B:FRIEND

England & Wales · Charity number 1171148

Details

Other names	B:FRIEND DONCASTER
Status	Registered
Legal form	CIO
Registered	2017-01-17
Register	View on the Charity Commission register

Contact

Address	Xeinadin Sidings House Sidings Court Lakeside Doncaster DN4 5NU
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Website	www.letsbfriend.org.uk

Activities

Objects: 1. THE PROMOTION OF SOCIAL INCLUSION AMONGST ELDERLY PERSONS, IN PARTICULAR BUT NOT EXCLUSIVELY PERSONS AGED OVER 65, RESIDENT IN ENGLAND AND WALES ARE EXCLUDED FROM SOCIETY, BY THE PROVISION OF:·BEFRIENDING SERVICES THROUGH WEEKLY OUTREACH TO INDIVIDUALS 2. SUCH OTHER WAYS FROM TIME TO TIME AS THE TRUSTEES SEE FIT IN FURTHERANCE OF SAID OBJECTS

Activities: b:Friend matches volunteer befrienders with isolated, elderly neighbours in the community. The aim is to reduce social isolation by re-engaging at risk individuals with their community through one-to-one befriending partnerships and community group social events.

Classification

- **How:** Provides Services, Other Charitable Activities
- **What:** Disability, Economic/community Development/employment
- **Who:** Elderly/old People

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Geography

- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-10-31	£223,737	£317,728	-	-
2023-10-31	£412,855	£252,853	-	-
2022-10-31	£304,569	£249,361	-	-
2021-10-31	£210,989	£171,101	-	-
2020-10-31	£254,485	£180,384	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Claire Elizabeth Rintoul	Chair	2026-01-24
CHRISTOPHER JOHN BARKER		2026-01-24
Clare Legg		2024-03-18
Dr Rebecca Roberts		2023-04-28
Nicola Jane Upton		2026-01-24

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B:FRIEND

England & Wales - Charity number 1171148

Accounts

b:friend Annual Report

Nov-23/Oct-24

b:friend

b:friend is a charity registered in the UK with registered Charity Number 1171148.

Martin & Dave

Martin got in touch b:friend in 2018. He had recently moved to his village and due to being visually impaired he found harder to make new connections. “I was new to the area, and I had limited opportunities to socialise due to my eyesight, and being in a village. I felt I was missing out. I was looking for someone to chat to, to go to a pub quiz with. I am big pub quiz fanatic!”

Martin met his befriender Dave in 2018. Martin said: “This friendship lightened up my life. It opened up a whole new world of possibilities. Dave and I have a lot of fun; we laugh our socks off. We both love music and enjoy going to gigs together. Connecting with b:friend gave me a boost, led to me becoming more confident, it led me to new friendships. It helped me access activities that I thought wouldn’t be available to me. I could even participate in a local radio project through b:friend and trying my hand at broadcasting was a lifelong ambition!

All I can say is thank you...”

b:friend

A message from our CEO

As I take a moment to reflect on the past year at b:friend, it's clear just how far we've come. We're now firmly rooted in three counties, and the number of people we've reached has taken a real leap forward. But it's not just about growth—it's about how we've grown. We've continued to refine our model, listen carefully to those we support, and explore new, creative ways to tackle loneliness in our communities.

In communities across South Yorkshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire, older neighbours who were once isolated are now laughing over a cuppa at one of our social clubs, chatting with their befriender each week, or getting involved with a project where they can share their experiences and thoughts with their community. These are the moments that matter—and they're only possible thanks to the incredible dedication of our volunteers, the belief of our supporters, and the resilience of our team.

2023/24 has been a year of meaningful growth. We've launched new clubs, explored new ways of connecting people through digital, intergenerational and volunteer-led work, and welcomed more older neighbours into our community than ever before. We've also faced some real challenges, especially around income generation—but we've met those head-on with creativity and collaboration.

Looking ahead, the need for our work is only increasing. With funding cuts looming and the cost of living crisis continuing to hit hard, it's never been more important to build strong, local communities where no one feels forgotten.

Cheers,

C. Bunker

Colette Bunker, Chief Executive Officer of b:friend

Vision Mission Values

Vision

At b:friend, our vision is a world where all older neighbours can connect, laugh and inspire others every day.

Loneliness sucks, and we want to help end it. For older people, loneliness is something that doesn't happen overnight, it creeps up on you. It's influenced by life events such as deteriorating health, decreased mobility and the passing away of partners and friends. Having no family close by and having to stop driving (from health or confidence issues) can also lead to an older person spending more time alone in their home. 42% of people over 65 live alone. This is set to rise to over 50% by 2041 (ONS data).

Loneliness can lead to depression, coronary disease, weaker immune systems and dementia – it's as bad for your health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. Not only do we want older people to live longer and healthier lives, we want them to have fun! So we don't take life too seriously and we make sure to challenge stereotypes when it comes to ageing. We also believe that society is missing out on the stories and experiences that older people have to offer. Reconnecting isolated people with their community can lead to younger generations gaining insights and wisdom from their older neighbours.

