

# The Pershore Volunteer

Pershore Volunteer Centre puts volunteering at the heart of the community to reduce rural and social isolation for local people.

March- April 2021



## Welcome to our Spring Newsletter!



### The Chairman writes:

"Well what a start to the year we are all experiencing!

Life under the Lockdown continues but at least we have a "road map" to a more "normal" life style announced by our Prime Minister; let's hope nothing interferes with the declared milestones.

At the Volunteer Centre ,through the valiant efforts of Donna, Kate, Angi, Sue and of course our Volunteers, we have managed to continue with our service to the local community collecting/delivering prescriptions, assisting people to get their vaccinations and where possible taking Clients to the Pershore town centre shopping. These are all invaluable services that I know helps our community to successfully cope with the restrictions imposed because of the pandemic.

I hope that we will be able to gradually return to providing more of our usual services such as the regular Lunch Club .

In the meantime can I just offer a big thank you and well done to all of you who are contributing in this challenging time.

You may also have noticed that we have started to look for a person to take on the Chief Executive Officer role for the Volunteer Centre . If anyone is interested or knows of someone who might be please contact Donna or another member of the Centre team. Details are also available on our Website."

*Colin Davidson*



Pershore & District Volunteer Centre

1 Billing House, Pershore WR10 1EY

Phone: 01386 554299 Email: [admin@pershorevolunteers.org.uk](mailto:admin@pershorevolunteers.org.uk)

[www.pershorevolunteers.org.uk](http://www.pershorevolunteers.org.uk)





## News from the Desks



### **Donna King, the Centre's Transport Manager, writes:**

We'd like to invite all volunteers to some free training based around the below.

There is an e-learning course which aims to raise the awareness and skills of care staff who work with people with dementia. It aligns with Tier 1 of the National Dementia Training Standards Framework, which is a requirement for all staff working in social care. It will also allow you to collect evidence towards the relevant section of the Care Certificate.

The course seeks to improve the well being and experience of people with dementia and of the care staff working with them. It should improve your confidence in managing situations you find challenging.

Below is the link to the Social Care Institute for Excellence site – there are other free e-learning courses you can register for as well– it is a useful site to sign up for their regular emails/newsletters/webinars around safeguarding children and adults.

You can access the training programmes here: <https://www.scie.org.uk/>

Contact Donna if interested [donnaking@pershorevolunteers.org.uk](mailto:donnaking@pershorevolunteers.org.uk)

### **Ian Middleton is one of our minibus drivers and also a Trustee. Ian decided to explore the possibilities of this course He writes:**

“An extremely interesting and worthwhile 30 minutes online training.

Best to start by being honest, I only decided to study this because we are in the middle of lockdown 3 and the weather is foul. However, I was immediately impressed by how a little learning on the matter can help in many aspect of our lives. We all know dementia is a horrible illness, I did not realise quite how much difference the actions of those around the sufferer can make.

This training is so user friendly and primarily delivered through a series of short videos exhibiting the level of difference we can make. I wish my wife and I had had the benefit of this information when dealing with my mother in law, it would have made the situation much easier for all of us. Next time I attempt to help a dementia sufferer I will change my behaviour to be much more empathetic with them and to gain their trust rather than attempt to change their behaviour.

I would highly recommend that everyone finds 30 minutes of their time to study this, sooner or later it will be useful.”



## News from the Desks -contd.



### Congratulations!



Here are the winners of our monthly draw for March

- £20 Mrs M. Crozier
- £15 David Bridgewater
- £5 Dorothy Caldicott
- £5 Ted Williams
- £5 Jean Austen

### And Sue Nutting - our Finance Officer - continues:

A warm welcome to our monthly draw participants, many whom will be receiving the newsletter for the first time. We thought it would be good for you to see what our wonderful volunteers and staff are doing to serve the local community.

If you do not wish to receive any future newsletters or would prefer to receive them by email, please contact Sue Nutting on 01386 554299 or email [finance@pershorevolunteers.org.uk](mailto:finance@pershorevolunteers.org.uk)

Sue goes on to say: "We've received the most lovely letter from a couple who use the Social Car Scheme. We respect their privacy and the letter is reproduced without names/addresses".

#### *To the Community Transport Service*

##### *Volunteer Centre*

##### *Pershore*

*My wife and I would like to thank Pershore Volunteer Centre for all the hard work that they put in to enable me to have a Pacemaker operation and return home the same day.*

*This involved a total of six hours covering the trips to Worcester and return and six hours on call by the driver.*

*This was way and above the "call of duty" and we would like to thank everyone involved.*

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### Angi Ballard our Volunteer Coordinator writes:

Two of our Social Car Scheme Volunteer Drivers have retired. Steph Elphick has been driving for us since 2010 and Rob Alexander since 2018. Our very sincere thanks to you both for your commitment to volunteer car driving with us. You will both be missed by us all at Pershore Volunteer Centre and also by the many clients you have transported over the years. We hope you will stay in touch.

But we welcome Glenn Houghton and Amanda Patel. Glenn has joined us recently as a volunteer social car scheme driver and Amanda as a Telephone Befriending volunteer. Thank you both and we wish you a happy and fulfilling time with us!





## But For All You Puzzlers!

### NEW – Jigsaw Lending Library



Doing jigsaws is really good for your mental health. We have received a donation from one of our volunteers of a selection of jigsaws. We will ensure that the jigsaws are sanitised before lending out and again once they are returned.

If you would like to borrow one, please contact the office on 01386 554299 and we can arrange pick up or delivery.

Sue Nutting



## Birthday Wishes

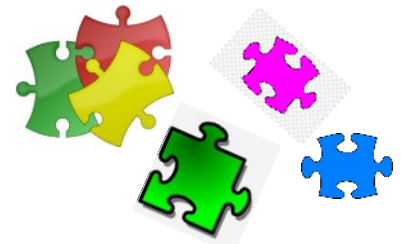
The following volunteers have recently, or will soon, celebrate a birthday. We send you all our very best wishes and congratulations.

### March

Graham Bury  
Rob Cockrell  
Colin Davis  
Andy Walton  
Ted Williams

### April

Helen Chapman  
David Doyle  
Malcolm Gribble  
Bryan Russell



**WHOOPS!**

## Kate Walton, our Grants Manager, writes:

We'd like to thank everyone who has supported the Winter Grants Project. All of the funding we were allocated has now been spent, and unfortunately we're unable to accept any more applications.

It has been a difficult project to administer. I was under no illusion about the existence of need within our community, but it has been a challenging experience to witness it at first hand and to see the impact that Covid has had on households which were previously coping as well as those who were already struggling. It's always good to be able to help those who need a bit of support, and in a few short weeks we've been able to help 21 households comprising 37 adults and 32 children, but it's so sad that such an intervention was necessary for so many families, many of whom are already using the Foodbank and Pershore Community Cupboard.

Although our involvement in this project is now finished, we'd like to thank all the members of our community – in schools, in churches and in charities, as well as neighbours and volunteers - who continue to provide support on a regular basis to families who need a bit of help. Your commitment is sincerely appreciated.

