

Volunteers' Week 2021 - David



Becoming a volunteer

David, 70, is an Information and Advice Volunteer for Age UK North Tyneside. David first became involved with AUKNT back in 2001 when he took their 'Computers Don't Bite' IT course after retiring. He was then invited to volunteer with AUKNT and, almost 20 years later, is still going strong. His role has changed quite a lot over the years, but David remains a committed volunteer and a pillar of AUKNT.

Enjoyment from volunteering

David loves being able to put back into the community and help others, however, he

also likes the fact that volunteering helps himself. David says he has had to change and adapt several times, and that volunteering "keeps the little grey cells going". Working with AUKNT has allowed him to keep his feet on the ground and stay up to date with the latest technology. David says he gets enjoyment from volunteering even when the machines don't work properly!

Learning new skills

Throughout his volunteering history, David has been able to pick up a host of new computer and technology skills. However, the last year in particular has given David a crash course in Zoom. David had never heard of Zoom 12 months ago, but he says it has been a lifeline during the lockdowns, particularly now that he lives alone.

Adapting to lockdown

Lockdown has meant that David has had to adapt and his volunteering roles have changed. Much of David's volunteering work is now done via Zoom instead of in-person as it once would have been. David says that other people have also observed changes in him. He has been told that he has a good listening ear, and has been invited to write several articles during lockdown. David says he has managed to pick up new skills during lockdown without being aware of it!

Help and support

David never has any problem getting support when he needs it. He has people at both AUKNT and North Tyneside Carers Centre who he is in frequent contact with and knows he can turn to with any issues. Even with the added hurdles of working remotely, David says there is plenty of support available and he knows where to look.

Volunteering is for everyone

David would definitely recommend volunteering for both AUKNT and North Tyneside Carers Centre. He enjoys working with caring people and says it is a two-way relationship. David says, "You volunteer and get something out of it, but at the same time you're being looked after."

As David approaches his 20 year anniversary with AUKNT, he envisages taking a more background role and looks forward to handing over the reins to new volunteers.