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Vision Mission Values

Mission

Our mission? To facilitate meaningful friendships and enjoyable connections between people and communities

We want to reignite that spark of joy in older people that they may have lost along the way, something that only true friendships can do. So we're not time-limited and we never charge for friendship. That way, both older neighbours and befrienders know that their connection is genuine and long lasting. Real friendship and social connection can create a sense of self-worth, build confidence and resilience and improve mental and physical wellbeing. In many cases, friendship really can save lives.

Values

Our values are at the heart of everything we do.

We are...

b:friend

FUN

No two weeks are the same with b:friend. We celebrate later years and we know from experience that being old in body doesn't mean being old in mindset. Mental wellbeing is our priority, having something to look forward to and having a good old giggle should be something everyone can enjoy.

BOLD

We challenge the stigma around ageing; bingo is banned at b:friend. We'd much rather be cheerleading, boxing or exploring exotic cultures. We never sit still, we are constantly thinking up new, innovative ideas and ways of making older people's lives richer.

DOWN-TO-EARTH

We are firmly rooted in the local community and everything we do is with a strong sense of place. Being led by our community anchors us to our purpose. You'll see no fancy business speak here, we say what we mean and we mean what we say.

EMBRACING

Friendship is for everyone and everyone is welcome at b:friend. We strive to break down divisions created by age, heritage, digital skills and social norms and make sure people feel comfortable to be themselves.

PASSIONATE

The cause drives us and we believe in it whole heartedly. We always have the voice and the best interests of our older neighbours in mind, but you'll never hear us use the word 'beneficiary'. Our older neighbours give as much joy and value back to their befrienders and their communities as they receive.

WHAT WE DO

A year in numbers

by the end of FY 23/24 we have delivered...

35,280 Volunteering hours

14 Social Clubs benefiting

241 older neighbours per week

603 Social Club sessions where no two weeks are the same (that's over 1200 hours of graffiti art, axe throwing, cheerleading, curling, learning morse code, Mardi Gras, and armchair travels to Mexico, China, Peru and Croatia ...plus hundreds more fun sessions!)

709 Active friendships (That's

36,868 cuppas!)

2,891 Friendships created since inception

272 New pairings

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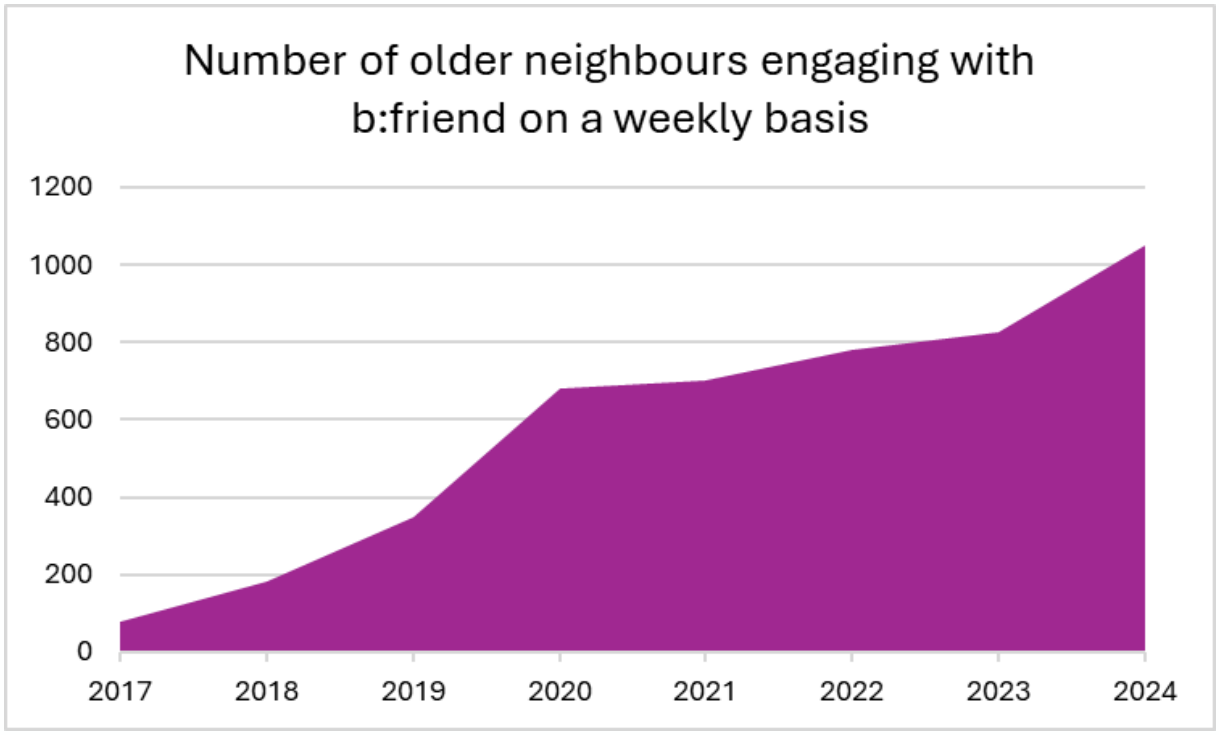
WHAT WE DO

