

<b><i>Proposed Publication date</i></b>	<b><i>Organisation</i></b>
<i>3/09/19</i>	<i>Older People's Day</i>

The value of volunteering by older people in the UK is expected to be worth £15bn by 2033.

This month there are several events taking place in Oxfordshire to mark the contribution of elderly people within our communities. The 1st of October marked Older People's Day, dedicated to celebrating the achievements of older people within our communities and it coincides with the United Nations' International Day of Older Persons.

However, an ageing population can bring huge challenges as well as massive benefits to charities that engage with them and harness their wealth of experience. [Professor Lynne Berry](#), previously chair of the Commission on the Voluntary Sector and Ageing says the "sector is at a crossroads and so far there has been a collective failure of imagination, with few organisations taking a long-term view of the impacts of ageing" and "People retiring today are more skilled and more savvy than any generation before them, and they can bring years of experience and expertise to charities."

The Older People's Day, which was held at Oxford Town Hall, brought together over 50 charities including ARCh (Assisted Reading for Children), Blind Veterans UK, Oxtalk – Talking Newspaper, to address some of these issues and engage with older people. The Lord Mayor of Oxford, Cllr Craig Simmons "said that the event had a fantastic turnout, with groups promoting both the services they offer and the volunteering opportunities they have for older people" Margaret Simpson, Chair of OXFORD 50+ NETWORK and organiser of today's event went on to say "Today's response from older people has exceed my expectations, with so many people signing up for new interests and activities. There has been a 'buzz' throughout the Town Hall all day."

Jane Rendle, Development Manager for ARCh went on to say "We really value older volunteers. They have a wealth of life experiences which they can share with children. They gain so much from volunteering themselves. It's a win-win situation and they can share their joy of reading."

If, you missed the event don't worry, next week, on Tuesday the 8<sup>th</sup> of October, the "Let's Talk About Loneliness" event will take place at The King's Centre Osney Mead Oxford. Two years ago, Age UK Oxfordshire 'started a conversation' about loneliness in Oxfordshire. This year local charities in partnership with Age UK have come together to put on this event and facilitate a cross-sector, inter-generational conversation about how we can work together to overcome loneliness. The event aims to increase our understanding of loneliness, showcase local and national projects, inspire and empower more communities to take action.

There will be a series of excellent speakers, including Zoe Anderson, one of the authors of the National Lottery Community Fund's new report 'Bringing People Together,' Tracey Robbins from the Eden Project and Margaret Peggie OBE, Chair of Sports Leaders UK. There will be more than 20 workshops shining a spotlight on social action and areas of good practice. It promises to be a fascinating, challenging and inspiring day.

Due to high demand, additional spaces for the conference 'Let's talk loneliness: unlocking the power of communities' have been released. If you are interested in attending and **haven't** yet confirmed your place please visit [www.ocva.org.uk](http://www.ocva.org.uk) and type 'Let's talk loneliness' in the search box or email [vol@ocva.org.uk](mailto:vol@ocva.org.uk) or telephone Age UK Oxfordshire 0345 450 1276.

This article was developed in partnership with the Volunteer Centre at OCVA. If you would like a feature about your **community group, charity or social enterprise** in the Voluntary Voice section of the Oxford Times please email: [\*\*vol@ocva.org.uk\*\*](mailto:vol@ocva.org.uk)