

GET INVOLVED...



Give the gift of friendship in 2018

Help reduce the loneliness and isolation of our elderly in 2018, by registering for our Good Neighbour Scheme, which aims to help older members of our community by enhancing their quality of life.

Duties include –

- Regular or occasional friendly (social) visits
- Holiday check (short term) for the duration of a relative's holiday
- Re-arranging furniture to enable greater mobility
- Occasional sitting to give a carer time to attend an appointment
- Escorting to hospital appointments

We need more volunteers in all areas of Sheffield, in particular Beighton, Darnall, Shiregreen, Brightside, Arbourthorne, Woodhouse, Mosborough and High Green.

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

DIARY DATES

Wednesday 20th December

Queens Award Ceremony

Friday 9th February

Cheese and wine evening

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

LETTERS

Dear Dot, Karen and Elspeth,

Thank you so much for the help, support and companionship that Jane Green gives my mother-in-law through your Good Neighbours Scheme.

Lucy Pathan

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

Can you help this Christmas?

By giving a Christmas donation you are making a big difference.

Please help us to maintain the level of care that all of our friends and families deserve. Your funds will go a long way to improving the level of care in our communities for the festive season and well into 2018.

£5 could pay for the delivery of an emergency food parcel 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 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: 11 Holland Place, Sheffield, S2 4US.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

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

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.

SCCCC News

WINTER 2017



Thank you for your support in 2017



Wow – what a year we've had and it's all thanks to YOU, our amazing supporters.

You have helped raise thousands of pounds by taking part in mass running events, incredible hiking challenges, supermarket bag packing and even an attempt to cycle to the moon – or thereabouts...!

Thanks also to those who came to our fundraising and celebration events, and of course to our corporate partners – especially Big Yellow storage, which has supported us in more ways than we can say.

And don't forget our amazing volunteers, who give 6,000 hours of unpaid work each year visiting

older people in Sheffield to battle loneliness and isolation. Without you, our wonderful charity would simply not exist.

In whichever way you've supported us this year, it's made a huge difference. So thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Here's to an exciting 2018!

FOCUS ON...



STAFF PROFILE

Name: Karen Pottinger
Job Title: Good Neighbour Scheme Co-ordinator

What is your role responsible for?

My role involves taking referrals, mainly for friendly visiting. After a referral, I meet them and then allocate a friendly visitor volunteer. I also support our volunteers by regularly keeping in touch with them as well as ensuring the visiting is going well for the older person. I work closely with Dot Fisher, who is also a Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS) Co-ordinator.

What does a typical day involve?

There isn't a 'typical' day for me. When I'm in the office I spend a lot of time on the phone either to volunteers, referrers or service-users. I often go out to meet a volunteer for a supervision visit or go to see an older person who has been referred. I also have a small number of visiting cases in areas of Sheffield where we don't have any volunteers.

What is the best aspect of the job?

Working alongside our wonderful volunteers and seeing how beneficial and often hugely life-enhancing friendly visiting can be for the older person.

And the worst?

Friendly visiting is subject to volunteer availability. Our scheme is city wide and heavily oversubscribed. Sometimes we just do not have volunteers available in certain areas of Sheffield.

I always find that this time of year offers an important opportunity for reflection and I am proud to be able to look back upon what has been a remarkable year for the charity.

Core to our success has been a string of varied and well attended fundraising events, which have given us the financial lifeline to be able to continue our potentially lifesaving work.

From 'pudding fest' to a narrowboat pie and peas night, and from a botanical themed dinner to an attempt to cycle to the moon, our fantastic supporters old and new have turned out in force to raise money which goes such a long way towards helping thousands of isolated, older people in Sheffield.

Rightly, that work has been recognised this year in a big way - from the incredible news that we had been awarded the prestigious Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, to the brilliantly attended service of celebration at Sheffield Cathedral.



The other thing about the cold, dark, winter months of course, is that it brings into stark relief the challenges faced by so many of the people who we are here to support. So my plea to you is to think about how you might be able to help. Every pound donated and every hour volunteered really does make a huge difference to the lives of older people in your community.

