



**Community
Foundation**
Wakefield District

Spring 2025

**COMMUNITY
NEWS** *Update*

Small Change Big Difference



Swap a cup for a cause.
Support your community with a small monthly donation.

Become one of Our Regulars

Find out more about us and what we do at: wakefieldcf.org.uk

A simple way to make a lasting difference



Strong communities are built on kindness, support, and reliability. At the Community Foundation Wakefield District, we know that ongoing support makes the biggest impact. That's why we're inviting you to become one of 'Our Regulars', providing steady, reliable help to those who need it most.

Regular giving makes a BIG difference. Unlike one-off donations, it allows charities to plan ahead and provide consistent support. Regular donations will help to ensure that families, individuals, and community projects get the help they need—not just today, but every day.

What if your 'regular' could change someone's life?

Many of us have small luxuries we indulge in—our daily takeaway coffee, a fast food treat, or a long-forgotten streaming subscription. But what if giving up just one of those 'regulars' each month could help a friend, a family member or a neighbour in crisis?

By signing up for Our Regulars, you can turn the cost of a coffee into household necessities for a struggling family. The cost of your unwanted streaming subscription could fund vital grassroots projects for a community. Going without one of your regular takeaways could underpin emergency support for someone facing unexpected hardship.

Becoming one of Our Regulars is simple, flexible, and impactful. If you could spare £3, £5, or £10 a month, your ongoing support will help us plan ahead and provide long-term solutions for the people who need them most.

A little from you, **regularly**, makes a **huge** difference to those who need it most.



Be part of something special

DONATE TODAY

Upcycled Creations Take Centre Stage at Rhubarb Festival

After teaming up with Wakefield College students last year, we were both pleased and proud to join forces with them again.

The collaboration brings to the fore the subject of sustainability, and the significant impact the fashion industry has on global warming, i.e. the problematic nature of fast fashion and the trend of wearing garments only once.

This led to the innovative idea of creating new garments from preloved donated items. Students visited The Community Give Box and selected pieces they liked, then repurposed the items into concept designs.

This year's display was inspired by the Rhubarb Festival, which saw the introduction of textile rhubarb stems, leaves and soil; the students also used a variety of techniques including dyeing, hand and machine embroidery, and printing.

Their incredible creativity was displayed in the unit across from Wakefield Cathedral during the Festival.



Restoring More Than Clothing: Our Partnership with Mallin & Son

We're delighted to partner with Mallin & Son through their Beautifully Worn Project.

Mallin & Son specialise in restoring unwanted waxed jackets, carefully repairing and reworking them so they can be loved once again. Rather than ending up in landfill, these garments are given a fresh start. Even better, for every sale, £10 is donated to us.

The funds raised go directly into supporting local people facing hardship—whether that's providing emergency essentials, helping struggling families, or backing grassroots projects that make a real difference.

Thanks to this partnership, it's not just clothing getting a second chance—it's people too.



Supporting Women's Rugby and Reducing Waste

We're always looking for ways to support our community while promoting sustainability, so we were pleased to donate a large supply of sports and rehab equipment to Ossett RUFC Women's Rugby—a team we proudly sponsor.

The donations were surplus stock from a large company, and could otherwise have ended up in landfill. Instead, they've been given a new home, where they'll be put to great use in training, recovery, and keeping the team in top form.

We're proud to back Ossett RUFC Women's Rugby team and look forward to seeing them thrive on and off the pitch!



A staggering 6,000 children in the Wakefield District sleep on the floor, a sofa, a beanbag...or even in the bath.

You know how you feel when you've not had a good night's sleep. You're groggy the next day, and it's difficult to focus. Imagine if you had to listen to a two-hour seminar the next day. Imagine three of these back-to-back, imparting information that you will later be tested on.

How can these children learn, develop, and grow when their basic needs aren't being met?

We must bridge this gap.

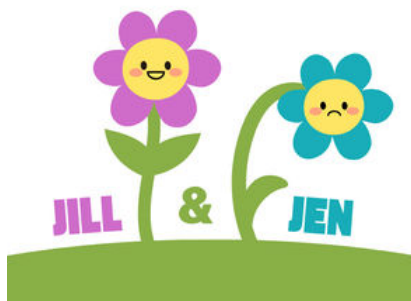
We want to give every young person an equal chance to have a happy, successful life.

To do this, however, we need your help. Together, we can create a community where all children across the district have a bed of their own and receive a good night's sleep.

Say hello to our two teens, Jill and Jen. This is a tale of two beds.

Jill stretches, yawning as the morning sun peeks through her curtains. Her bed is warm, her duvet a cloud wrapped around her shoulders. She glances at the clock—7:30 am. Time to get up.

In another part of Wakefield, Jen is already awake. She has been for hours. She shifts uncomfortably on the living room sofa, her back stiff from the worn-out cushions. Her younger brother stirs on the floor beside her, wrapped in an old blanket. She had tried to sleep, but the noise from the street outside and the cold seeping through the single-glazed window made it nearly impossible. Her school uniform is crumpled from where she laid on it, but there was no point taking it off last night—there's no time or space for getting ready properly in the morning in the flat where her family currently resides (until the next move).



