

Welcome to our September newsletter. We hope that you will enjoy reading about what our members, staff and volunteers have been doing this past month. If you would like to find out more about People Matters, and what we services we offer, go to

[www.peoplesmattersleeds.co.uk](http://www.peoplesmattersleeds.co.uk)

## Leeds Pride 2023



People Matters members and staff joined the annual Leeds Pride march at the beginning of August.

As you can see from the photos the event was just as popular as in previous years. There was plenty of entertainment after the parade had finished, with live bands and DJ sets.



Our Wellbeing Group have been showing what a green fingered bunch they are. They have received a grant from LCC's the Arium. With plants from there they've been brightening up some of the planters in Holbeck Park. The members prepared the beds for the plants with bags of compost, which they planted afterwards.



September 1st sees the start of this year's Blackpool illuminations. Every autumn since 1879 Blackpool has put on a display of lights once described as 'artificial sunshine' and completely free to enjoy. Costing 2 million pounds to create, but bringing into the local



economy an estimated £250 million, and enjoyed by an annual 3.5 million visitors. 1st September - 1st January 2024.

## Member Spotlight



Michael (*below left*), one of our members, has recently started volunteering at the SEVA breakfast and lunch club, which is situated at Woodhouse Community Centre. The club started during lockdown and has continued to support the local community ever since. They receive food donations from sources such as Fareshare & Hamara and have a budget for other items which are not as regularly available. They told us that they typically serve 30-50 meals a day when open, which is Tuesday & Wednesdays between 10am and 2pm and operate a pay as you feel system. Breakfast is served until noon and lunch afterwards.

## Meet our staff



On the left you can see our new interim CEO Elissa Matley graduating from Leeds Beckett University after completing her MBA in senior leadership with a merit! She told us "I started in Sept 2020 (during

covid) so a lot of the studies were online for the first year which was incredibly hard. However, completing it meant that I am now fully qualified to be the Interim CEO of People Matters." As well as looking after us all here at PM, Elissa finds the time to still fulfill her old Director of Operations role, travel to Manchester a couple of times a week (one of her sons plays for Manchester United) and she also runs a ladies football team, phew!!!

## Teens & Twenties

Our Teens & Twenties social group is on it's summer break.



As you can see they enjoyed a wide range of forest related activities from survival skills (right) to creating original pieces of art (above.)

But, that doesn't mean that activities have stopped. Our younger members are currently enjoying a wide range of activities, such as this visit to the Dales.



If you would like to donate to People Matters you can do so on [www.gofundme.com/fl/support-people-matters-west-yorkshire](http://www.gofundme.com/fl/support-people-matters-west-yorkshire)

A £20 donation could provide:

- 1 month subscription to the Adult Social Group.
- A basic household tool kit, as a lot of our members don't access to one.
- A household first aid kit, as some of our members would benefit from having first aid items in one place.

## People Matters Employment Service

Some of our employment service members recently went along to a job fair at Seacroft Job Centre. Below you can see Rajinder and Carol as well as job coach Jacqui. She told us "We had an interesting day speaking with staff and employers and then afterward we decided to pop into Seacroft Community Hub."



"We are hoping to attend more job fairs on regular basis as it's a great way of making contacts with employers and job centre staff."

## #InLeedsPeopleMatter

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### Did You Know?

The 28th August is International Makaton awareness day, as it is the Makaton founder Margaret Walker's birthday.

