

Celebrating the Third Year of Keswick Befriending Scheme

Our Scheme hosted a tea party on 27 June in the Crosthwaite Parish Room to celebrate its third anniversary and it seemed like no time since we had been celebrating the second anniversary! This was attended by volunteer befrienders and their friends, supporting organisations and referral agencies who enjoyed the opportunity to chat over cake and a cuppa, and were greatly encouraged to hear about the third year's achievements. We were pleased to have been joined by the Mayor of Keswick, Louise Dunn, who took the opportunity to speak with many of those attending. There was a great buzz of conversation throughout the afternoon, and it has been really encouraging to see the involvement and support of the local community in the ongoing growth of this befriending scheme.

Fiona summarized the highlights of the third year's activities, sharing what had gone well and emphasizing the difference this scheme has made to the lives of an increasing number of local people. In the last year there had been 723 visits and 130 calls. During that time, we have trained 24 new befriending volunteers in 5 sessions, received 25 referrals, and matched 36 scheme members with a befriender and 10 matches have ended for a variety of understandable reasons. Over the three years the scheme has been running we have trained 49 volunteers, received 71 referrals and matched 60 people with a befriender.

Keith offered thanks to all the volunteer befrienders for their kindness and willingness to befriend, as well as to the partner organisations of Keswick Rotary Club and Churches Together in Keswick. Grateful thanks were also extended to all the funders of the scheme, without whom we could not continue, and in this last year we have received financial support from the Cumbria Community Foundation, Keswick Town Council, Hadfield Trust, Keswick Rotary Club and several individual donors. Finally, thanks were offered to the trustees who oversee all that happens and to Fiona as coordinator of the scheme. Tony Welton, chair of trustees, finished by reflecting on how important volunteers were to this community and the benefits that this scheme was bringing to those who are lonely and socially isolated.

Two's Company Keswick always welcomes new referrals of those who would benefit from someone to chat to regularly and are always looking for new befriending volunteers. If you are interested in people, good at listening, want to make a difference and have an hour or so to spare a week then this may be something for you! For further details please contact Fiona, the scheme coordinator, on 07832 858537 or email keswick@twoscompany.org.uk

Keith Rigg and Fiona Overend



Ways to get involved:

1 Volunteering

Becoming a befriender makes a real difference to the lives of those who are lonely and isolated.

If you would like to volunteer, please apply online or contact Fiona using the details below.

2 Referral to the scheme

If someone you know is lonely or isolated and could benefit from having a Befriender, please contact Fiona using the details below.

3 Spreading the Word

If you would like any further information to share with your organisation, friends, or family, please contact Fiona using the details below.

✉ keswick@twoscompany.org.uk
☎ 078328 58537
💻 linkinglives.uk/keswick



Two's Company Keswick – a partnership between CTiK and Keswick Rotary Club



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