Jill bounces downstairs to a kitchen that smells of toast and fresh coffee. Her mum hands her a plate with buttered crumpets, and she eats quickly, chatting about the day's science lesson. She slept well last night, and she's excited to see her friends.

Jen rubs her eyes, trying to shake the heaviness in her head. The house is quiet now—her mum left early for work, reminding her to get her brother to school. She grabs a slice of bread, which is dry and slightly stale, and shares it with him.

At school, Jill breezes through her first lessons. She's remembered what the teacher said yesterday and answers a question confidently. Jen, however, blinks slowly, trying to focus. The words on the board are blurring together. She wants to pay attention, but she's so tired. She stifles a yawn, her head dipping forward. The teacher calls her name, and she jumps. A few of her classmates giggle. Her cheeks burn.

Lunchtime comes. Jill and her friends sit outside, laughing at a funny video on someone's phone. Jen finds a quiet corner in the library. She lays her head on the table, promising herself she won't fall asleep. But she does.

By the end of the day, Jill is still full of energy. She heads home, dumps her bag by the door, and flops onto her bed to scroll through her phone. Jen, exhausted, walks back to the small flat. She makes dinner for her brother—beans on toast again—and watches him eat before finishing off his leftovers. Then she tidies up, lays out the blankets, and prepares for another restless night.

Jill and Jen are just two girls living in Wakefield with the same potential. Tonight, as one drifts into a peaceful slumber and the other fights exhaustion, their futures take different paths.

Scan the QR code to find out more about our bed poverty campaign.

In partnership with



Bed Poverty Sleep-out

In partnership with the wonderful MY Hospitals Charity and The Yorkshire Broker, we held a sleep out at St George's, Lupset, on February 21st 2025 to raise money for The Wakefield Children's Bed Appeal.

The night featured a quiz and various games before the fundraisers taking part succumbed to sleep. Thank you to everyone who got involved and the generous donors who supported the event.



A Stylish Partnership

En Route Hair & Beauty has chosen the Community Foundation Wakefield District as their Charity of the Year. En Route isn't just about high-quality hairdressing—they're also passionate about sustainability and giving back to the local community.

This year, they're teaming up with Ergo Styling Tools, a company that designs ergonomic styling tools to prevent hand strain for hair professionals. As part of this partnership, En Route is running an exciting promotion allowing customers to trade in their old hairbrush and receive a £20 voucher towards a brand-new Ergo brush.

But it doesn't stop there. Instead of discarding the old brushes, En-Route will refurbish them to the highest standards, ensuring they are fully sterilised and in good condition. These beautifully restored brushes will then be placed in bundles alongside hair product samples and donated to vulnerable people in need across the Wakefield District as part of our care packages.

We're so grateful to En Route for this thoughtful initiative and can't wait to see the impact it makes.



Opening nominations for Unsung Heroes 2025

It's that time of year again, where we pay homage to the unsung heroes who give their time and passion selflessly to their local communities. People who go above and beyond to improve the lives of their friends and neighbours across the Wakefield District, the Five Towns and SESKU.

The Foundation invites you to nominate extraordinary individuals who dedicate themselves to the service of others. From March 1st 2025, nominations are specifically open to volunteers who consistently go above and beyond to make a difference across the district.

Criteria for nominations:

- Charitable/not-for-profit organisations can also be nominated
- Individual nominees must be over 16
- The nominee or organisation must give their support within the Wakefield district (which includes the Five Towns and SESKU)
- We would love to see nominations for individuals or organisations who have not been previous finalists
- Duplicate nominations will not be counted

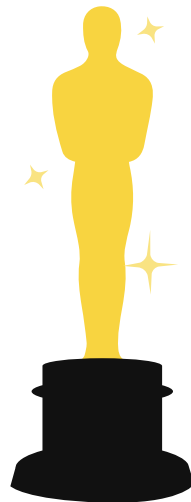
Once the nomination period closes—on Friday 30th May 2025—an awards panel will shortlist ten finalists, who will all be celebrated at this year's Unsung Heroes Awards, which will take place on Thursday 16th October 2025 at Theatre Royal Wakefield.



Over the last few years, we've held the awards ceremony at Wakefield Cathedral; however this year, we're shaking things up! Think: the Oscars and the Golden Globes...this year's event will focus on fun as well as the celebration of local volunteers.

We're looking to team up with businesses to make this event a real night to remember. Find out how you can play your part by contacting lisa.milburn@wakefieldcf.org.uk.

Nominate your Unsung Hero at:
www.wakefieldcf.org.uk/unsung-heroes-nominations-2025/



Photos from last year's awards



Interview with Lisa Milburn

'A Day in the Life...'

The Foundation's Director, Lisa Milburn, was highly amused to be interviewed for this feature. 'A day in the life?' she said. 'How much space have you got in this newsletter?!' Often, the hours Lisa works are well above what she's contracted for, and this day was no exception.

