

Tom's story



Becoming a volunteer

Tom is in his eighties and lives in North Tyneside. He is a Website Volunteer for Age UK North Tyneside and has been volunteering for them since 2002. Prior to volunteering, Tom worked as an engineer and remembers getting his first work PC back in 1986. After retirement, Tom wanted to carry on contributing to his community and meeting up with other volunteers. Volunteering gave him the perfect opportunity to do this.

Enjoyment from volunteering

Tom gets great satisfaction from knowing that, even in some small way, he is helping Age UK North Tyneside in their work to help older people to lead fulfilling and happy lives. Tom also uses some Age UK North Tyneside services himself and is involved in some of the social groups.

Learning new skills

Volunteering has enabled Tom to keep up to date with changes in information technology. This has given him the confidence and ability to tackle new challenges with other charities.

Adapting to lockdown

Tom was kept extremely busy during lockdown. He was regularly updating the Age UK North Tyneside website with the latest government guidance and online shopping services. While he no longer gets to talk to staff and other volunteers face to face and misses the occasional get-together, Tom realises that things could have been much worse. He says he is grateful for the technological wonders which have allowed us to keep in touch in other ways. He has found using Zoom to be extremely useful and enjoys the fact he has been able to continue his volunteering all through lockdown, with the added bonus of saving several hours a week of commuting time on public transport.

Help and support

Tom gets lots of support and encouragement from his manager and knows that help is available 24/7 if necessary.

Volunteering is for everyone

Tom would certainly recommend volunteering for Age UK North Tyneside. He says "They are a very professional organisation, but not too remote like some of the bigger charities, and volunteering with them is a good way to help in the local community." As well as Age UK North Tyneside, Tom also volunteers regularly for a couple of other local charities.