

SCCCC News

SUMMER 2017



SCCCC pick up UK's highest voluntary honour!

Thanks to our volunteers, we have been awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, one of only nine in Sheffield since its launch in 2002.

Fittingly, we sent two of our army of befriending volunteers – Anne Ashforth and Rosemary Ashburner – to represent the charity at an exclusive Buckingham Palace garden party, which included a speech by Her Majesty The Queen.

Anne has been visiting a housebound woman in her 80s called Alma for two years and she says the visits have benefitted them both.

Anne said: "I lost my grandma a few years ago and ever since I felt like I'd lost a connection to that generation and found myself pining for the kind of conversation and wisdom that I couldn't have any more. That's what pushed me to volunteer for the charity two years ago.

"I fell pregnant and visiting Alma quickly became a part of my motherhood journey. On maternity leave I struggled to get into a routine, but knowing I'd see her once a week was really good for me. Alma has five children and several grandchildren so would give me helpful advice. I let her hold the baby and I think it made her feel like she was useful and valued.

"Although Alma is cognitively well, she is completely housebound. Even though she has a big family who visit regularly, she still gets lonely. She was born in Jamaica and we often talk about her culture and her coming to this country.



Rosemary (left) and Anne (right) outside Buckingham Palace.

"I was so pleased that SCCC won the award, which is deserved recognition for its efforts to help older people for 50 years. I have only been a small part of their story, but Rosemary has been giving her time on and off for nearly 20 years."

The Queen's Award is the highest award given to local volunteer groups across the UK to recognise outstanding work done in their own communities. It was created in 2002 to celebrate the anniversary of the Queen's coronation.

Any group doing volunteer work that provides a social, economic or environmental service to the local community can be nominated for the award. The groups are then assessed on the benefit they bring to the local community and its standing within that community.

SCCCC will receive a certificate signed by the Queen and a domed glass crystal which will be presented by the Lord Lieutenant at a special ceremony later this year.

FOCUS ON...



STAFF PROFILE

Name: Gavin Furness
Job Title: Hospital Aftercare Coordinator

What is your role responsible for?

I take referrals from hospitals and other health professionals, which help older people who are ready for discharge. Fitting medical equipment, moving furniture, dropping off medicines, hiring equipment to aid recovery, providing emergency shopping and picking up belongings is all part of my role.

What does a typical day involve?

I plan the routes and schedules for the day's jobs, take urgent telephone referrals and update our computer systems. I may also pop in to see my friend, Alan, as I am also a volunteer on the Good Neighbour Scheme.

What is the best aspect of the job?

It gives me great pleasure and job satisfaction to know that I have made a difference and helped someone in need as well as supported the hospital staff who are under pressure. It feels very rewarding.

And the worst?

Occasionally organisations ask us to help with de-clutter jobs. We always help the best we can but these jobs are very demanding and unfortunately on the increase. This job also makes me sad to see how many lonely and vulnerable people there are in Sheffield.

Volunteers are lifeblood of efforts to help older people in city

Volunteers are our lifeblood, having helped thousands of older people in Sheffield live healthy, independent lives for longer than half a century.

In the last edition I wrote about our 50th anniversary and the importance of our work in the city over several generations. But none of it could have been achieved without people of all ages giving their own time freely for the benefit of others.

Our valued volunteers complement our small team of staff and are the reason we were recently awarded the greatest honour in our history - the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service. It's the nation's highest possible voluntary honour and deserved reward for everyone past and present who has given unpaid support to those most in need.

You will read about the work of our volunteers throughout the pages of this newsletter, together with our latest fundraising activity from an unusual



snooker themed donation to a fantastic fashion themed fundraiser.

The money raised from donations and events like these really do make a difference, as our appeal to fund some much needed palliative chairs highlights. Plus of course, all the cash we raise goes towards continuing to provide our core services, most of which are volunteer led, and which remain at the frontline of older people's care in Sheffield.

Mark Storey
Chief Executive Officer

VOLUNTEER OF THE ISSUE

This issue, we are focussing on Jessica Newberry, aged 32, from Millhouses, who is one of our Good Neighbour volunteers. Jessica decided to give her time for us after seeing the impact that loneliness can have on the elderly on a daily basis.

"I work full time at a restaurant in the city centre and have been increasingly aware of the problem of isolation and loneliness in our aging population. I serve many elderly people who sometimes only come in for a chat. As I have no relatives of my own in Yorkshire, and quite a bit of spare time in the day, I thought I'd give something back to my community and visit someone who may not be able to get out as much as they once could.

"Once a week I visit a lady called Inga, who's in her nineties. We talk about her childhood in Germany, cooking, her time in Melton Mowbray,

her grandchildren and great grandchildren, along with just general chit-chat. I do think Inga does look forward to me coming. Cups of coffee are waiting on the side along with a variety of delicious biscuits and cakes - which is an added bonus!"





We were left a precious collection of snooker memorabilia by a man who benefitted from our support.

A cue signed by baize legend Terry Griffiths and autographed photos of reigning world champion Mark Selby were amongst the items that belonged to 89-year-old William (Bill) Hawcroft. Bill had no known living family and his funeral was attended by just five people, but he had been so grateful for the support he received through our 'Good Neighbour Scheme' that he decided to leave the contents of his house to the charity in his will.

