The Supporter Newsletter



December 2025

Be kind to yourself & others -Acknowledge that the festive period can be difficult for many reasons.



SATURDAY MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY **FRIDAY December Kindness 2025 Spread** Contact Offer to Leave a Support a Give a gift to someone you positive share the charity, cause someone who can't be with message for December or campaign you is homeless or difficulties at the moment to see how someone else calendar with really care about feeling lonely they are to find others Notice when Listen Do something Buy an extra item and donate Be generous. See how you're hard on wholeheartedly helpful for a Feed someone many different yourself or to others friend or family it to a local with food, love or people you can without judging others and be smile at today member food bank kindness today kind instead them Give thanks. Look for Say hello to your neighbour Ask for help Help others something List the kind and let someone by giving away things others positive to say and brighten else discover the something that to everyone have done joy of giving feeling isolated you don't need you speak to for you Congratulate Choose to give or receive the gift of Bring joy to Treat everyone Get outside. someone for an who is far away to say hello and others. Share with kindness Pick up litter or achievement something which today, including do something that may go made you laugh forgiveness vourself! kind for nature unnoticed Turn off Let someone digital devices know how much and really listen you appreciate to do in 2026 to people them and why



Happier · Kinder · Together







SUNDAY

comments to as many people as possible today

Share a

happy memory

or inspiring

thought with

a loved one

Appreciate

kindness and

thank people

who do things

for you

Be kind to

the planet. Eat

less meat and

use less energy





Our 2025

Wow! What a year!

We've had some ups and we've definitely had some downs this year. 2025 has seen some professional and personal challenges for many of us in this team. If it's not been an easy year for you, you are not on your own! We've been right there alongside and riding the wave with you.

This year, the team have faced unprecedented challenges within our recovery college. For those of you who've been with us for some time, you'll know that due to two of our team being on maternity leave, we were already facing short staffing issues from late springtime. Some of our team and their family members have faced their own illnesses and health challenges. We had to (fairly quickly) vacate our old premises at Prosper House and find a new space to store our equipment and operate some of our courses from. Unfortunately the timing of the move also coincided with the school summer holidays, another bereavement within the team and additional short staffing. That short staffing continued and increased further, coming to a head when our poor Steph had a nasty accident in October. This left us with no admin! Now, you might not know it, but the Recovery College's main cogs-in-the-wheel are our admin colleagues and we almost grind to a halt without them!! So those of us left have all been like swans...looking serene and like we've got everything covered on the surface, but underneath it all we're paddling super quickly to keep everything afloat.

On the positive side, we had another honorary team member join us this year when Kia and her partner welcomed their first child, a baby boy (congratulations Kia!). We were extremely grateful to all those involved to be able to get extended support for a couple of days a week to help us with basic admin cover from our peer support worker Katie, and extended coordination cover from our coordinator Doz (we get to keep them both on until March now! Woohoo!). Emily returned to us from maternity leave ready and raring to go. We've been successfully running courses from our new venue at Space Station (thank you to the staff there for your support in this) and have launched lots of new courses, like take a stroll, diabetes-related courses and courses for people who have experienced birth trauma and/or baby loss. We've been successful in obtaining funding bids to help us support local communities, such as carers, with projects across the district. We've also secured several new partners who all have the same ethos and aims as us, working together to support our local communities. Our Freedom from fibromyalgia course went viral! After our tutor Keilly promoted this on a national social media platform, we were so inundated with enrolments from across Britain for this that we had to extend our offer and put on several additional courses over this year and next. Our volunteer base has grown and we've watched many of our volunteers go on to education or employment opportunities. Whilst every single one of our volunteers are valued beyond belief, we would like to give a shout out to two volunteers have gone above and beyond this year and we really couldn't have managed without you! India has single-handedly had the mammoth task of keeping our newsletter going this year (though she's taken a well deserved rest from this month's edition) and

supported our team with numerous other projects and graphic-design advice and expertise. Kev has supported almost every single promotion and marketing event we've attended this year, gone out of his comfort zone to support course facilitation and his confidence has grown beyond belief! A heart-felt thank you to you both. We've also had some wonderful social work students working with us this year! A special thanks to Tia and Veronica for all of their tireless partnership work and volunteer celebration day planning, Henry for his unwavering support during our move and at our marketing events, and to Macy for her proactiveness, jumping in at the deep end and ability to step in alongside her own studies and help us at a time when we really needed it.