Mark Storey
Chief Executive Officer

Volunteer of the issue

This issue we are focussing on Beatrice Gono, one of our fantastic volunteers who has been part of our Good Neighbour Scheme for more than a decade.

Beatrice said: "I visit Ruby every Tuesday. We talk about many things, including her family and friends, her late husband and parents, her achievements in life and how Sheffield has changed over the years. We also talk about her education - she is very good at maths - and how there were no computers or calculators and people had to solve maths problems using just their brains!"

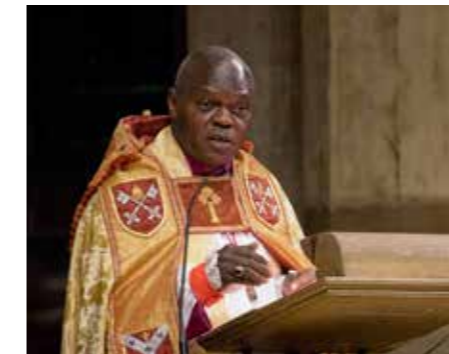
"Ruby is a lovely person and we look forward to seeing each other each week. I volunteer for SCCC because I like helping oldr people. I also like meeting new people, listening to them and sharing their experiences."

We need more volunteers. Please see the back page for more information about how you can help.



NEWS...

Momentous Cathedral event marks 50th anniversary



We recently celebrated one of the biggest events in our history.

Staff, supporters, volunteers and service users turned out in force to fill the pews of Sheffield Cathedral for an extra special service marking half a century of our vital work.

One of the most senior bishops in the land, the Lord Archbishop of York Dr John Sentamu, was our guest of honour on the night, which was complete with mesmerising harp music and a poignant candle lighting service.

It was a moving occasion and one we're so proud of.

Were you there? What did you think? Please email ericka.hill@scccc.co.uk with your feedback.



© James Stewart Photography



Trio's fundraising 10k challenge

Pete Skipworth put his best foot forward with colleagues James and Becky Chapman at this year's Sheffield 10K, raising more than £1400 for SCCC's life changing work.

Pete, managing director at EM Solutions, and the newest of our fantastic Trustees, said: "My wife and I have looked after older relatives and know how much support they need, both in the community and from going in-and-out of hospital. When you imagine that there are thousands upon thousands of vulnerable, older people out there without any relatives

or friends for support, it really brings home just how worthwhile this charity is.

"I truly believe the key to happiness is in doing things for others. I've been a trustee with SCCC since May. There is such a big and growing need for the kind of support that this charity gives. The third sector can lead the way working in collaboration with the NHS, Local Authority and other partners. The number of volunteers the charity has is amazing and they do a fantastic job alongside the charity's staff. It proves that people really do care."

SIMPLE STEPS TO TAKE TO END LONELINESS THIS CHRISTMAS



Christmas is a time of togetherness and love, where families make time for each other when a busy life throughout the year sometimes doesn't allow. But imagine you had no one this Christmas and had to face the festive season alone with only television for company. Not only that, but imagine you weren't mobile enough to get to the shops to buy food.

Tens of thousands of people aged over 65 in the city hear from family or friends less than once a week, with television their only friend - even on Christmas Day. We are calling on everyone to take some simple steps to end loneliness this Christmas.

Giving just a few pounds or hours to SCCC this Christmas, could make a huge difference, supporting our work to end loneliness and isolation in the city.

Brian Gannon is amongst the charity's longest serving volunteers. He said: "I visit two gentlemen. One, Frederick, has no family or friends and there are days when he doesn't see anyone at all. There are lots of older people in Sheffield who are lonely. I used to visit a lady who sadly passed away, but she told me my visits were a reason for her to keep going. The loneliness she was feeling made her so unhappy that she wanted to take her own life."

Whether you're in a position to help or not, please remember older people this Christmas. If you have an older neighbour, check on them to see if they need anything. It will only take a few minutes of your time, but it could make their Christmas.