

VOLUNTEER VIEWS

THE NEWSLETTER FOR AGE UK SUNDERLAND VOLUNTEERS
AUGUST - OCTOBER 2019

Worthy of a big Celebration!

The annual Age UK Sunderland Volunteer Celebration and Long Service Awards took place recently in the splendid setting of the Grand Hotel, Seaburn. This year we were joined by The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Sunderland, Councillor David Snowdon and the Mayoress of the City of Sunderland Dianne Snowdon. The entertainment was once again provided by The Arco String Quartet and Magician Graeme Shaw, both back by popular demand. As an extra treat, well known local saxophonist Andrew Taylor aka 'Solosax' set the mood for a relaxed and jovial afternoon tea party.

Several long service awards for between 10 and 30 years of service were presented to our volunteers by the Mayor and Mayoress. Many congratulations to the following:

- 10 years of service: Sheila Bedford, Jeanette Dixon, Derek Mann
- 15 years of service: Vera Bruce, Ian Cunningham
- 25 years of service: Michael Highton,
Ann Lawson-McClean, Isobel Wake.
- 30 years Lillian Clark

We had an amazing nineteen nominations in total for the Age UK Sunderland Volunteer of the Year 2019 and this year's very worthy winner is **Sandra Leeson**. Sandra has been a volunteer for 21 years and is currently a community lunch club leader. Sandra (below centre) was presented with her award and certificate by The Right Worshipful the Mayor of the City of Sunderland Councillor David Snowdon, the Mayoress Councillor Dianne Snowdon and AUKS Director Tracy Collins (left).



Congratulations to the following volunteers who were nominated by staff and colleagues for volunteer of the year 2019:

**Marion Sleeman, Catherine Welsh, Julie Fromson, Ian Cunningham,
Margaret Ferguson, Andrew Knox, Patrick McConville,
Michael Armstrong, Raymond Davison, Irene Ridley,
Pauline Smith, Sandra Leeson, Moira Marshall, John Grant,
Pauline Taylor, Mary Reid, Michael Bullen, Edith Roxby, Andrew Smith.**
Well done all!

Volunteer Vacancy

We would like to hear from anyone who can support our IT drop-in on Tuesday's and Thursday's at the Bradbury Centre. If you are competent in the use of computers, tablets and smart phones and feel you can assist others in their use, then please get in touch.

The Bradbury Centre, Stockton Road, Sunderland, SR2 7AQ

Phone: 0191 5148330 / 5141131

volunteering@ageuksunderland.org.uk

Making Meaningful Connections

Four new social network groups have recently started through Age UK Sunderland.

The new **LGBT+ Group** meets every other Monday in Sunderland. The group aims to encourage LGBT+ people over 50 to socialise and engage in activities and conversation. The LGBT+ Group organises social events and if required one to one support can also be available. A Lesbian Only Group meets on the alternative Monday's.

The **Sunderland Pride Development Group** meets every Thursday morning at the Sunderland Pride Centre. You can engage in a programme of activities with the aim of being part of the Pride Development group and ensure that the voices of older LGBT+ people are heard.

The **Living Positively Social Group** is for older people living with HIV and AIDS and provides an opportunity to meet for coffee, conversation and support. Advice is also available. This group meets fortnightly in Sunderland.

The **Men in Big Sheds** volunteering project sees Age UK Sunderland working in partnership with the North East Land, Sea and Air Museum (NELSAM). The project provides an opportunity over a 10 week period to learn to restore important artefacts such as WW2 fire engines, military vehicles, airplanes, ships and more – While supporting your local community and meeting new friends. The museum is located on the site of the old airport near the Nissan factory.

If you are interested in any of these groups please contact the **Meaningful Connections Co-ordinator** on **0191 5148322** for further information.

Email: lindaohlson@ageuksunderland.org.uk

Forthcoming Safeguarding Training dates:

Monday September 16th. 1pm - 3pm. Bradbury Centre

Monday October 21st. 1pm - 3pm. Bradbury Centre

Monday November 18th. 1pm - 3pm. Bradbury Centre

Monday December 16th. 1pm - 3pm. Bradbury Centre

To book please contact Summer Staines on 0191 514 8336

Age UK Sunderland's got talent!

We know already that we have a great team of very skilled volunteers, but we are on a mission to discover the additional and sometimes hidden talents that are all around us in the organisation. In this issue we showcase the work of two of our volunteers who are also keen visual artists.

Andrew Cockburn has volunteered at Age UK Sunderland for many years and is currently a telephone befriender for the Keeping in Touch service. The small pen and wash sketch of a farmyard shown below is taken from his latest sketchbook and shows Andrew's great love for drawing and watercolour painting.



Farmyard by Andrew Cockburn, pen and wash.

Vicky Cullen is one of our more recent recruits. Vicky currently volunteers as a telephone befriender, Dial-a-Driver administration and in the Information / Advice service. The ink drawing below shows Vicky's skill at producing strong and striking graphic images. Vicky's work has been shown in local exhibitions most recently at Washington Art Centre.



Time to Relax a Little by Vicky Cullen, Indian ink on paper.

If you, or a volunteer you know, has a skill or talent that should be featured here please **get in touch!**

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