

# VOLUNTEER VIEWS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR AGE UK SUNDERLAND VOLUNTEERS  
June to September 2017

## Friends and Neighbours Sunderland (FaNS) Volunteers needed!

The vision of Age UK Sunderland is to support people to enjoy later life, with this in mind we are about to launch our exciting new Friends and Neighbours (FaNS) project. We are recruiting:

### Befriending Volunteers

The befriending volunteers will work alongside care home staff to engage residents in activities, have a chat and offer support. Often residents would like someone to talk to, possibly about a shared interest or to reminisce. Befriending volunteers can also help new care home residents settle in and offer peace of mind to both them and their families.

### Advocacy Volunteers

Advocacy volunteers will act as a link to residents and their families to ensure an open line of communication is always there between people who live in a care home, their families and staff.

### Involvement of Local Businesses

The Friends and Neighbours project will also involve local businesses and the wider community so that stronger links can be built helping residents to feel more involved in their local area.

Here at Age UK Sunderland we are blessed with dedicated volunteers with amazing skills to share. The Friends and Neighbours project needs people with compassion, kindness and patience.

If you would like to make a difference in your local area please contact:

Pauline Bittlestone (FaNS Coordinator) on 0771 5661140 or email  
[paulinebittlestone@ageuksunderland.org.uk](mailto:paulinebittlestone@ageuksunderland.org.uk)



Coordinator Pauline Bittlestone  
pictured right

## Don't Miss Our 2017 Volunteer Celebration!

Our annual volunteer Celebration and Long Service Awards will take place this year on Wednesday 7th June from 11 am until 2 pm at the Bede Tower, Burdon Road, Sunderland.

Join us for afternoon tea and entertainment!

All Age UK Sunderland volunteers are invited, please let us know that you will be attending by completing the slip on the invitation letter which has been posted out to you or contact Barry Hall on 0191 5659045  
you can email at [volunteering@ageuksunderland.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@ageuksunderland.org.uk)

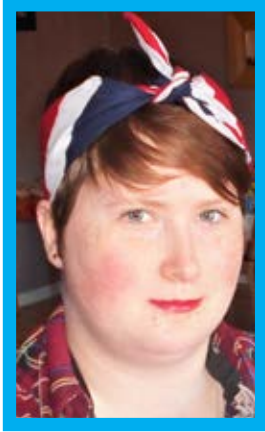
## The Volunteer Views Local Heritage Quiz!

- 1) What is the name of the golden statue gracing Sunderland Empire?
- 2) Which local landmarks appear on the Sunderland AFC crest?
- 3) Which is Sunderland's oldest building?
- 4) What is the name of the newly created area in the city dedicated to our shipbuilding heritage?



Villette Road circa 1950

## Jay-Louise Hull Lunch Club Volunteer and Artist



Our volunteers at Age UK Sunderland are certainly a very dedicated and hardworking as we have discovered in this column. But did you know how multi-talented many of our volunteers are too? With skills as diverse as playing the guitar to gardening to designing computer programs, we are always keen to hear about what everyone can do.

Jay-Louise Hull is a regular volunteer in our Monday Lunch Club at the Bradbury Centre. However, Jay has many other strings to her bow. As an illustration and photography professional Jay can often be seen voluntarily taking the photographs at functions and events held by the organisation in the city. Jay's interest in art and photography started at a very young age. Having always been a creative person, Jay went to college to do art and design where she was introduced to Graphic design which quickly became a passion of hers. Going onto university to do Graphic Communication.

Jay is also interested in writing, and has written multiple children's stories, a story about her life with Dyspraxia and a magazine, all of which she hopes to get published. You can see more of about Jay's work at <http://jay-louisehull.wixsite.com/jlhdesigns>

If you know any of our volunteers whose talents you think should be featured here please contact Barry Hall Volunteer Coordinator on 5659045 or email [volunteering@ageuksunderland.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@ageuksunderland.org.uk)

If you are over 50, community minded and would like to get your voice heard our 50+ Forum's provide an opportunity to work alongside like-minded people to express opinions, identify issues and help to resolve them.

Working with the Champions you will be part of making your local community an age friendly place to live. To find out more information and when your next forum is [contact Jacky Dodds on 0191 514 1131](mailto:contact Jacky Dodds on 0191 514 1131) or [jacklyndodds@ageuksunderland.org.uk](mailto:jacklyndodds@ageuksunderland.org.uk)

## Driving Force!

The Dial-a-Driver service is currently looking for additional volunteers, both drivers and office administration, to help older people to get to and from doctors, chiropodists, hospital and certain social appointments. The service aims to provide cheaper transport for local people who would otherwise find public transport difficult to access.

Service users book their journey by telephone using the dedicated Dial - a - Driver number and leaving their name and contact details on an answering machine. We aim to have a volunteer in the Bradbury Centre between 12 and 1pm each day to take the messages and ring the client back to take the journey details. The office volunteer will then match the client with an available driver.

This role will suit anyone who has an hour to spare on either Monday's, Wednesday's or Friday's and who enjoys talking on the phone and is well organised.

We currently have a small but dedicated team of volunteer drivers and require additional volunteers particularly in the Coalfields, Washington and North Sunderland areas. The drivers use their own cars and are reimbursed 45 pence per mile from the driver leaving their own home to their return.

Most Dial - a - Driver bookings are for daytime journeys, usually to local G.P.'s and hospitals, although some drivers are prepared to go further afield for example Newcastle and Durham hospitals.

If you would like to consider either of these rewarding roles, or know someone who may be interested please contact Barry Hall, Volunteer Coordinator on 0191 5659045 or email [volunteering@ageuksunderland.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@ageuksunderland.org.uk)

The telephone number to book the service is:

**0191 5674135**

## Heritage Quiz Answers

- 1) Terpsichore, Goddess of dance and chorus
- 2) Penshaw Monument and Wearmouth Bridge
- 3) St Peter's Church / Saxon site
- 4) Keel Square