OTLEY ACTION FOR OLDER PEOPLE **ISSUE 7**
VOLUNTEER NEWSLETTER **OCTOBER 2021**

Hello and welcome to our latest newsletter.

Meet the Team

Since the last newsletter, our team has doubled in size! The pressures of the pandemic has put more demand than ever on us, so we are delighted to have been able to recruit new members to strengthen our team.

(l to r Ellie, Janet, Sarah, Sue, Jenny, Catherine)

Sarah has recently gone on maternity leave and we are delighted to tell you that she has given birth to a little boy, Myles. Both Sarah and Myles are doing well.

Meet our new recruits:

'Hi, I'm Janet and I started work as the Volunteer Community & Engagement Officer on 1st September. Prior to that I volunteered with OAOP as an Escort for four years, although I often popped up at Thursday Lunch Club to help/annoy Sue, Maureen and Wendy! I absolutely loved volunteering, so when the opportunity arose to take a role which meant I could still work with other volunteers and our lovely service users, I jumped at the chance!

I have lived in Otley for 17 years. I am married to Jonathan and I have two step-children, both of whom are married and we recently welcomed our first

grandson, Freddie. I have a Welsh Terrier and, whilst Jonathan and I love walking, especially on the Chevin and up in the Lakes, our dog is much less enthusiastic!

My background is Commercial Insurance, I worked in that industry for over 20 years before taking VR in 2013. I then worked at Waitrose Otley for a couple of years, before leaving there to become a full-time carer for my parents. I lost them both in 2017 and that's when I started volunteering for OAOP.

I'm really looking forward to working with you all. I work Monday- Thursday and look after my grandson on Friday's. If you have anything you would like to discuss about your volunteering role, please drop by the office or give me a ring, I'm always happy to chat!

'Hi, I'm Jenny, I joined OAOP at the end of June 2021 as the Finance & Admin Support Worker working in the office two days a week. I'm 60 years old and originally from London (I was born within the sound of Bow Bells so am a true Eastender!) but have lived in Leeds for the last 25 years – I have two sons and have recently become a grandmother. I'm enjoying being part of the team here and everyone has been so welcoming. I have met a few of our volunteers already, and look forward to meeting a few more of you in the future'

'I'm Ellie, I am 19 years old and from Otley and I now work full time at Otley Action. I used to volunteer as part of my college Health and Social Care course in 2019-20 but unfortunately had to leave due to Covid-19. I know many of the service users and volunteers from when I did my placement and have met many more since my return in April this year. My formal title is a Social Inclusion Worker but I can help service users with many things such as blue badges, bus pass', home visits and much more. I also work closely with Janet so I am able to help process DBS', organise car scheme jobs and shopping'

Meet the Board

Did you know that we have 11 volunteer members on our Board? All from various professional backgrounds and some of whom volunteer regularly with our Service Users. Over the course of the next few newsletters, we will be learning more about individual members of our Board.

Our Chair – there has only ever been 3 Chairpersons, John Eveleigh was the first who held the tenure for 15 years; Doris Gagan for 8 years and our current Chair, Ailsa Bearpark who has been in tenure since 2020.

In this newsletter we'll find out more about our current chair and also Frank Jordan, our Secretary.

Our Chair, Ailsa Bearpark;

It's now 25 years since Ian and I moved to Pool-in-Wharfedale and the time seems to have flashed by. I was born in the northeast, raised in the deep south (Essex) and then moved to Stirling in Scotland. We were ready to step into a new adventure in Yorkshire when Ian joined the team at Tetley's in Leeds and to our great delight discovered beautiful countryside and a thriving community to get to know.
I soon joined the Citizens Advice Bureau in Otley and quickly realized what a good service it offered. I worked in Otley and Leeds City Centre offices for 20 years. During this period I served over 10 years as a Parish Councillor in Pool and still act as secretary to Pool Recreation Ground Trust. We have two grown up children who live in London.
I took redundancy when the Otley Citizens Advice office closed in 2015 and still miss working with wonderful colleagues, we manage to meet up now and then. I took up golf and became a member at Otley Golf Club. 60+ is a bit late to start and I won't be turning professional for a while however it's good to be out in the fresh air and enjoy the friendship the club offers. Along with golf, walking and reading are my main hobbies and a bit of travel when possible.
I joined the board of Otley Action in 2015 and became Chair in 2020. It's been a joy to see how the organisation goes from strength to strength and to be part of a team that works tirelessly to offer such great support to the people of Otley, Pool and Arthington.

Our Secretary, Frank Jordan:

I walked into Otley Action for Older People in Bay Horse Court and asked if I could help with anything. I could not have known then that 11 years later I'd still be helping. I was inducted by Gwen Oates and have predominantly been a bus driver over the years but have also worked in the kitchen in both Otley and Pool, built furniture for people, done shopping, taken folk to hospital visits and taken some fascinating people on holiday to Lytham St Annes.

My working life was spent being the accountant in a number of manufacturing and service businesses. Now retired I am happy to say that I remain on the Board helping with secretarial matters, and anything administrative that needs doing. And yes, I continue to drive the bus and help with whatever is needed

Volunteer Social

It was lovely to see so many of you at our recent Volunteers Social, it's been such a long time since we were all together. Our next social is Friday 3rd December, a pre-Christmas extravaganza not to be missed – please SAVE THE DATE!!
Further details to follow.

Training

As part of my role, I will be reviewing all the training we currently offer that is relevant and specific to our volunteering roles.

We will be running some Safeguarding and Dementia Awareness training as follows:

Tuesday 7th December 2021

9:30 - 12:30 - Safeguarding Adults Level 1

1:00 - 4:00 - Dementia Awareness

If you would like to attend, please let me know.

If there is any other specific training that you would like relevant to your role, please let me know.

New Volunteers

We are delighted to have been joined by several new volunteers over the last few months. Erica, Deborah, Christine, Joyce, Tina and Elsa have recently joined our volunteering family and we extend a warm welcome to them all.

We are always keen to welcome new volunteers and the skills they bring. If you know of anyone who would like to apply, please encourage them to contact me for an application pack.

We will shortly be advertising OAOP in the Otley Post Office, both as a way of advertising our activities and services and as a way of recruiting new Volunteers and new Members.

Look out for us on the screens as you queue to post your Christmas cards!

Transport Review

The main purpose of the transport review is to consider the transport solutions we currently provide and to check that they fully meet our service users' requirements now and into the future.

We recently held two meetings to which we invited all our Minibus drivers, Escorts and Car Scheme Drivers. The meetings were well attended and we thank those of you who took the time to attend and share your views.

We are currently engaging with our Service Users to get their feedback on the transport solutions we provide. Once we have collated all this information, we will consider the most appropriate changes and will keep you informed of our plans.

Website

We are in the process of moving this on to a new platform and updating it. In the future, we will be able to make changes to it ourselves, ensuring that it is always up to date.

Service User Newsletter

This has recently been issued and the trips have booked up quickly. We still need a few escorts so if you would like to assist on any of the trips, please let me know.

Volunteer Newsletters

I hope you have enjoyed reading this newsletter and found it to be informative, please let me have your feedback. I intend to issue newsletters on a quarterly basis so let me know of anything you would like me to include in future issues.

Thank you for reading

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