A year in numbers

1071 older neighbours engaging on a weekly basis

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
80	180	350	680	700	782	825	1071



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Our focus for 23/24

This year, our strategic priorities were: expanding into Nottinghamshire, embedding greater sustainability across our work, and enhancing the volunteer experience. We took a more data-led approach to our work than ever before, with feedback and insight shaping our decisions through:

- New surveys for older neighbours, volunteers and supporters
- Quarterly consultation meetings with our Friends of B:friend group
- Improved digital data monitoring via Google Analytics and other tools
- Support from a PhD student who joined us as a summer intern

We also commissioned an independent evaluation of our befriending model. The results not only affirmed the strength of our approach but gave us valuable ideas for future improvement.

1 Growth into Nottinghamshire

Thanks to the incredible £145,000 raised by Strata during their Charity of the Year partnership with us, we were able to expand our work into Nottinghamshire. After careful analysis of loneliness, deprivation, and service provision data across multiple regions, we identified Nottinghamshire as an area where our support was both needed and wanted. We had already begun receiving referrals and volunteer applications from the area, and our reputation gave us a strong starting point.

We began by recruiting a local Befriending Coordinator and developing relationships in the Mid-Notts area. While initial progress was slow—volunteers were mostly coming from Nottingham City while referrals stemmed from Mid-Notts—we focused our efforts on raising awareness across both areas to create more balance. By the end of the year, we'd made 49 new pairings and launched a new social club in Kimberley.

Our focus for 23/24

2 Sustainability

Sustainability took centre stage this year—both in how we deliver services and how we fund them. While our befriending model is low-cost and effective, it still requires staff time and isn't infinitely scalable. To address this, we trialled more volunteer-led social clubs. These require staff support to oversee but not to deliver, and they offer a lighter-touch model for areas where we want to expand reach without increasing staff hours.

We created two new volunteer-led clubs in 2024: one launched in Clay Cross by an existing volunteer, and another in Balby which transitioned from staff-led to volunteer-led. Both have thrived, with up to 13 attendees each week. We plan to build on this in 2025 and develop a replicable model that others can use.

On the financial side, we focused on diversifying our income in preparation for the end of our Lottery funding in June 2024. With our Fundraising Manager now fully embedded, the year was about laying solid foundations—building relationships, planning campaigns, refining donor journeys, and improving internal tracking. Everyone across the team played a part, and we're proud to say this whole-team approach helped secure two key multi-year grants: a renewal from The National Lottery and a new award from the Henry Smith Charity. We're incredibly grateful for both.

Our focus for 23/24

3 The Volunteer Journey

Volunteer recruitment has been an ongoing challenge since the pandemic, so this year we invested more time in understanding and supporting our volunteers. We launched a volunteer experience survey, which gave us insights into who our volunteers are, when they're most likely to sign up, how they find us, and what motivates them to get involved.

We also tested new and untried marketing methods—bus ads, beer mats, billboards, and local magazine features among them. With more robust tracking, we now know which channels are worth our time and budget. The results speak for themselves: by year-end, 735 new volunteers had signed up—far surpassing our target of 510.

Survey feedback from longer-serving volunteers revealed a desire for more proactive check-ins. While our team is always available, we recognised that scheduled, intentional check-ins could be helpful. We've now formalised three touchpoints throughout the first year of the volunteer journey, including short surveys where volunteers can reflect on their experience and the impact of their friendship.

We learned that some volunteers were occasionally struggling with boundary-setting over time. In response, we added new content to our induction training focusing specifically on healthy boundaries. We created a simple, accessible leaflet for volunteers and older neighbours to refer to if expectations start to shift. We also introduced a formal offboarding process to support friendships continuing in a lighter-touch way, while ensuring everyone understands the change and feels comfortable.

Alongside this, we have reviewed and created more induction materials that are accessible in different ways - now besides the pdf volunteer handbook we also have the induction slides with videos vols receive after the induction interview.

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HOW DID WE DO?

We are happy with the results against our 23/24 delivery targets, but there is more work to do. Our efforts in volunteer recruitment have really paid off this year but this doesn't necessarily translate to long-term volunteering, which may be what's affecting the number of older neighbours supported. Next year we will focus more on recruiting and retaining the right volunteers.

Although our general income split is moving in the right direction, more work is needed in building other income streams.

