



## Seven-year-old Matilda brightens day for Muriel!

A seven year old girl's handmade card made the day of a partially sighted stranger from Sheffield who has little other contact with the outside world.

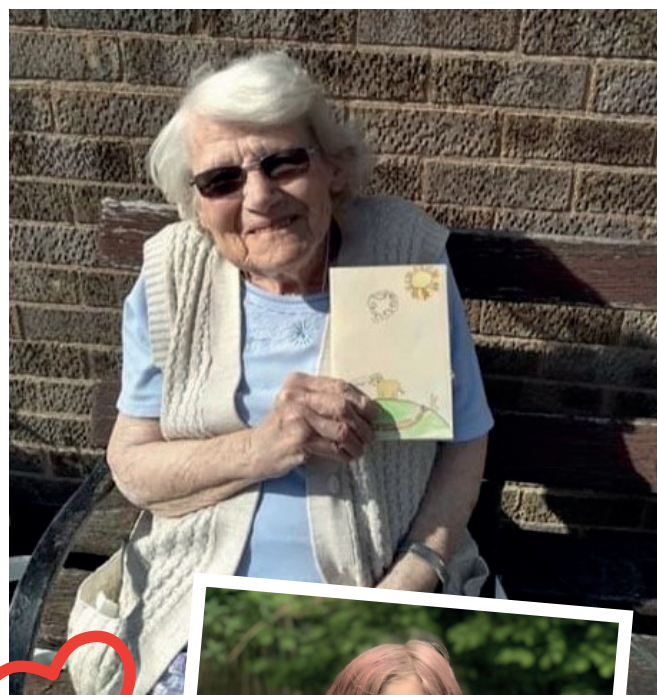
Matilda Murray, from Broomhall, drew a picture on a card, which found its way to 90 year old Muriel, as part of Sheffield Churches Council for Community Care's (SCCCC) lockdown Pen pal scheme which was launched in March.

Matilda's mum, Becky Murray, said: "I saw the callout for letters or postcards on SCCC's social media pages. I suggested to Matilda that it would be a nice thing to do.

"Matilda so desperately wanted to make someone feel happy, and said it must be really hard if you live on your own and cannot get out of the house. She made a card and wrote "thinking of you" inside."

"Matilda received a lovely card from Muriel, and was absolutely thrilled to hear back from her. She is now writing back to Muriel. It would be lovely if they keep writing to each other - and maybe even meet one day," Becky added.

To cheer up an older person during lockdown and beyond, please send any cards or postcards with the short message "thinking of you", to Pen pal Scheme, SCCC Unit 19 President Buildings, Savile Street East, Sheffield, S4 7UQ.



**2020 has not been the year any of us were expecting. The beginning of a new decade is often seen as an opportunity to embrace a new start and a new way of doing things, but I'm not sure we could have envisioned the enforced changes we have had to make due to Covid 19.**

SCCCC has had to make extensive changes to the way we work in order to protect and safeguard the vulnerable older adults we serve. Equally we have a duty of care to our staff and volunteers and we have taken every possible precaution by observing both social distancing rules and wearing PPE if appropriate.

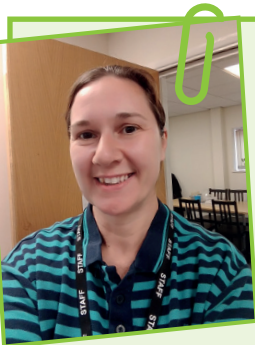
New initiatives like the Pen pal scheme and replacing volunteer visits with phone calls, or if available Skype, has ensured that our service users are still supported and still have a vital lifeline to the outside world.

Whatever happens next, these past few months have shown how it is possible for us all to care and look after each other; communities have come together to support one another and we've all found new ways to stay in touch. I hope this sense of caring and sharing continues long after lockdown stops.

Mark Storey, CEO



**The Queen's Award  
for Voluntary Service**



## **STAFF PROFILE... Tammy Wilson**

### **What is your role at the Charity?**

I'm the Good Neighbour Scheme Team Leader, working with our three wonderful coordinators

Karen, Julia and Rehneesa to offer lonely older local people a volunteer to visit them at home for a chat and a cup of tea.

### **How did you become involved with SCCCC?**

After 23 years in animal welfare, I wanted a new challenge and fell in love with SCCCC. I haven't been part of the team for very long but I'm so proud of the work we do and the many amazing people I work with dedicated to improving the lives of lonely, older people.

### **What is your typical working day like during the pandemic?**

Each morning, we have a team video call to discuss our aims and plans for the day. We've been working hard to ensure our clients have all they need whilst in lockdown. We're in regular contact with our fabulous team of over 100

volunteers, offering support and hearing updates on their relationships with their lovely older people. I'm in regular contact with several older people myself offering extra telephone support to them at this challenging time. I see it as my role to ensure everyone is well supported and as happy as possible!

