

March 2026

## Meet Esther! Our new Services & Community Coordinator



We are very excited to announce that we have appointed a new Services and Community Coordinator. Esther joined the team at the beginning of March; we caught up with her to see how she has been getting on.

### **Why did you apply for the role?**

I applied for the position because I have a genuine passion for working with our community and collaborating with local services to strengthen the support we offer one another. I believe that everyone faces challenging times, and sometimes all it takes is a little guidance or connection to the right resources to make a real difference.

### **What were you doing before this job?**

I worked within temporary accommodation services for people experiencing homelessness. I managed two hotels that provided a safe, stable environment where vulnerable individuals and families could begin rebuilding their lives after incredibly difficult circumstances.

### **What do you think will be your biggest challenge?**

Every community has its own rhythm, strengths and needs, and I want to honour that. My challenge, one that I am excited about, is making sure I connect with as many people as possible so I can support the work that's already happening and help strengthen the links between services and residents.

### **What are you looking forward to most about working with HTL?**

Getting to know the full richness of what already exists within our community. There is so much good work happening, often quietly, behind the scenes, and I'm excited to learn from the people, volunteers and groups who make it all possible.

If you pop into Hands Together over the coming days and weeks and see Esther, be sure to say hello to her and make her feel welcome!

## Community Lunch

Are you or someone you know looking for good company, comforting food and a chance to connect with new people? Our weekly Community Lunches are the perfect place to start! Every Tuesday and Friday, our friendly gatherings bring people together over a nutritious two-course meal in a warm and welcoming space.



A dedicated team of volunteers prepare and serve a delicious hot lunch and pudding for just £3.50. Whether you're on your own, new to the area or looking for something new to get involved with, you'll be greeted with a smile! Bookings must be made in advance via the Hands Together office (01584 873062). We are able to cater for dietary needs, please just let us know in advance.



## Advanced Closure Notice

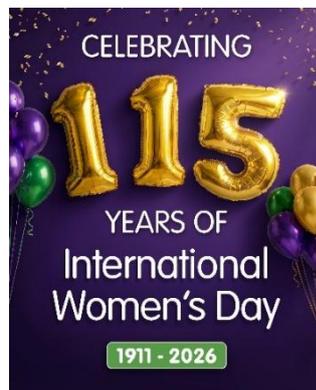
Hands Together Ludlow will be closed from 4pm on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> March until 10am on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> April. This is to allow for some maintenance and a re-refresh to our Community Fridge. Ludlow Men's Shed will be open as usual and are not impacted by this closure.

## International Women's Day

2026 marks 115 years of International Women's Day, a global moment to recognise the achievement of women and reflect on the progress still needed to achieve gender equality.

At Hands Together Ludlow, we are incredibly proud of the inspiring women who help to lead, shape and support our work every day.

- Our Chair of Trustees is female
- Our staff team is 100% women led
- 50% of our dedicated Volunteers are women



From behind-the-scenes to the first people you see at Hands Together, women play a vital role in helping us serve our community.

Join us on March 8<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate the achievement, resilience and strength of women – and everyone who identifies as a woman – everywhere.

For more information, please visit - [International Women's Day 2026](#)

## Can you help the Royal British Legion?

The Royal British Legion in Shropshire are recruiting for a Volunteer Poppy Appeal Organiser in Ludlow.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of the Poppy Appeal, and without these organisers in place poppies aren't available within the communities. All training is provided and out of pocket expenses covered. Support is in place all year round from the Shropshire Poppy Appeal Manager.

**Volunteer for the Poppy Appeal**

Poppy Appeal Organisers are vital in enabling us to support our Armed Forces community through thick and thin – ensuring their unique contribution is never forgotten.

For more information on becoming a part of our incredible volunteer team please see the key information below, or scan the QR code to visit our site.

[rbl.org.uk/poppyvolunteer](http://rbl.org.uk/poppyvolunteer)

If Remembrance and the military have a special place in your heart, or if you are looking to expand your skills in fundraising and record keeping as well as getting out into your community, please head to the RBL website using this link. Otherwise contact the Poppy Appeal Manager, Jenny, via [jkomiatis@britishlegion.org.uk](mailto:jkomiatis@britishlegion.org.uk)

## Staff & Volunteer development

This month we have welcomed five new volunteers who have completed Induction Training, and some who have since taken part in Community Fridge training. Staff and volunteers have recently taken part in an Emergency First Aid at Work course, relating to their roles. A member of the staff team has also completed a Digital Marketing course, allowing marketing skills to further develop.

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

**Tech Talk:** Monday afternoons by appointment only. Support with devices such as tablets, phones and laptops.

**Community Lunch:** Tuesday and Friday by bookings only. Please call the office to book a place.

**Walks for All:** Wednesday mornings, meet outside Ludlow Library to leave at 10am. Group walk of up to 1.5 miles taken at a gentle pace.

For more details of any of our events please call **01584 873062** or visit our website [by clicking here](#)

**HANDS  
TOGETHER  
LUDLOW**

**Hands Together Ludlow**  
15 Lower Galdeford, Ludlow, SY8 1RU

**01584 873062**

email: [general.admin@handstogetherludlow.org.uk](mailto:general.admin@handstogetherludlow.org.uk)

website: [www.handstogetherludlow.org.uk](http://www.handstogetherludlow.org.uk)

registered charity no. 1171979



*In line with the General Data Protection Regulation Act 2018 your email address is securely stored for the purpose of sending you this newsletter. If you no longer wish to receive this, please email "no newsletter thanks", or use the 'unsubscribe' link in the email.*