AIM		OUTCOME	
32%	increase in older neighbours supported (1090 older neighbours engaging on a weekly basis)	30%	Increase achieved (1071 older neighbours engaging on a weekly basis
85%+	improvement in befriended older neighbours' wellbeing after 6 months	83%	improvement in befriended older neighbours' wellbeing after 6 months achieved
510	Volunteers to be recruited, creating ...	735	Volunteers recruited creating...
12,168	volunteering hours	16,796	volunteering hours
75/25	% split between trusts & foundations (75%) and other income (25%)	79/21	79% trusts & foundations 21% other

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HIGHLIGHTS

Intergenerational Connections

This year, we reimagined our much-loved b:heard model to create something brand new: b:heard in schools. Traditionally, b:heard has focused on celebrating the stories and experiences of older neighbours with a paying audience, but this time, that audience was a classroom of primary school children in Chesterfield.

We explored what could happen when generations come together, and the results were amazing. Our older neighbours shared memories of their schooldays—chalkboards, school milk, and all—while the children introduced them to the classrooms of today. They even danced together during a 'brain break'. The experience was moving, joyful, and enlightening for all involved. The children gained insight into older people's lives, and our neighbours got the chance to feel seen and celebrated. We'll definitely be doing more of this in the future.

"I enjoyed dancing with you.
Please come back and show us more!"

- Pupils' comments via feedback forms

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HIGHLIGHTS

New Clubs

Our social clubs continue to go from strength to strength, with four new ones added this year:

- Clay Cross (volunteer-led)
- Bolsover
- Kimberley
- Our first digital club, connecting people online from across the region

A Very Merry Christmas

Following the buzz of our Coronation Party earlier in the year—where many new friendships were formed—we ended 2023 with a spectacular Christmas Party for 180 older neighbours. For many of our older friends, Christmas can be a difficult time, especially for those facing it alone. The party offered a fun and affordable celebration, full of music, dancing and laughter.

> “This has been my Christmas, this party, because I'll be at home on my own on the day.”
>
> “It was great that everyone could dance all together, even those in a wheelchair. It was lovely to see. I really appreciated the fact that all the transport was organised—it made it a lot easier.”

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HIGHLIGHTS

Connecting through heritage

This year, we were thrilled to join forces with Doncaster and Barnsley Museums to explore how local heritage can help combat isolation and spark meaningful conversations. Together, we introduced new opportunities for older neighbours to connect with their local history—and each other.

As part of the project, our social clubs enjoyed special outings to local heritage sites, while 'museum in a box' kits brought fascinating artefacts right into club settings for hands-on exploration. The partnership even extended into our one-to-one friendships, where befrienders were encouraged to use museum objects as conversation starters—unlocking memories, stories, and new perspectives.

We're grateful to the museums for including us in such a thoughtful and imaginative project. It reminded us just how powerful shared history can be in building connection and belonging.

HIGHLIGHTS

Amazing Fundraisers

This year, we've been blown away by the efforts of some truly inspirational fundraisers:

- Becky, one of our trustees, and her husband Simon walked the West Highland Way in memory of Becky's older neighbour, Brian—raising over £1,000.

- Miriam, a brave volunteer at our Mexborough club (and 72 years young!), leapt 15,000 feet from a plane to raise over £500.

Sol & James, long-time supporters, took on the ultimate banger rally challenge—driving an old car from England to Croatia with multiple stops and surprises along the way. They raised almost £2,000.

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HIGHLIGHTS

Community Fundraisers & Creative Campaigns

As part of our ongoing work to diversify income and raise awareness, we ran several successful campaigns of our own:

Pink & Purple Day

During Befriending Week, we invited our corporate supporters to hold pink and purple-themed events—and they delivered! Four fantastic partners took part, dressing up, decorating offices, and raising vital funds.

The b:friend Cookbook

Part of our mission is to highlight the value and wisdom older people bring to their communities. This year, we brought that to life through our first-ever cookbook—a beautiful collection of recipes and personal stories from our older neighbours. We were supported by a brilliant volunteer publisher, a kind-hearted illustrator, and a generous photographer, all of whom donated their time and talent. Nearly 200 copies were sold!

And finally...

Boosting efficiency through MS365

Thanks to the generous support of our corporate partner eSynergy, we made a big leap in digital transformation this year by migrating to Microsoft 365. This upgrade has significantly improved collaboration across our team, enhanced data security, and streamlined many of our day-to-day processes—helping us work smarter and support more people.

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CHALLENGES

As ever, the year came with its share of challenges.

The Lottery Countdown

2023/24 marked the final year of our three-year National Lottery Community Fund grant for our work in South Yorkshire—funding that has been absolutely vital in helping us grow and reach more older neighbours. While we were actively working on a reapplication and exploring other potential sources, there was no guarantee that the gap this funding would leave could be filled.

Despite our focus on income diversification, the size of the Lottery grant meant its loss would have a significant impact. So, even as we gratefully received new support from Strata to help us expand, we carried a sense of uncertainty about the future of our work in South Yorkshire.
But one of our core values is to be Bold, and we stuck to that. We carried on delivering as though nothing would change—continuing to grow, to innovate, and to connect more people—while quietly hoping we'd find the funding to sustain it all. It wasn't an easy mindset to manage, but we were open with each other, kept the faith, and morale remained strong.

