



Volunteers' Week 2026

National Volunteers' Week has been running for over 40 years and is an annual UK-wide celebration held from the first Monday in June, recognising the incredible contribution of volunteers across the UK and within every community, including ours in Surrey.

The United Nations highlights five core values of volunteering: solidarity, reciprocity, belonging, mutual trust and empowerment - all underpinned by respect, empathy and dignity. Our charity and volunteers embody these values through the support you provide to our clients and communities. Thank you for helping to increase our capacity to support older people and for making a real and lasting difference.

Collectively, our volunteers have given more than 24,000 hours of their time over the past year!



The Clockhouse

Our Clockhouse Community Centre volunteers' contributions enable us to provide the support we offer to the surrounding communities, creating a warm and friendly community centre where everyone is welcome all year round.

The **Clockhouse Café** serves delicious food and drink with a friendly smile. We would also like to thank our volunteers who serve in the Café. To name just a few, Jean and Marion, along with many others, are incredibly helpful. Thank you all for keeping our guests happy.

Charlotte Lawrence has this to say: *"I would particularly like to highlight the fantastic contributions of Belinda Cooper, Jean Spencer, and Sandra Larke. Although I work from home most of the time, whenever I visit the Clockhouse, I am always struck by the impact these ladies have. Between them, they cover reception, administration, Happy Feet, and the Clockhouse Café. Each of them is consistently welcoming, engaging, hardworking, and reliable. They are brilliant, highly visible ambassadors for Age UK Surrey."*

Thank you so much! The incredible Clockhouse Community Centre volunteers also help in so many ways, from the 10 - 3 Club, Friendship Club, Dementia Support, events, fundraising, Bridge, and Knit and Natter - the list goes on!

Romance is in the Air

We have some very exciting news to share! Two of our wonderful Clockhouse volunteers have tied the knot, and we are delighted for them. One of the happy couple volunteers with our Happy Feet service. It is so lovely to know that romance is in the air this spring!

Retail Shops

Denise, our Head of Retail, says: *"I would like to personally thank all the volunteers who help in our shops and contribute so much to making them look so beautiful. We couldn't do what we do without you."*

We are incredibly grateful to all our amazing volunteers for giving their time to support the success of our three retail shops in East Molesey, Haslemere, and Lingfield.

Four of our shop volunteers - Annie, Susan, Sheena, and Susan - were awarded Haslemere Volunteer Awards in March 2026. A huge congratulations to all of them!



Information and Advice

The Information and Advice team greatly values the support of its volunteers, who enable us to extend our reach into communities - particularly rural and isolated ones - and help older people with applications for benefits, Attendance Allowance, Pension Credit, Blue Badges, and much more.

We would particularly like to thank Barbara Humphries, who has been an incredible support to our department for more than 10 years. Barbara kindly carries out Attendance Allowance home visits, helping older people to complete and submit their claims. These visits make a real difference, and we are so grateful for her dedication.

We would also like to recognise Richard Clifton, a former member of staff who now volunteers with the I&A team. Richard provides invaluable support by helping clients complete Attendance Allowance applications, Blue Badge applications, and other forms. He also identifies clients who may be facing particularly challenging circumstances and brings them to our attention so that we can consider what additional support may be available.

Go50 Walks

Thanks to all our Go50 Programme Leaders who diligently lead walks every week of the year, Clive, Eryl, Grant, Steve, Rosemary and our Merrow Health Walks leaders. We receive some lovely pictures of our Go50 Walking Groups around Surrey.

David Attenborough Go100 Walk

Age UK Surrey partnered with the RSPB on 8 May for a special walk at Newlands Corner, led by our Go50 Walk leaders, to celebrate Sir David Attenborough's 100th birthday and his remarkable contribution to the natural world. Catherine Hodgson, CEO, said: *"Sir David Attenborough is a powerful example of how later life can remain a period of inspiration, influence, and valuable contribution to society."*

Our sincere thanks go to our volunteer leaders, Eryl and Steve, and our back-markers, Rosemary and Anne, who led this special walk. We would also like to thank Tom, who manned the Age UK Surrey desk, and Liz who took stunning photos. More than 40 people took part - participants, walk leaders, staff members, and nature guides were divided into two groups to explore and celebrate in the beautiful Surrey surroundings together.



