

# Volunteer Newsletter

JUNE 2021



## Thank You!

As Volunteers' Week draws to a close, I wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who volunteers with us at Independent Age. We are so grateful you have chosen to be part of our team because, without you, we really wouldn't be able to deliver our mission to ensure that as we all grow older, we can live well, with dignity, choice and purpose.

Whether you're creating new friendships through our befriending roles, influencing local MPs to act on policy issues or helping improve the readability of our guides and factsheets, all 2,000 of you are positively impacting the lives of older people. All of us who work for the charity feel incredibly lucky to have your support and, as we emerge from this past difficult year,

I'm excited for the future of volunteering at Independent Age. Below we have some messages of thanks and celebration from members of staff at Independent Age. I hope you enjoy reading just how much we all appreciate and value everything that you do.

**Deborah Alsina, MBE**  
Chief Executive  
Independent Age



# A thank you from us



**“** Volunteers are integral to all that we do here at Independent Age. Their input is invaluable not only to us, but the people they support as well.  
Rachel, Volunteer Recruitment Assistant

**“** All volunteers at Independent Age give us a gift not only of their time but also their passion, life experience and skills.  
Louise, Volunteering Development Business Partner

**“** I am constantly amazed how generous and kind Independent Age volunteers are. They are always willing to go above and beyond!  
Sabah, Volunteer Recruitment Assistant

**“** Volunteers have a huge impact on the older people they support but they also make lifelong friendships. One older person we support said, 'not only does Sheila\* visit (pre-pandemic) me but she calls me at least twice a week. I so look forward to her calling – it makes my day!'  
Lee, Volunteer Coordinator, Essex  
\*name changed

**“** Independent Age's volunteers are full of dedication, compassion and deliver an outstanding service. I am proud to work alongside our volunteers and to see the real positive difference and change they have made to the lives of older people across the UK.  
Alice, Wellbeing Project Officer, South Wales



**“** Volunteers really are the backbone of Independent Age. The power of a chat, once a week (or more), with a friend to someone who is experiencing feelings of loneliness and isolation is immense. Thank you for all that you do!  
Liam, Wellbeing Project Officer



**“** Volunteers are the most important part of our service to older people. Without our volunteers we wouldn't be able to do the things we do to support people. They are at the heart of everything we do. Thank you to all our volunteers – you do amazing work!  
Sian, Wellbeing Project Officer

**“** Without your calls to an older person in the community, there would be so many more people struggling to get through this awful time. You are amazing and I'm extremely proud and very grateful for your support and all that you do!  
Claire, Wellbeing Project Officer, West of Scotland

**“** We are so grateful for all that you've done to improve the lives of older people during the pandemic. You have gone above and beyond to reduce isolation and loneliness. A massive thank you from us all!  
Becky, Volunteering Development Manager



“ It’s been extremely humbling to see how our volunteers have rallied around in recent months. I’m in awe of the extra mile that many have gone, to ensure the person they support has been comforted in these unsettled times. I’m very proud and extremely grateful to all of my volunteers. They are amazing!

Chris, Wellbeing Project Officer, Edinburgh

“ Volunteers are amazing at the best of times, but volunteering during a year of such national struggle is absolutely phenomenal – thank you to all of you for all you do.

Kelly, Head of Volunteering

“ Over the past year, when we have all felt the emotional impact of reduced social contact, having someone to laugh with, or to offer a sympathetic ear, has been more important than ever. Thank you!

Thomas, Telephone Friendship Services Officer



## Join us!

For those of you who like to keep in touch via social media, come and join us on our Facebook group called Independent Age Volunteers at [facebook.com/groups/independentagevolunteers](https://facebook.com/groups/independentagevolunteers). This is a space for you to get to know other volunteers, share your experiences and keep up to date with the Volunteering team. Just follow the steps to join and discover our community of volunteers.

Don't forget you can also join our main social media platforms – Facebook, Instagram and Twitter – if you'd like to keep up to date with all things Independent Age.



Independent Age



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