Thankfully, our optimism paid off. Not only were we successful in securing renewed Lottery funding for 2025, but we also received a transformational three-year grant from The Henry Smith Charity to support our core work—a huge moment for us, and a testament to the strength and impact of what we're building together.

Building a Culture of Individual Giving

One of our ongoing priorities is diversifying income—and individual giving continues to be a tough nut to crack.

Historically, we haven't done much asking. Apart from the occasional challenge event, we've been fairly reserved in encouraging regular or one-off donations. This year, we decided to change that. With help from our partners at Strata, we released a powerful short film highlighting the impact of loneliness at Christmas, and launched a campaign encouraging people to become monthly donors. We also encouraged support through a new paper newsletter . Unfortunately, both campaigns fell flat.

The cost of living crisis may have played a part, but we also recognised we needed to learn more. What motivates someone to give to b:friend? What might hold them back? Off the back of this, we created and distributed a survey to better understand our supporters' views on giving—and this insight will shape our approach going forward.

CHALLENGES

As ever, the year came with its share of challenges.

Tackling Digital Inclusion

Digital exclusion continues to affect many of our older neighbours. In the past we've trialled various projects aimed at improving digital skills, but without sustained funding, it's been difficult to create long-lasting change.

This year, we took a different approach. Rather than delivering digital skills training ourselves, we focused on what we do best—creating social connections. We launched a new digital social club, giving older people a chance to come together online, connect with others, and build confidence with digital tools in a relaxed, friendly space.

We partnered with organisations already doing excellent work in digital inclusion to receive referrals and opened the club to isolated older neighbours we couldn't support in person. While there's been strong interest, regular attendance has been low. Still, we believe it's a valuable addition to our offering, especially for those who may not be able to access in-person support. We'll continue running the club and work on increasing awareness and reducing barriers to participation.

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Our plans for 24/25

Looking ahead, our strategic objectives for the year are rooted in four key focus areas:

1 Growing Where Needed

We'll continue to respond to local demand —whether that means more out-of-area pairings, exploring telephone or video befriending, or piloting new ways of delivering our services. Whatever the format, our target is to increase:

- Social club attendance by 33%
- Befriending pairings by 13%

2 Maintaining Service Quality

Even as we grow, we're committed to the high quality of delivery that b:friend is known for. We'll closely monitor processes and feedback, and introduce new volunteer roles to help enhance the experience for both our older neighbours and our volunteers.

3 Team Sucess

Our team is the heart of b:friend—and we want to keep it thriving. This year, we'll focus on sustaining a positive culture, encouraging development, and creating regular opportunities for staff feedback and involvement in new initiatives.

4 Fundraising & Financial Resiliance

Diversifying our income remains critical. For 2024/25, we've set an ambitious fundraising target, aiming for a 75/25 split between trusts & foundations and other income. We'll continue strengthening existing corporate partnerships and building new ones that are aligned with our mission and values.

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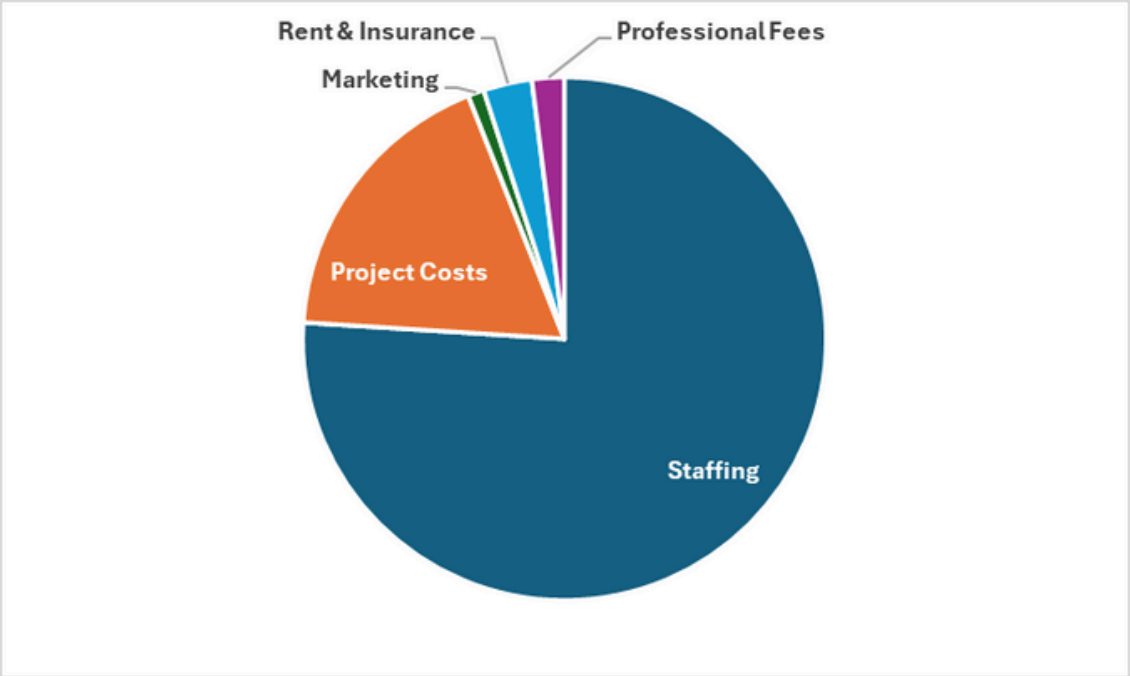
FINANCE

How we spent £1

The majority of our costs are on staffing who deliver our befriending project across the region, support volunteers and older neighbours and make local connections.

