any questions or access needs to take part.

**Clee Hill area** - Monday 28<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> and Friday 30<sup>th</sup> July 2025, 10:30am-3:30pm.

[Hill Stories 2025 - Clee Hills area, Shropshire Tickets, Mon 28 Jul 2025 at 10:30 | Eventbrite](#)

**Stiperstones area** – Monday 11<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> and Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> August, 10:30am-3:30pm.

[Hill Stories 2025 - Stiperstones area, Shropshire Tickets, Mon 11 Aug 2025 at 10:30 | Eventbrite](#)



# Ludlow Library – At home delivery service



Do you know someone who loves reading but can no longer get to the library?

Ludlow Library offers a home delivery service with a team of volunteers bringing the books you want straight to your door! With a range of large print and audio books available, as well as brilliant fiction and fascinating non-fiction there is something available for everyone!

Give Ludlow Library a call on 01743 250510 or drop them an email them at [ludlow.library@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:ludlow.library@shropshire.gov.uk) to find out more.

## Summer HAF programme, bookings now open

From July 21<sup>st</sup> – September 1<sup>st</sup>, eligible children and young people aged 4 (in reception class or equivalent) to 16 who are eligible for benefits-related free school meals are invited to take part in a range of fun activities happening at holiday clubs around the county.

Shrewsbury Town FC Foundation are providing a safe and enjoyable environment for boys and girls aged 4-12 to practice their football or multi-sport skills, make new friends and have fun while being coached by a highly professional team. The program will cover lots of other enrichment activities, including arts and crafts, board games, team challenges and much more. Alongside this, educational workshops around health, nutrition and mental wellbeing will be provided to help children lead a healthy and active lifestyle. These sessions will take place at **Ludlow Football Stadium** (SY8 2BN) and places can be booked [here](#).

Shropshire Council Youth Support Team will be at the Rec (Skate Park) on Wheeler Road on various dates where young people can come along to relax, catch up with friends, join in with some activities and meet the youth workers. Activities will include sports activities run by a designated sports coach and arts and crafts. Food and drink will be provided at all the sessions. No booking required. Please email [youthworks@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:youthworks@shropshire.gov.uk) for confirmed dates and times.

Teme Leisure Ludlow have come together with Shropshire HAF to offer eligible young people aged 4-16 free gym membership (12+ only), swimming sessions and food vouchers over the summer holidays. Gym and swim sessions are available all summer. Please check dates and times direct with the Leisure Centre. The contact details for Teme Leisure Ludlow are 01584 874620. Their website can be viewed [here](#).

## 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

Hands Together Ludlow

15 Lower Galdeford, Ludlow, SY8 1RU

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