Working from 8am to 7pm, Lisa began this particular day with a Foundation team meeting. Typically, these take place first thing at our office in Wakefield centre, and feature plenty of coffee that fuels us all for the day ahead.

She then went on to a networking meeting at Wakefield Theatre that was hosted by the Federation of Small Businesses and Wakefield BID. Here, she was able to describe the work of the Foundation with other local businesses; it's through discussions like this that she garners much-needed support, donations, and collaborations. She then called in at the Foundation's retail arm, The Community Give Box in Trinity Walk, Wakefield, to arrange for a ramp to be fitted in the unit's storage area, to help the manager, Julia, move donations around the space.

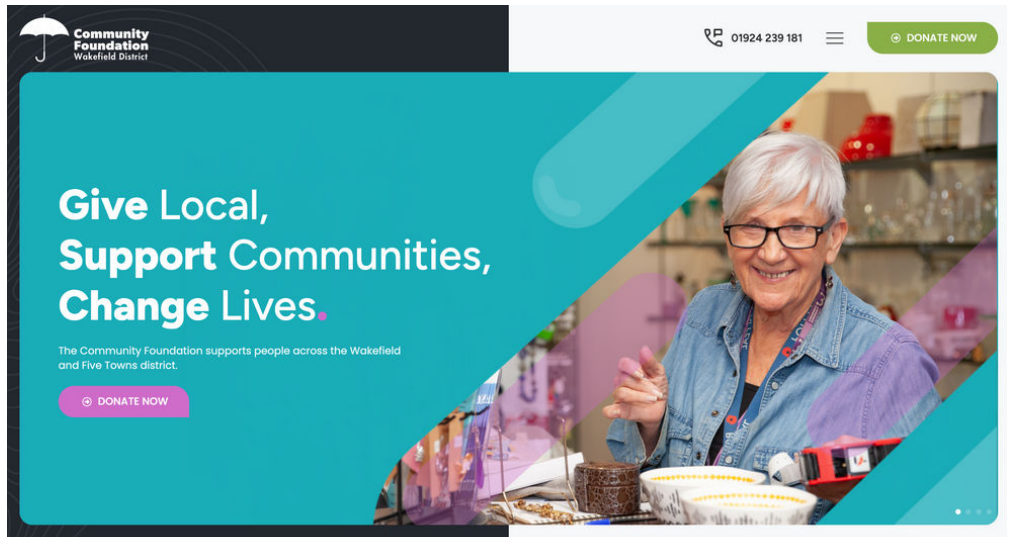
Onto more meetings...one with Wakefield College about their students' progress with the upcycling of items from the Give Box. This meeting was followed by a catch up with the lovely local businesses who worked with us on our recent 'Sleepout'. At this point, Lisa briefly left to collect her boys, Lucas and Levi, before she returned to help Julia at the Give Box unpack a humongous delivery of goods and donations from one of our wonderful partners.

7pm, and home time. But no rest for the wicked, as they say; after dinner, Lisa jumped on her computer to complete some necessary admin before heading to bed, only to start over the following day.

For those who have had the privilege of meeting Lisa, you'll know that this isn't an unusual or standout day. The time and energy she pours into the Foundation is incredible, and so many people across Wakefield District have benefitted from her passion to make a difference in her local community.



Our New Website is Live



We're excited to introduce our brand-new website, designed to better reflect who we are and what we do. Following our rebrand last year, we wanted a website that showcases the impact of our work, makes it easier to get involved, and keeps our supporters up to date with everything happening at the Community Foundation Wakefield District.

What's New?

- A fresh, modern design that reflects our mission and incorporates our new branding
- Easier ways to donate and support our different campaigns
- Inspiring case studies about what we do and the people we help
- Clearer ways for businesses and individuals to get involved
- Up-to-date news on our campaigns, events, and community impact

Our website is more than just a digital space, it's a hub where you can see the difference your support makes in real time. From supporting grassroots efforts to seeing how a single donation can provide essentials for those in need, staying connected with our work has never been easier.

Take a look and explore all the ways you can make a difference in the Wakefield District: **www.wakefieldcf.org.uk**

Charity of the Year

Newport Land & Law



It gets more difficult every year to raise funds as a charity. At the same time, demand for our services and support in the current economy has absolutely shot through the roof. It's heartbreaking.

It's therefore even more incredible when local companies wish to give back to people in need in their community, by partnering with the Foundation.

Newport Land and Law chose the Community Foundation Wakefield District to be their Charity of the Year. It's wonderful that they've chosen to back the Foundation when there are so many good causes in the district, and we want to thank their staff and stakeholders for their support. They will help us to help people get back on their feet after a tough time. They'll help us provide beds for local 'Jens' (see our bedtime story earlier in this newsletter), and they'll help us catch people who would otherwise fall through the cracks.

If your company would like to help improve the locality in which you trade, and help the friends and neighbours of your employees, contact lisa.milburn@wakefieldcf.org.uk.

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