The full cost of running a weekly social club for 1 year = £5,533

The full cost of setting up a befriending pairing for 1 year = £230



76%	Staffing	3%	Rent & Insurance
18%	Project Costs	2%	Professional fees
1%	Marketing		

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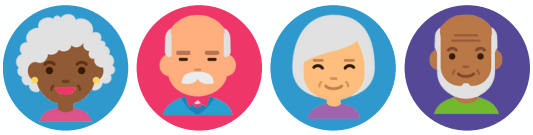
OUR IMPACT

Here's a few lovely comments from our befriended older neighbours this year:



It seems like I've known her ages, all we did was laugh. She's a lovely girl

I can't believe it's been 2 years! She's so lovely, she's been a real good friend to me. I'm so grateful to you (b:friend) you know. I don't know what I'd do without Sam.

We have good conversation, we are friends. I feel the befriending enlarges my world.

We went to the theatre and it's the first time I have done anything like this in a long time

I don't see anyone. The visits are a cornerstone in a way that it's the only certainty in a week socially. It's a pleasant addition to what I've got which is very sparse

OUR IMPACT

And here's a few from our amazing volunteers...

Sandra is lovely person. When I come to her she always greets me with a smile. We have many topics to talk about😊. I am very pleased to be paired with Sandra who has become my new friend🥰

We're building a lovely bond with each other and I feel that I'm really making a difference to her quality of life. We have such a lovely time together... I take cream cakes, which we both enjoy, and we share memories together. We both laugh together too, which is just wonderful

We've chatted about families, pets, past relationships, gardening, price of coffee and tv. Helen's funny and I'm looking forward to building the friendship

OUR IMPACT

At the 6 month mark we are asking more in-depth questions about the volunteers' experiences:

- **86% say they feel their life has become richer since being involved with b:friend**
- **71% strongly agree and 29% agree that being involved with b:friend gives them a sense of purpose**
- **57% strongly agree and 43% agree that being involved with b:friend gives them a sense of community connection**

100% of befrienders would consider their older neighbour a friend

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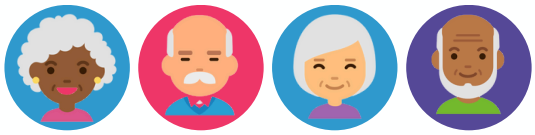
OUR IMPACT

SOCIAL CLUBS



It's changed my Mum's life this club. And it makes me so proud when I see her photo (online) doing all the different things
(Daughter of a club member)

I can't remember what we did at my first session I just remember laughing because it was the first time I'd laughed in months

I'm making loads of new friends through the group. It makes my day meeting up with all the new friendly people here

It really helped. I'd miss it if I didn't come. It's ever so good, I really enjoy it. You know, most of us there are widows or widowers, and it is something to look forward to, it makes you feel happier. When I go home after a session, I think about it. It's made a big difference to me. I enjoy the crafts, and the activities are interesting. Everybody's friendly to each other. I'd recommend it to others because we all get on and we always have a good laugh!

There is a different activity each week. My mum goes to this club and loves it. She says that it is the highlight of her week; she always comes away happy.
(Daughter of a club member)

CASE STUDIES

John & Trevor

When John had to take time off from work due to a heart condition, he started to look for volunteering opportunities he would enjoy to boost his well-being. John said, “I just got in a rut. After being an engineer for 25 years, I was stuck at home all day, doing nothing. I just needed something to do, so I volunteered for a few things.

“b:friend introduced me to Trevor about six months ago, and it’s been brilliant. It helps me as much as it helps him. I enjoy his company; he has some great stories to tell. It’s like talking to my granddad.”

> “It helps me as much as it helps him”.

Trevor, who suffered a stroke, said catching up with John every week had been a welcomed change as he can’t get out as much as he used to. He said, “It’s like a bit of fresh air. It’s a fresh perspective. We get to talk about different subjects. It’s been great.”

John added, “It’s been good for us both. Just seeing Trevor for an hour a week has really helped my mental health as well. If I’m passing, I pop in to see if he’s alright. We’re getting beef sandwiches tomorrow!”

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CASE STUDIES

Tony & Shaunagh

Tony was referred to b:friend as his wife was moved to a care home, and suddenly living alone and struggling with mobility issues left him feeling isolated. He was looking for a social outlet and a way to make new friends.