Tech Support

Mike (Team Leader) and the wonderful Tech Support team provide invaluable assistance to older people at the Clockhouse, Dray Court in Guildford, and across the wider community. They help resolve IT issues and offer one-to-one technical support, enabling people to get online and navigate the often complex and ever-changing world of technology.

Dementia Support

Our new teams of caring Dementia Support volunteers at Milford, Mytchett, Ash and Ripley who are supporting our clients in memory friendship groups. Thank you to our amazing existing and new volunteers who work so hard to ensure our attendees have support: Sarah, Julie, Linda, Alice, Anne, Nicole, Susan, Yvonne and others.

Thank you also to our volunteer Drivers who bring our clients along to our activities and without your help they would not be able to attend.

Telephone and Home Befriending

We have the most incredible team of Befriending volunteers who, every week, call or visit older people, helping them feel connected and supported. The impact our volunteers have on the lives of older people cannot be overstated. Through regular phone calls, visits, and check-ins, they provide companionship, reassurance, and friendship to people who may not see friends or family very often. There are so many of you to thank for the time, commitment, and support you give, and the list is a long one.

In particular, I would like to take this opportunity to recognise some of our long-serving befrienders, many of whom have supported their clients for years: Fred, Gill, Andrea, Debbie, Edi, Jane, Jenny, Katy, Kim, Lynda, Lynne, Sean, Tracey, Uma, Mark, Peter, Simon, Stella, Michelle, Andrew, Sylvia, Carole, Neil, Rebecca. Some of you have been supporting older people for a decade or more. You are truly kind, thoughtful, and remarkable individuals. Thank you for your many years of dedication.

Thank you all for giving your time so generously. We receive wonderful feedback from clients about the friendship, companionship, and support you provide, and we are truly grateful for everything you do.

Fundraising and Events

We have some wonderful volunteers supporting our Fundraising and Events team. Whether you are new to volunteering or have been with us for many years, thank you for your support. Fundraising is vital to the financial stability of our charity, and we could not do it without your help. We have lots of exciting events coming up this summer, and everyone is welcome to get involved!

The Big Knit – A special thank you to our dedicated knitters who support The Big Knit fundraising campaign. Your creativity, time, and hard work help raise vital funds for our services for older people, and we are so grateful.



Social Chat Groups

Thanks to our dedicated Café Culture and Tea & Chat volunteers, we are able to offer regular social sessions for older people across Surrey, providing opportunities to meet new people, make friends, and stay connected. Our volunteers create such a warm & welcoming atmosphere, ensuring everyone enjoys their time together.



A heartfelt thank you to all our leaders and volunteer teams who make these sessions possible, including Karil, Alan, Melissa, Jenny, Clive, Fiona, Mark, Caron, Doreen, Harriett, Jennifer, Marion, Jo, Lesley, Wendy, and our newest volunteer leader, Evie. Your enthusiasm, kindness, and commitment are greatly appreciated.

Administration

Thank you to our volunteer Administrators, whose hard work helps us keep our records up to date, monitor the support we provide, and ensure everything runs smoothly. Their efforts are vital in helping us communicate effectively with clients and volunteers and demonstrate the impact of our work across Surrey. A special thank you to Marion, Michele, Luke, and all those who provide such valuable support. We are very grateful for everything you do.

Our Board of Trustees

Thank you to our wonderful Board of Trustees, who generously volunteer their time to provide governance, oversight, and strategic direction for our charity, working alongside and supporting our CEO.

THANK YOU EVERYONE

All of our volunteers are highly appreciated and included in all aspects of our work. By supporting our charity and giving your time and commitment, you enable us to significantly increase our capacity to support older people in so many ways across the county of Surrey. **Thank you to each and every one of you - together, we make a real difference to the lives of older people.**