### **What is the best bit about your job?**

I love hearing about the lives of older people. Meeting so many new faces and offering someone much needed social support is just brilliant. My favourite is when I hear from a volunteer and client, both over the moon at how their first meeting went. It's amazing how two people so different in age, background and experience can just click, have so much in common and bring each other so much joy.

### **What is the worst bit?**

Seeing how many lonely people are out there, desperate for companionship. We don't realise how lucky we are to have a network of friends, colleagues, family members, when other people have absolutely no one and may not see another human to chat to for weeks at a time.



## Fran surprises Jack with cake on his 93rd birthday

Fran O'Callaghan, signed up to the Good Neighbour Scheme early this year and was paired with Jack for weekly friendly visits. But with visits being postponed due to lockdown, Fran started phoning him rather than visiting and quickly realised he was feeling really down without their weekly face to face chats.

Knowing it was Jack's 93rd birthday, Fran bought him a jigsaw puzzle and put together a food parcel including some birthday buns. After clearing her visit with SCCCC, Fran arranged to visit Jack and leave the gifts on his doorstep. She sang Happy Birthday to him from the bottom of the garden and really cheered him up!

While Jack is shielding, Fran visits him once a week with a food parcel containing homemade pie and pudding. They chat for ten minutes or so, all at a safe distance. As Jack doesn't have carers and his wife Jean passed away two years ago, Fran is helping to ease his loneliness both in and out of lockdown.



## Pen pal extraordinaire Kate, aims for 100 letters!



Kate Ibbeson, from Walkley has pledged to write 100 letters to older people isolated by the coronavirus pandemic. Kate thinks SCCCC's Pen pal scheme is an absolutely vital way to stay in touch with older people during lockdown - some of whom had relied upon friendly visiting schemes which have had to be suspended.

Kate said: "I've been following the work of SCCCC for some time and when I saw the details about the Pen pal Scheme at the start of the lockdown, I thought it was a fantastic idea. I write about a huge range of things, from what I've seen during a walk with my dog and what I've been baking, to protecting the seedlings in my garden from the pigeons!"

Kate has raised an amazing £412 so far. She hopes to reach £500 by the end of the challenge.

If anyone would like to write to an older person via SCCCC, they can be sent to Pen pal Scheme, SCCCC, Unit 19 President Buildings, Savile Street East, S4 7UQ, where they will be forwarded on appropriately.

## Volunteer Tim creates a biography for Mike



Tim Moran, aged 54, from Meersbrook started volunteering for SCCCC last summer, following his

mum's death in 2017 and before lockdown visited Mike once a week.

Tim had made a 'memory book' for his mum and offered to do the same for Mike. It took weeks of looking through photo albums, letters, press cuttings, certificates, diaries and other documents with the help of Mike's son Howard.

The completed book takes in the whole of Mike's life, from his parents, right through to his grandchildren and great grandchild. It covers family, work, career, travel, interests and also includes some fun questions about his likes and dislikes. Key events over the course of his life are dotted throughout the book to help trigger memories for him and immerse him in that particular time period.

Thankfully, the 'official' handover ceremony took place about a week before the lockdown began and Mike is over the moon with it, saying that the book will be something he gains great pleasure from looking at.



## GET INVOLVED...

### Could you offer a helping hand? Volunteer for SCCCC

Each day the Hospital Aftercare Team drive miles around Sheffield delivering equipment and helping to support older people whilst in hospital, on discharge and beyond. We are always looking for volunteers to spend time with the team to assist in the following tasks:

- Collection of personal belongings for patients whilst in hospital.
- Delivery of equipment such as mobility aids, temporary key safes.
- An emergency food shop.
- The moving of furniture to make way for a hospital bed in a patient's home.
- Feeding pets.

You would always be accompanied by a member of staff and the time commitment can be for a full day, morning or afternoon.

If you are interested, then please contact **volunteers@scccc.co.uk** for more information.



## LETTERS

Dear SCCCC,

*My letter arrived at the perfect moment. I was feeling very low. The letter showed that there is someone out there who cares. It made me cry with happy tears.*

*Thank you  
Pen pal service user*

**What are your thoughts about SCCCC? Share them with us.**  
**Email: [mail@scccc.co.uk](mailto:mail@scccc.co.uk)**

Make a donation today to help SCCCC to maintain the level of care that all of our friends and families deserve. Your donation will go a long way to improving the level of care in our communities.

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

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

**£20 can support a** fully trained friendly visitor to visit an older person at home - helping to reduce 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: Unit 19, President Buildings, Savile Street East, Sheffield, S4 7UQ.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to make a donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_  
to Sheffield Churches Council of Community Care.

*giftaid it*

Please Gift Aid this donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax then 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 cheques payable to: SCCCC. Do not send cash.**  
**Or visit our website: [www.scccc.co.uk](http://www.scccc.co.uk) and donate online.**

Charitable Incorporated Organisation registered in England: 1168077,