Tony and Shaunagh connected through b:friend three years ago. They found they had some unexpected things in common at their first meeting. Tony used to work for the Navy, and Shaunagh's partner was in the army. As Tony's wife was moved to a care home and Shaunagh's partner often worked away from home, they could both relate to coping with not seeing a loved one for longer periods.

> "I often forget about it being through b:friend, now it's like I've always known Tony "

They quickly bonded over shared experiences and jokes. Shaunagh even started to take Tony out for breakfast on the weekends, as due to his reduced mobility he missed going out.
Tony said: "Shaunagh is a lovely young lady with a bubbly personality. I see her every week, we often have breakfast together. It's been really nice chatting to her. We became good friends." There have been some changes over the months. Tony lost his wife and has been dealing with bereavement, but their weekly catchups over a meal or a coffee continued. Shaunagh even introduced Tony to her partner.

Shaunagh said Tony was becoming more positive as the weeks went by, and Tony felt joyful about connecting with someone and making new friends. The world opened up a bit, and they were both proud to call each other friends. "He's a part of my life now and I genuinely look forward to seeing him every weekend. We both get on really well and it's a pleasure getting to know him and call him my friend," Shaunagh said. "I often forget about it being through b:friend, now it's like I've always known Tony and me seeing him every week is part of my routine, like visiting my mum or dad to catch-up."

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CASE STUDIES

Janet & Laura

Older neighbour Janet and befriender Laura connected through b:friend over two years months ago.
Janet used to be very active, with a busy social life. She was a keen walker in her free time and always valued her independence.
As her mobility reduced and the pandemic slowed life down, she started to spend more time at home alone. Although she had a supportive family, her friends lived away and could only stay in touch over the phone, which made her feel isolated.

“She’s like a breathe of fresh air”

When she first heard about befriending, Janet was apprehensive as she wasn’t sure if it was for her. Meeting Laura quickly changed this.

“It’s been smashing, Laura is lovely, Janet said. “I find it works two ways, we chat about local history that she finds interesting, as she is not from around here. It is surprising, but we actually both benefit from the chats, and it makes me feel better that I can contribute. I know I’ve got family and some friends, but they are all older. She is outside of that circle and brings a different perspective. She is like a bit of fresh air.

“Laura is a proper friend now. We have a good conflab about everything; it’s lovely.”

Laura said: “I have thoroughly enjoyed the time I have spent getting to know Janet! We have lots of the same interests and I have definitely learned a lot about baking, walking, and the city.

“It has been particularly fascinating to hear about her experiences living in the area for a number of years and better understand the history of where I now live. She has been able to recommend new places to eat that I would never have known about without her!
“It is a lovely part of my day when I get to spend time visiting Janet, and I always leave with a smile. I would recommend befriending to anyone.”

b:friend

Our partners

We'd like to extend thanks to the awesome organisations that partner with our project. Their commitment to reducing isolation is significant & we're able to achieve huge impact as a result of their belief in a more connected society.

The Henry Smith Charity
founded in 1628

COMMUNITY FUND

South Yorkshire's Community Foundation

DERBYSHIRE VOLUNTARY ACTION

THE LIZ & TERRY BRAMALL FOUNDATION

The University Of Sheffield.

BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

Doncaster
Metropolitan Borough Council

BARNSLEY MUSEUMS & HERITAGE TRUST

HERITAGE DONCASTER

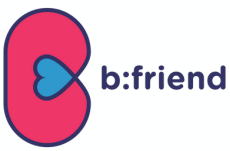
THE TALBOT TRUSTS

Voluntary Action Rotherham

b:friend

Our partners

The Company of
Cutlers in Hallamshire
Since 1624



Our People: The Team

Colette Bunker,
Chief Executive Officer

Karen Booker,
Befriending Coordinator

Rayella Broomhead,
Programme Manager

Rach Beavon-Baldwin,
Befriending Coordinator

Sara Kopecsni,
Senior Communications Officer

Rachael Mullen,
Befriending Coordinator

Jenny Pitman,
Programme Manager

Helen Twelves,
Fundraising Manager

Maryanne Wylde,
Project Officer

Mollie West,
Befriending Coordniator

Our People:
The Board of Trustees

Simon Moxon,
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Clare Legg,
Treasurer

Becky Marlor

Matthew Lollar

Let's end loneliness together, let's b:friend!

b:friend is a charity registered in the UK with registered Charity Number 1171148.

B:FRIEND
(A charitable incorporated organisation limited by guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

CHARITY NUMBER 1171148

COMPANY NUMBER CE009648

B:FRIEND

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

The Management Committee presents its report and accounts for the year ended 31 October 2024.

Charity information

Management Committee

Simon Moxon	Chairsperson - Appointed April 2023
Tara Walker	Treasurer – Resigned March 2024
Clare Legg	Treasurer - Appointed March 2024
Matthew Lollar	Non-Executive member
Rebecca Roberts	Non-Executive member

Charity Registration number	1171148
Charity registered office and Operational address	Unit 315 The Workstation 15 Paternoster Row Sheffield S1 2BX
Secretary	None
Independent examiner	Xeinadin (Yorkshire) Ltd Sidings House Sidings Court Doncaster DN4 5NU
Bankers	Santander UK Plc Doncaster

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document
The organisation is a charitable incorporated organisation formed on 17 January 2017 and registered as a charity.

