



Evergreen News



Newsletter of Evergreen Sleaford; a Churches Together befriending service operating in Sleaford and the surrounding villages.

"As I have loved you, so you must love one another." John 13 verse 34-35

Dear Friends,

Sometimes it is hard to put into words how we feel. I don't know about you, but it feels really difficult to say how these last few months have been – Difficult? Challenging? What has been brought home to me is how being in 'lockdown' helps me to empathise even more with our elderly friends who live in 'lockdown' most of their time. As an organisation, we've had to adapt as guidelines have changed, and for many weeks our volunteers have been phoning rather than visiting their friends. We've also been able to support an extra 20 elderly people, living alone, with a weekly phone call during this time – several of whom would like to access our full service as things return to 'normal'. I'm sure times have not been easy for you either, and we remain deeply grateful for your ongoing support – it means so much to us and those we work with – THANK YOU!

Dave Jeal
Chairman

Life in Lockdown – the difference friendship makes

'I've struggled for many years being able to get out and about due to mobility issues. When lockdown came, the world closed in on me – quite literally! When I came across Evergreen, I'd never felt such acceptance and love from a friend. I felt a real sense of bereavement knowing my friend could no longer visit. I miss seeing her smiling face and the laughter we shared. But a regular call has made such a difference during these long weeks. We've managed to find ways to put the world to rights, talk about our worries and concerns and celebrate the good things that have happened. I honestly don't know what I would have done without my Evergreen friend and without her calls. I can't wait to see her face again!'

Don't forget you can support us when you shop online at Amazon through Amazon Smile – and it doesn't cost you a thing!

Current Statistics
Total volunteers: 71
Total friendships: 61
Waiting list: 6

Edition

10

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For more information telephone: [07707 260822](tel:07707260822)

Email: info@evergreensleaford.org.uk

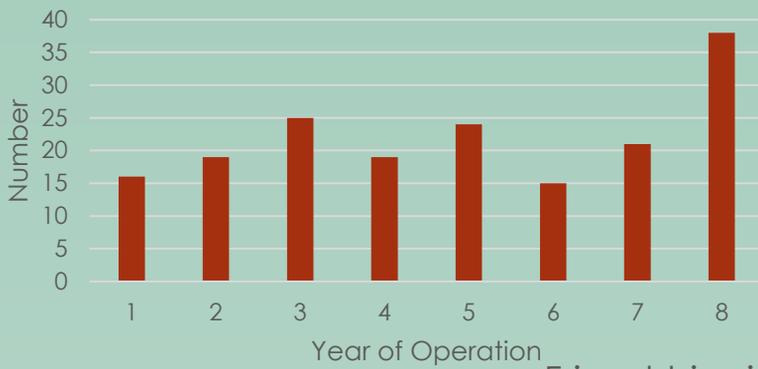
Or check out our website: www.evergreensleaford.org.uk

Evergreen Sleaford is the operating name for Sleaford Caring Trust.
Registered Charity Number: 1148040



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New Friendships

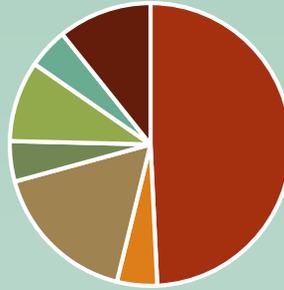


Growth in Demand

As you can see from our graph, last year (our 8th year of operation) saw a huge surge in demand for our service, with 38 new friendships put in place.

Friendships in Place (March 2020)

Whilst many of our friendships are within Sleaford, there are now more in place in surrounding villages than in Sleaford itself.



- Sleaford Area
- Ancaster Area
- Heckington Area
- Billingborough Area
- Welbourn Area
- Metheringham Area
- Ruskington Area

Funding Challenges

Like many charities, lockdown has also brought about many challenges with regard to our ongoing funding. We rely heavily both on individual donations, but also on those from shops and businesses across our area. You may have seen our green collection boxes in shops in and around Sleaford in the past - we raised £474.71 through these in our last financial year. At the end of July, we're sitting at a deficit of around £2,000, which is, of course, a growing concern for us. As our service expands, we are looking for funding opportunities more than ever. We really do appreciate you standing with us as Friends of Evergreen. If you know of others who may wish to join us, please do pass on our information.



Exciting News!

We're really pleased that funding has been approved to allow Evergreen to partner with the NHS, our local Neighbourhood Team and the National Centre for Craft and Design to run a pilot project taking art into the homes of those lonely and isolated. Our friends will be able to engage in a project, led by a qualified artist, as part of a collaborative project. We're hoping this may then be rolled out to a wider group in the near future!