Overall it's been a challenging year, but the team is so supportive of one another that we all prop each other up when one person is struggling, ensuring that we we can keep our beloved recovery college still functioning and offering the support that we do to our amazing students and communities.

2026 will no doubt come with its own challenges for us all. Remember though, if you're struggling, we understand and we've struggled too. Reach out and talk to us. The festive period isn't always a fun and happy time for everyone - most of us find it stressful at the very least! It can be lovely and a time with family, friends and neighbours, but it can also be a time when it highlights feelings of loneliness and isolation or reminds us of those who can't be with us anymore. Don't suffer alone - call us. We're always happy to have a chat. This year we're closed for Christmas from Saturday 20th December, returning Monday 5th January. When we're not here, please do contact one of our lovely colleagues at Here For You Wakefield if you need help, support or someone to talk to. They're open 365 days a year, 6pm-midnight, on 07776 962815. You can also read our guide to coping with celebrations: https://www.wakefieldrecoverycollege.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Your-Guide-to-Navigating-Annual-Celebrations.pdf

2025 in numbers

100% of people who attended told us they would recommend us to their friends and family. We had 536 new enrolments this year. That's 3 every working term-time day!

We enrolled 3930 places on courses!

Our busiest and most well attended courses were in June and Sentember

We have 2037 students registered with us at the moment.

Our most popular months for new bookings were March and April.

Term opening times

Open 8am-4pm Monday to Friday.



8th December 2025 - 17th January 2026

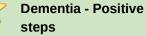
Christmas holidays

20th December 2025 - 4th January 2026 - No staff, telephones or emails

Term 2

Courses begin again on the 19th January 2026

Courses





Fire safety in the home (a practical course)



Diabetes awareness



Manging diabetes



Understanding anxiety





Wakefield Recovery College

16+





Coping with Christmas

27/11/2025 10am-12noon Online Understanding anxiety

01/12/2025 10am-12noon Online Coping with Chronic Pain

02/12/2025 1pm-2pm Online Boost your writing confidence

03/12/2025 1pm-3pm Online

An introduction to autism

> 04/12/2025 1pm-3.30pm Online

Creative crafting for beginners

20/01/2026 (6 weeks) 9.45am-11:30am Pontefract Managing Fatigue with Health conditions

> 20/01/2026 11am-11.45am Online

Card making for wellbeing

21/01/2026 (2weeks) 1pm-3pm Wakefield

Creative fitness

21/01/2026 (8 weeks) 11am-12noon Normanton Scrapbooking for wellness

21/01/2026 (4 weeks) 10am-12noon Wakefield Diabetes awareness

23/01/2026 10am-12noon Wakefield **Managing diabetes**

30/01/2026 10am-12noon Wakefield

Simple weaving techniques

04/02/2026 (2 weeks) 1pm-3pm Wakefield Your journey through relaxation

> 05/02/2026 10am-12.30pm Online

Understanding depression

09/02/2026 12.30pm-2:30pm Online Confidence – mind and body techniques

> 23/02/2026 1pm-3pm Online

Contact the college to enrol www.wakefieldrecoverycollege.nhs.uk wakefieldrecoverycollege@swyt.nhs.uk 01924 316946

Wakefield
Recovery and Wellbeing College
Home of the Discovery College

With all of us in mind.



