

# MoveMates Volunteer Newsletter

NEWSLETTER@MOVETHE  
MASSES.ORG.UK

HTTPS://MOVEMATES.ORG.UK

@MOVE.MATES.UK

## FINANCES

In 2025 MoveMates nearly folded completely. The tough decision was taken to make all staff redundant and close every project outside of York. Move the Masses was literally surviving on a day-by-day basis.

A £30,000 lifeline came from grants and donations such as the City of York Council, York Racecourse and GoFundMe. This allowed the York project to continue into 2026, with only trustees, part-time staff and volunteers.

But it's still not enough.

MoveMates costs around £50,000 a year to operate (inc wages, expenses, insurance, communications and postage). Everyone's working hard to get more funding but MM can no longer be free. As a result, the board of trustees has decided the charity can only continue if beneficiaries pay a small fee of £3 per week (£12 per month) via direct debit. This is with immediate effect.

Anyone who can't afford to pay will still be able to walk with MoveMates. Anyone who'd like to pay more, or wants to make a one-off donation is welcome to do so.

How do you feel about this decision? Let us know here: [newsletter@movethemasses.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@movethemasses.org.uk)



Volunteers at the recent MoveMates meeting

## Community Updates

### A New Beginning

Welcome to the new Volunteer Newsletter. This first issue has some important stories you might have missed on Facebook or WhatsApp. Future issues will be emailed every month, with lots of helpful info, news, facts and figures. We especially want to share your stories - [newsletter@movethemasses.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@movethemasses.org.uk)

When MoveMates was honoured to receive the King's Award for Voluntary Service in 2024, the future seemed bright.

But by September 2025, when a special King's Award presentation was hosted by York Racecourse for everyone responsible for such an honour, everything had changed.

Apart from York, all MoveMates projects had been closed down and most of York's admin was being done by volunteers. But since those bleak days, changes to the way the charity operates (mainly volunteer-led) plus the £3 weekly fee, is helping MoveMates in York to continue.

Equivalent to an MBE and awarded for life, the King's Award is the highest honour for local voluntary groups in the UK.

Wear your King's Award badge with pride! If you didn't get your badge, a limited number are still available here. [york@movethemasses.org.uk](mailto:york@movethemasses.org.uk)



Impact Reporting



**Since MoveMates  
began in 2018...**

**3000  
WALKS**

**OVER  
400**

**DOORSTEP CHATS, PHONE  
CALLS AND MESSAGES**

**363**

**PAIRED BENEFICIARIES**

**OVER  
300**

**VOLUNTEERS**

**RECEIVED THE KING'S  
AWARD FOR  
VOLUNTARY SERVICE**





## SPREADING THE WORD

### MAR 4 Volunteering Fair

Mark (plus bear) pictured above with volunteer Mary, joined with project office Libby Crofts at the Volunteering Fair organised by York's Council for Voluntary Service (CVS) at the Priory Street Centre. Says Mark: "We were there to showcase our amazing charity. What was so nice, was to hear Mary telling people how she personally benefits from volunteering for MoveMates. It was a long day but worth every second."

### MAR 31 Fundraising Quiz Night

Come to MoveMates' fundraising Quiz Night on Tuesday 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026 at 7:30pm at the Micklegate Social, 148 Micklegate. £3 per person, pay on the door with card or cash. Lots of laughs and head-scratching guaranteed! Come on your own or with friends.

### MAY 30 York Pride

On 30<sup>th</sup> May, MoveMates will be proudly promoting its work at York Pride, held at the Knavesmire. Last year over 17,500 people filled the day with love, laughter and colour, and it's expected to be even more successful in 2026!

We will be holding some making events where we will be crafting things to sell on the stall, plus if anyone can donate cakes, biscuits or pride themed items either made at home or at craft groups that would be amazing! Some ideas include crocheted, knitted, sculpted, sewed, beaded rainbow coloured keyring, jewellery, small soft animals, dog bandanas.

If you can help to make or donate things, or help at the stall on the day for an hour or more, Mark would love to hear from you. [mark@movethemasses.org.uk](mailto:mark@movethemasses.org.uk)

## NOT GOING OUT?

At some point, nearly all volunteers have turned up as arranged only to be told by their beneficiary that they don't want to go out. The trustees feel this happens too often, with the same people not letting their MoveMate or the office know in advance. In future, if volunteers are turned away three or more times without notice, the office may make a gentle call to discuss whether MoveMates is right for them.



Volunteer Elle has been going round York distributing MM leaflets to encourage others to become volunteers. If you'd like some leaflets for local noticeboards etc, get in touch. [mark@movethemasses.org.uk](mailto:mark@movethemasses.org.uk).

## FREE

Did you know that York Museums Trust (Castle Museum, Yorkshire Museum, York Art Gallery) offer concessions to visitors with mobility issues or who are on benefits. PLUS their MoveMate volunteer can enter free with them.

Have you taken your MM in for free? Do you know of anywhere else that offers similar? Please let us know: [newsletter@movethemasses.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@movethemasses.org.uk)



**Important! Action Needed!**

**LOGGING WALKS**

Each week, fewer than 25% of volunteers are logging their MoveMates activity! This means that for every 25 walks or chats, only five are being logged, and that could risk the charity's future.

One of the most important questions asked by potential funders or grant providers is "How many people benefit from your organisation?" The answer to that question is often the deciding factor - and needs to be backed up by volunteers' logs.

Please remember to log ALL your MoveMates activity, each week (walks, doorstep chats, calls, messages). Keep forgetting? Why not put a weekly reminder on your phone?

To find the log form, sign in to the MoveMates site [movemates.org.uk/my-account](http://movemates.org.uk/my-account), select 'My Move Mate Pairings', find your beneficiary's name then enter your activity. Photos and comments are always welcome!

Need a hand finding your log? Get help here: [mark@movethemasses.org.uk](mailto:mark@movethemasses.org.uk)



**VOLUNTEER'S CHATTER BOX**

"We meet every week and chat about everything and anything. They're a force of nature and a real extrovert now, though they were much quieter in the past. MoveMates has given us a genuine friendship and mutual respect." *Extract from a walk log Feb 2026.*

Send us your stories  
[newsletter@movethemasses.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@movethemasses.org.uk)

**FREEMAIL**

Some beneficiaries will always need printed news and letters. However, many would be happy to get all updates via email, WhatsApp or Messenger instead - but we don't have their details. This means the office has to print then post or hand deliver everything to them. This is costly and time-consuming.

The next time you walk or chat, please check if they're happy to get emails in future (perhaps explain the financial implications of printing and posting). Let Mark have their details and he'll update the mailing list. [mark@movethemasses.org.uk](mailto:mark@movethemasses.org.uk)

