



We care about here



# Supporting communities – Environmental Volunteering 2015

## Leeds City Council Parks & Countryside

In May twelve volunteers from Yorkshire Bank joined the Leeds Parks and Countryside staff, turning their hand to a range of jobs. Organised through Business in the Community the green fingered volunteers helped make improvements to Crossflats Park in Beeston by planting trees, pruning rose gardens, improving floral displays and generally putting their backs into any job that needed doing!

The Parks and Countryside Services acknowledged the work of the volunteers by saying, “We’d like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has contributed, through volunteering, to help us protect our precious green spaces.”

## Herd Farm, Leeds

Organised by Business in the Community a team of nine Yorkshire Bank volunteers arrived at Herd Farm on a chilly April day ready for a challenge. Herd Farm is a residential and outdoor activity centre situated in 16 acres of beautiful countryside on the outskirts of Leeds. The centre is run by Leeds City Council and is used as an activity centre for vulnerable or disadvantaged children and young people.

The team spent the day in the garden undertaking a variety of tasks including mending a greenhouse, re-stitching netting over the raised beds, planting lavender in the sensory garden and weeding the raised beds.

Tony Edwards, Centre Manager said:

“Managing 16 acres across the seasons requires considerable hands on input and energy. We are grateful to Yorkshire Bank who supported Herd Farm during 2015. The work completed by the team brought immediate benefit to our young users who could now access and develop their work as part of their horticultural studies. We look forward to seeing a Yorkshire Bank team back at Herd Farm in 2016.”

“It was a very enjoyable day in which we were able to work together as a team and help improve the local community.”

*Mark Day from Retail Credit*

“It was a bit wet but it didn’t dampen our spirits. It was very rewarding to talk to passers-by who were complimentary about the difference we were making.”

*Michael Holmes from Retail Credit Models*

“We were given a warm welcome at Herd Farm and had a fantastic day. The team worked well together to accomplish the tasks and we left feeling like we had achieved something and that our effort was very much appreciated.”

*Ursula Shamin from Risk Management Credit*

## Some highlights from our community programme include:

- The Bank and its employees have raised over £4.7million for our Charity Partner, Hospice UK
- Over 14,500 hours given by employees volunteering in our last financial year
- For the third consecutive year the Bank has been awarded Platinum Quality Mark for our payroll giving