Between Saturday 20th December 2025 and Sunday 4th January 2026, we will be bringing back our "Days of Christmas" series on our social media platforms. Every day, whilst the team take their welldeserved two weeks off work and we shut down our phone lines and close our emails, we release activities, reflections, tasks and support via all three of our main social media platforms (Facebook, X/Twitter and Instagram). Why not check in with our pages every day and see what you might like to do with other like-minded students.



TRUSTE

Nova Wakefield District is hosting a friendly, welcoming session for anyone who's ever thought about becoming a charity trustee - or who's simply curious about what trustees do.

We especially want to hear from people from diverse backgrounds and experiences, as local charities are stronger when their boards reflect the communities they serve.



Trustees are people who lead charities and, together with other board members, decide how they are run. They care about a charity and want to help guide it in the right direction.

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

The session will cover

- · What trustees actually do
- The key responsibilities (in plain English!)
- · Why diversity in decisionmaking really matters
- Where to find support in Wakefield District and next steps if you're interested

Dates of online sessions

- Monday 24 November, lpm 2pm
- Tuesday 25 November, 9am 10am
- Wednesday 26 November, 10am 11am
- Thursday 11 December, 2pm 3pm

To book on, visit

tinyurl.com/wakefieldtrustee or use this QR code







On Board Buses Consultation

West Yorkshire Combined Authority are designing new buses for the new bus network! They want your input to make sure the internal features of the buses meet your needs (e.g. accessibility, seating, staying comfy, wifi, journey alerts, and more). Head to the website to have your say: www.yourvoice.westyorksca.gov.uk/OnBoardBuses



What you've said about us:

"My world has got a bit bigger"- AS, 24

"I've discovered my normal" - LP, 23

"You give me hope I'll be OK someday"-RJ, 21

We support 16-25 year olds to discover an improved sense of mental and emotional wellbeing.

You refer yourself or are 🤊 referred

Together we can choose 📍 where + when to meet

Social groups 📍

Professional 🕈

advice

Meeting 📍

friends

1-2-1 support about things 📍 that matter to you

 We can support you whilst you are on waiting lists for other services.

• We'll listen to find out what's going on + we won't judge

Skills workshops

• We'll make sure you have the tools you need on your journey

> Volunteer opportunities



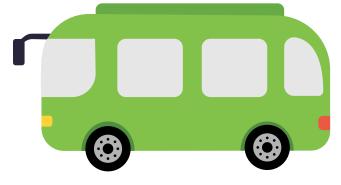


Refer yourself by... Scanning the QR code

Calling 01924 330267

Texting 07778 057175





Wakefield Recovery College

CHRISTMAS MOVIE MATCH-UP

Which movie is each team members favourite?

Answers at the bottom, no cheating!

Averil a. The Holiday

Di b. Miracle on 34th street

Doz c. Christmas Chronicles

Emily d. One Magic Christmas

Gail e. Home Alone

Katie f. Bridget Jones' Diary

Kia g. It's a Wonderful Life

Lindsey h. Nativity

Macy i. Arthur Christmas

Steph j. Elf

Tina k. White Christmas

Rachel I. Harry Potter & The Philosopher's Stone

Answers: Averil - j | Di - f | Doz - d | Emily - g | Gail - k | Katie - I | Kia - b | Lindsey - i | Macy - h | Steph - c | Tine - a | Rachel - e

Modelling Construction Group

Combating isolation and loneliness in men this winter period.

what?

A confidential group for anyone who identifies as male, is 18+ and lives in the Wakefield District or has a Wakefield GP.



includes?

Wooden Modelling Tower Building Team Work





Key Details

When?

Every Thursday until 25th February 2026. 14:00 - 16:00

Where?

The Art House, Wakefield, WF1 2TE

How do i take part?

Contact our office to refer and book an assessment. Once these things have taken place, you can join straight away.

Can i volunteer?

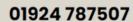
Yes, volunteer opportunities are available. Contact our office for more information.