Bill struck up a quick rapport with volunteer friendly visitor Gavin Furness, who said: "I immediately started visiting Bill on a regular basis as he only had a short time left and we soon became good friends.

"We celebrated his 89th birthday in November with a cake. By Christmas he was becoming very weak and expressed his wish for the charity to be remembered in his will in the form of a legacy donation."

To talk more about making a legacy donation contact ericka.hill@scccc.co.uk

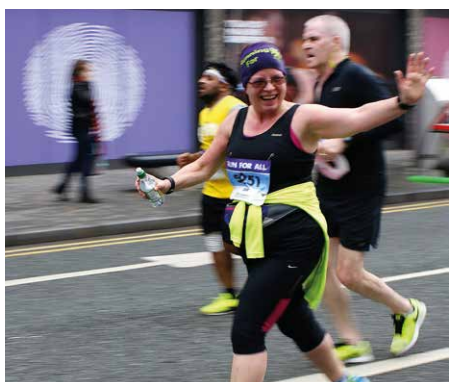
Deborah pounds the streets in half marathon run

Deborah Barnett donned her running shoes for us in April to raise more than £400 by taking part in the Yorkshire Half Marathon.

Deborah said: "I absolutely love raising money for SCCCC because they are such a small local charity, meaning every penny raised really does make a massive difference to the work they carry out and the people they try to help. The charity relies on fundraising and volunteers to function.

"One of the many valuable tasks the charity performs is to help patients without relatives to settle in once they've been discharged from hospital. They will often meet and greet patients as they return home, get them a cup of tea and sometimes shop for basic supplies. I have always found SCCCC staff to be friendly, cheerful and courteous, and nothing is too much trouble for them."

Thank you for your support, Deborah!



Help to fund chairs which boost end of life care

We put a call out recently for help to buy more palliative chairs, which we loan out to support end of life care.

Carole Langsley knows first-hand how useful the chairs can be, after her husband, Terry, needed the added comfort of a palliative chair in their house.

Mrs Langsley said: "For the last four months of Terry's life he was desperately tired, meaning he could walk less. SCCCC delivered a chair and placed it by the window. Having a chair that was comfortable for him meant that he could sit and look at the garden he had lovingly tended for more than fifteen years of his life—watching the birds come and go.

"It may sound like 'only a chair', but it meant so much not only to Terry, but also me and the rest of the family.

We were very grateful for it as he was comfortable and he used it every day."

We only have three of the new upgraded electric palliative chairs, but they are in high demand, and with each chair costing £1000 with a further £450 for upholstery, we are appealing for donations to fund more.

To donate, please contact Ericka Hill on ericka.hill@scccc.co.uk or visit www.scccc.co.uk.



Photo credit: Jackie Jones

HERE COME THE GIRLS! HUNDREDS RAISED THROUGH LADIES LUNCH

A cluster of style conscious ladies joined us recently for a lunch with a difference at Piccolino Sheffield. A two course meal with bubbly was quaffed, with a special guest appearance from Karina Leacock- an award winning consultant with the UK's leading Image Consultancy House of Colour.

In her presentation, Karina explored how colour and style can impact or sabotage our image. She introduced us to some colour and style rules, different dress codes and ultimately, the potential to have a fabulous wardrobe which flatters your shape, expresses your style and is filled with your wow colours.

The afternoon raised more than £400 – a fab day all round.

GET INVOLVED...



Could you be a SCCCC volunteer?

We need help with:

- Taking part in regular friendly visiting to combat loneliness
- Doing some shopping in an emergency
- Accompanying an older person to a medical appointment
- Helping move furniture for older people who are returning from hospital or needing more space for mobility aids in the home
- Collecting an older person from A&E and taking them home
- Help with fundraising

If you are interested in being one of our volunteers, please email volunteers@scccc.co.uk for more information.

DIARY DATES

Sunday 2nd July

Pie and Peas Cruise Quiz

Saturday 8th July

Beighton Fun day

Friday 25th July

Puddingfest

Email ericka.hill@scccc.co.uk for more details.

LETTERS

Dear SCCCC

We thank you most sincerely for the kind loan of the armchair for Edward, following his recuperation, and help with the resetting of his central heating boiler in his kitchen, which he seems to have forgotten how to do. As practising Christians ourselves, we do value the experience we have had of your good work in today's world and enclose our cheque in appreciation.

Yours sincerely

Bernard and Jean.

What are your thoughts about our work? Email mail@scccc.co.uk

We need your donations!

We are a charity which relies on gifts and donations to fund our vital work. We need the financial support of organisations and individuals who understand the difficulties older people face in today's society.

You can do this by making a one off gift, or by setting up a monthly donation from your bank account. Whichever way you decide to give, your kind contribution will allow us to help thousands of older people in Sheffield each year.

£5 could pay for a food parcel to be delivered to an older person's home who has just been discharged from hospital and has no support.

£10 could help provide emergency practical support for an older person in need.

£20 could support a fully trained friendly visitor to visit an older person at home – helping to alleviate isolation and preventing ill health which can result in hospital re-admission.



If you would like to make a donation please complete the following slip and return it to us with your donation to: 11 Holland Place, Sheffield, S2 4US.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

I would like to make a donation of £ _____ to Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care.

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Please Gift Aid this donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past 4 years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference. Tick to apply

Please make cheque payable to: SCCCC. Do not send cash. Or visit our website: www.scccc.co.uk and donate online.

Registered charity number 1168077.