

Newsletter

June 2021

THE BUREAU

Operational News...

This month has brought about a lot of change, and for many of us here at The Bureau, it has meant seeing people in real life again! Our Community Navigation team are back out in the community, meeting clients in their homes and gardens, catching up with local voluntary and community groups and starting up some of our amazing social activities. Here's our Bev with some clients and volunteers at the new coffee morning being held at The Norfolk Arms every Monday.



Our Thursday Club for Dementia Support met last week in Pico Lounge for their first face to face catch up, which was well attended and thoroughly enjoyed! We also have plans to begin our 'Time Out' sessions again towards the end of the month, alongside our existing Walk and Talk groups and other bits are in the pipeline. Watch this space!

Meet the Team...

This month it's the turn of Lauren Moore, the face behind the leaflets! Lauren is our Central Services Lead, looking after Bank House, supporting Finance, coordinating HR, policies, risk assessments, reporting...all that fun stuff! You'll mostly find Lauren on a walk around Glossopdale, in a park with her son Arthur, in the gym, or enjoying one of Glossop's many fine eateries!



How Can I Meet Others Indoors Safely?

From 17th May we can meet in groups of 6, or two households, indoors. Please do this safely by:

- Remaining socially distant
- Keep rooms well ventilated
- Sanitise your hands and surfaces regularly
- Wear a mask when social distancing is not possible



KEEP GOING FOR GLOSSOPDALE

Paul's Joke of the Day...

How do footballers keep cool?

They stand by their fans!

Volunteer Testimonial...

The 1st – 7th of June was National Volunteers' Week, and to celebrate, we spoke to many of High Peak's finest volunteers to get their take on the way they support their communities. We were blown away with the response from volunteer driver Shaun Hennessy...

"When the world took a handbrake turn in the Spring of 2020 and a great many of us looked for a new purpose...my wife suggested I get involved with The Bureau. Well, I had no idea what The Bureau was or what it did – so I had a look. They did loads!!! But, with Covid hugely affecting the rate and volume of non-Covid hospital admissions, what The Bureau was keenest on was voluntary drivers to help make sure that the old and the vulnerable could make those rare 'golden ticket' hospital appointments they'd been granted! So, I got involved. I got checked and provided adequate identification and assurances. Then, in September 2020, I did my first Bureau volunteer drive from Simmondley to Tameside Hospital. And my 'client' (posh, technical speak for 'punter') and his wife were extremely grateful.

At first, I perceived the job was just politely driving people to and from clinical appointments in a safe environment. Ostensibly, that's what it says on the tin! But, my word, it's soooooo much more than that. A volunteer Bureau driver is, for the duration of the drive, a friend, a companion and a confidante. Some people want to keep themselves to themselves. Some people want to keep to key facts and small talk. But, the vast, vast majority of people, desperate to be out of their homes and residences for the first time in a long time, just want to talk about moments of the long lives they've led and, most of all, be acknowledged in the leading of those lives. They want to talk about the partners they care for or have loved and lost. The careers that once kept them fulfilled. The children they miss like crazy who now live far away with the grandchildren they also miss like crazy. They want to talk about the 'heroes' who've helped them overcome insurmountable odds. Or how they don't mind coping with their partner's dementia but, perhaps, wouldn't mind a pat on the back every now and then. They want to talk about the first record they bought. Their favourite actor. Aldi. Lidl. The new oven that looks fantastic. The iPhone they've been given but can't use. And, within all of these things, they want you to be involved; to show a genuine interest. To laugh or be sympathetic or – sometimes – do both, simultaneously. They want to still matter – especially on the way to another dreaded appointment – and they want you to acknowledge, unreservedly, that they do still matter; and that their place in the great scheme of things, no matter how much time is ahead of them, is still vitally important...

At least – that's what I get from being a volunteer driver. And I'm happy to help. I'm an actor by trade, you see, so I'm well versed in listening and responding, which would be a great discipline to draw upon if all the 'clients' were dull and boring... But they're not – they're endlessly engaging and fascinating and – above all – special...And it's all because The Bureau helped me to do what they do every single day of the year without fail: Make a difference."

We couldn't have put it better ourselves!



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High Peak Borough Council
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