Charity: 1072174 Company Registration: 03580793









NEURODIVERSITY AND ME

Join our workshop and explore practical ways that can improve your daily life and help you to feel more confident with or without a diagnosis



What to expect

A free, 2 x 1 hour, small group workshop providing an opportunity to:

- Understand how neurodiversity affects us
- Learn ways to improve concentration, communication & organisation
- Discuss ways to address sensory overload
- Practice breathing techniques
- Connect with other people who identify as being neurodiverse

Why choose us?

Our workshops are lead by a team of trained Online via MS Teams staff and volunteers with their own experiences of living with a long-term condition

Useful information



Who: Anyone aged 18+, living in the Wakefield district, or registered with a Wakefield district GP



When?

Wednesday 10 December, Thursday 11 December 1:00 - 2:00 PM

Where: Online via Microsoft Teams or in person at accessible venues across the Wakefield district

For more information or to book please contact us



"Step into a spellbinding winter wonderland where the charm of a traditional Christmas market meets the curated elegance of a contemporary art exhibition. From handcrafted ceramics to unique textiles, each item in this curated collection has been thoughtfully selected to showcase Yorkshire's most inspiring artists, makers, and designers." Cost = Free event.

Carols by Candlelight 12/12/25 & 19/12/25, 7pm Wakefield Cathedral

"Carols by Candlelight is a magical evening filled with traditional carols, festive cheer, and the glow of hundreds of candles right here in the heart of Yorkshire."

Cost = Tickets for this annual event cost between £15-£25 each. They sell out every year so you'll need to act quickly to get your ticket.

What's on in Wakefield Athis December 4

https://experiencewakefield.co.uk/whats-on/

Santa's Magic Workshop 22/11/25 - 24/12/25 National Coal Mining Museum

"Meet Father Christmas and his busy team of elves, as they tinker away preparing for the big day in their twinkling, enchanted, toy-making workshop, enjoy a very special, heart-warming Christmas story, take part in a festive trail, where children will craft their very own wooden memento, get creative with Christmas crafts and receive a special gift from Father Christmas." Cost = £12.50 for Children, £5.50 for adults (+ £1 extra on Christmas Eve).

Christmas at Nostell 01/12/25 - 04/01/26 Nostell Priory

"Nostell is transformed into a storybook adventure. Follow the story room by room before finishing the house experience with the enchanting gingerbread village, reimagined with festive wonder. From here, at weekends, your journey continues through the garden to the glass house, where Father Christmas will make his appearance." Cost = £6.50. Quiet sessions with Santa 10am-11am on 7/14/21 December - reserve on 01924 863892.

What's on at the new. Wakefield Exchange

https://wxwakefield.co.uk/Whats-On/Details?event=Festive-Fun-25

Forever Funky - over 60's disco 04/12/25 12:30pm-3:30pm - FREE

"Forever Funky is the daytime disco for over 60s who like to party. The DJ will be spinning tunes from the 60s, 70s & 80s, with a festive twist for the Christmas season. With an onsite bar, coffee shop and street food, Forever Funky is your chance to let loose and dance like nobody's watching. So grab your dancing shoes (or comfy trainers) join us for an afternoon of music, memories, and moves that never go out of style.

Dress code: Sparkles and shine!

This event is in partnership with Age UK."

Family drop in - Watercolour Christmas cards

06/12/25 12pm-2pm - FREE

"Drop into WX and create your own beautiful watercolour Christmas Cards.
Chris Teal is an experienced Brusho watercolour artist. Drop in for this free, fun hands on session, and create beautiful Christmas cards, using watercolours, glitter and mixed media! This session is suitable for children aged 4 and up."

Toddler Christmas disco (ages 0-5)

19/12/25 9:30am-11:30am - FREE

"There'll be joyful dancing, playful games, and plenty of giggles, all set to your favourite holiday tunes. Feel free to dress up in your cutest Christmas costume (reindeer antlers, elf hats, or sparkly tutus welcome)!"

Clay Christmas pudding workshop (ages 19+)

09/12/25 9:30am-11:30am - FREE

"Take a little clay and a lot of Christmas magic to make your own Christmas Pudding Decorations! Make clay Christmas puddings as hanging decorations which will be glazed and fired in the kiln ready for collection before Christmas. This workshop is not recommended for pregnant women due to the use of glazes. Booking required. Call 01924 303302 or email manygates@wakefield.gov.uk."

Kids Christmas disco (ages 5-12) 20/12/25 12pm-2pm - FREE

"Get ready to hit the dance floor with your friends, show off your best moves, and dive into a night of games, tunes, and holiday fun.

Whether you come dressed as a cool elf, a sparkly snowflake, or just rock your favourite party outfit, it's all about good vibes and great energy."

Family drop in - Festive paper garland making 21/12/25 11am-3pm - FREE

"This cheerful drop-in activity invites kids to get creative with colourful paper, glitter, and all things Christmassy. They'll design and craft their very own paper garlands. Think stars, snowflakes, candy canes, and jolly shapes galore, to take home and hang up for the holidays. This relaxed session is all about snipping, sticking, and spreading seasonal joy. No booking needed, just pop in and join the merry making!"

Who we are

I am a family man with thirty years of tutoring experience. Based in Wakefield and servicing the West Yorkshire area. I can provide lessons in your own home tailored to suit any age or ability.

- · Exams, GCSE, School work
- · Music for fun or entertainment
- Enthusiasts
- · All levels and abilities

Contact us

Please get in touch to discuss your options and arrange a free preliminary consultation:

Phone: 07902 672 133

Email: nicolas.greensmith8@gmail.com

Wakefield; West Yorkshire



What we offer

- Free preliminary consultation to meet up and assess your needs and discuss your options.
- o Ongoing weekly Tutorials in your own home.
- Lessons and schedule tailored to suit your needs.
- Adaptable schedule to fit around you, your holidays, your aspirations
- Online Support between lessons.
- o Help with choosing and buying music books

A local, supportive service who understand additional mental health needs whilst learning.

Our products & services

Weekly Tutorials

Weekly tutorials are recommended to help with consistency and provide a good medium for making consistent progress going forward. Practice in between sessions is highly recommended and will aid more rapid progress.

Ongoing online support

Online video chat can help support you between lessons and help cover any gaps or missed appointments. It is also a useful medium for discussion and supporting your musical needs in general.

Theory Lessons

Including support for GCSE music and General Music Theory as covered by ABRSM and other examination boards

Markefield's Cerive Fee Continue of the cont





Reverse Advent Calendar

This year, why not support local food banks (some of whom have seen a 25% decrease in donations this year) with a reverse advent calendar. Either alongside receiving your own advent treat, or instead of, why not put aside one food bank item a day to donate. You can find out more about food banks, donations and support via Wakefield Council, or directly through our local food banks, including The Well Project in Normanton, The Link in Castleford and St. Catherine's in Wakefield.



Card making for wellbeing

During this 2-week course, we will explore the craft of card making. Crafting can relieve stress and tension in our everyday life and can be an opportunity to express ourselves creatively. This course will be a chance to meet new people and learn new skills whilst improving our wellbeing. You may decide that the mindful craft of card making will become a new hobby for you and a skill that you can recreate at home and share your new skills with your friends and family. Your wonderful creations could also make great personalised gifts.

Please ensure you let the College know at the time of booking if you have any dexterity issues or other concerns around using smaller pieces of equipment. Our crafting sessions often use equipment that may be more challenging to use with dexterity issues (such as pencils, pastels, sewing equipment or paintbrushes) and if informed in advance, we are able to make our sessions fully accessible for those with additional crafting support needs.

21st of January 2026 - 1.00pm-3.00pm 2 Weeks

West Yorkshire History Centre, 127 Kirkgate, Wakefield WF1 1JG.



Face to face



Contact the college to enrol www.wakefieldrecoverycollege.nhs.uk wakefieldrecoverycollege@swyt.nhs.uk 01924 316946







Introduction to Woodland Skills

Do you want to learn some practical skills in a woodland setting?

This course, running with our partners at Athelas CIC, provides the opportunity to learn with instruction and supervision, how to develop a range of woodland skills.

Practical skills covered will include:

- 1) The safe lighting, management, use, and extinguishing of an open fire.
- 2) The safe use of hand tools and carving knives to create natural crafts.
- 3) The identification of a range of native and introduced trees and plants, and their uses and ecology.

The course is designed to give adult students access to a woodland environment where they can gain practical skills and support their wellbeing by being out in nature. Students will need a moderate level of fitness as the sessions are held in a woodland setting which is accessed by paths which are sometimes muddy.

The location for this course is within Bulcliff Woodlands, Denby Dale Road. There is a bus stop within walking distance and there are car parking facilities available. However, if you have any concerns about travel to or from the location, including financial restrictions, please contact the College and we will see if we are able to offer any support for this.

The course runs for 4 weeks starting on: 22nd of January 2026- 1pm to 3pm

Bulcliff Woodlands, off Denby Dale Rd/A636, Wakefield



Face to face 18+







Contact the college to enrol www.wakefieldrecoverycollege.nhs.uk wakefieldrecoverycollege@swyt.nhs.uk 01924 316946





Fire safety in the home – practical training

In our two hour practical fire safety training session, taught by an experienced fire safety advisor and previous fire fighter, you'll get the opportunity to:

- Learn about the things needed to start or fuel a fire and how we can reduce the risk of fire in the home by being more aware of these.
- See some of the consequences of not being fire aware.
- Learn about the different types of fire extinguisher and what each of these are for.
- Learn how to safety tackle a small fire, using fire extinguishers and a fire blanket.
- Learn how to safely make your way out of a smoke filled room (please note the "smoke" used in the practical is non-harmful and simply mimics the limited visibility caused by real smoke).

14th of May 2026- 10.30am-12.00pm

Fieldhead Campus, Fieldhead Hospital, Ouchthorpe Lane, Wakefield, WF1 3SP



Face to face 18+



Contact the college to enrol www.wakefieldrecoverycollege.nhs.uk wakefieldrecoverycollege@swyt.nhs.uk 01924 316946







A Christmas Rap

Christmas time is here
Round again for another year
Time for festive fun
Probably won't see the sun

Houses lit with cheerful lights
Reindeer and snowmen
bright
Time to bake
Mince pies Christmas cake
Turkey and Christmas pud
So very good

Put up the Christmas tree
Presents round for you and
me
Decorations shining bright
Cold winter moonlit night

Stockings hung
Church bells rung
Children pretend to be in bed
Waiting for Santa's sled
Noise up on roof
Sounds like reindeer hoof

Footprints on the path
Soot trod on the hearth
Santa has left his mark
Shame couldn't find where to
park

Guests arrive
Long drive
Doorbells ring
Parties full swing
Time to rest
Enjoy the fest

An annual tune
Boxing Day sales soon
Coming up will be Big Ben
As old year end

Christmas is nearly here
And if you miss it
It'll be back next year.

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A
HAPPY NEW YEAR









Here For You Wakefield & 5 Towns

Struggling to Cope? Feeling Overwhelmed? You Are Not Alone.

Out of Hours Support in a Safe Space

Free urgent mental health support.

- No need for GP or hospital.
- Available to 16 years+



We are open for support from 6pm to midnight <u>every day of the year</u>

Refer online any time

Our teams will call you back within 24hours

Go to our website or scan the QR code to refer online.



www.touchstonesupport.org.uk/hereforyou





HereForYouTS