The charity was established under a Constitution which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Constitution.

In the event of the charity being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee
The Trustees of the charity for the purposes of charity law and under the charity's Constitution are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Constitution the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

Objectives and Activities
The objectives of the charity are to promote social inclusion amongst elderly persons, in particular, but not exclusive to over 65's, resident in England and Wales and the surrounding areas who are excluded by society, by provision of:

- Befriending services through weekly outreach to individuals.

Such other ways from time to time as the trustees see fit in furtherance with said objects. B:Friend is a not-for-profit organisation.

B:Friend pairs volunteer befrienders with socially isolated older neighbours in the community with the aim of reducing loneliness by reengaging with people and places around them. Our key activities are 1:1 befriending pairings, visiting once a week for a "cuppa" and a chat. B:Friend also provides two hour social clubs, held in various locations that offer peer support through a range of physically and mentally stimulating sessions.

All activities undertaken by the charity are to benefit people in the community, be they volunteers or older neighbours, and all remain equitable with services free at the point of delivery.

Trustees ensure all activities are in accordance with the charity objects outlined in the constitution and are for the public benefit.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

Achievements and performance

- In the reporting period, the charity has created over 290 x 1:1 befriending pairings across Doncaster, Barnsley, Sheffield, Rotherham, Chesterfield, Bolsover and North East Derbyshire. In addition to this our team has supported and managed an additional 700 x 1:1 befriending pairings already in existence.
- Facilitated approximately 1008 hours of Social Club activity across the region with weekly activity, peer support and entertainment.
- Collaborated with 89 other charity and community groups, along with statutory health and social care colleagues, on wider social challenges faced across towns and cities we work in.
- Created over 32,160 volunteer hours providing community connection for our isolated older neighbours.

Financial Review

Principal Funding Sources

B:Friend was grateful to receive funding from: The National Lottery Community Fund, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, South Yorkshire Community Fund, Derbyshire Voluntary Action, Irwin Mitchell, Masonic Charitable Trust, Rank Foundation, Sheffield City Council and Voluntary Action Rotherham.

Reserve Policy

At the start of the financial year, the charity faced a period of funding uncertainty, with the National Lottery grant due to end in June 2024 and the Dearne contract scheduled to conclude in 2025. In response, the Board took a prudent approach to expenditure and held higher reserves to safeguard service continuity. This cautious strategy resulted in a temporary increase in unrestricted reserves beyond the level set out in our reserves policy.

In light of ongoing economic pressures and a challenging fundraising environment across the sector, the Board has since reviewed and updated the charity's reserves policy, increasing the target level from 6 to 9 months of core expenditure. This adjustment better reflects the level of resilience required to manage income volatility and protect the sustainability of our work.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2024

Statement of Management Committee's Responsibilities

Charity law requires the Management Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the CIO as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial period. In preparing those financial statements, the Management Committee should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Management Committee is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities SORP (FRS102). The Management Committee is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Members of the Management Committee

Members of the Management Committee, who are trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 2.

In accordance with charities law, as the CIO's trustees, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant accounting information of which the charity's independent examiners are unaware; and
- as the trustees of the CIO, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant accounting information and to establish that the charity's independent examiners are aware of that information.

Approval
This report was approved by the Management Committee on 31/07/25 and signed on its behalf by:

Clare Legg

Treasurer

B:FRIEND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees of B:Friend on the accounts for the period ended 31 October 2024 set out on pages 7 to 15

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 ("the Act").
The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Act, and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking of explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kelvin Fitton BA FCA
For and on behalf of Xeinadin (Yorkshire) Ltd
Sidings Court
Doncaster DN4 5NU

Dated: 01/08/2025

B:FRIEND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Including Income and Expenditure Account)

YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES	3				
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and gifts		83,647	140,090	223,737	412,855
Charitable activities		-	-	-	-
Total		83,647	140,090	223,737	412,855
RESOURCES EXPENDED	4				
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		2,812	-	2,812	927
Charitable activities		4,431	310,485	314,916	251,926
Total		7,243	310,485	317,728	252,852
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		76,405	(170,395)	(93,990)	160,002
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		169,812	232,425	402,237	242,237
Total funds carried forward		246,220	62,030	308,250	402,237

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the period. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

B:FRIEND

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2024

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	-	1,164	1,164	1,550
Total fixed assets		-	1,164	1,164	1,550
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	-	4,290	4,290	3,925
Cash at bank and in hand		246,220	122,192	368,412	465,124
Total current assets		246,220	126,482	372,702	469,049
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	9	-	65,616	65,616	68,360
Net current assets		246,220	60,866	307,086	400,689
Total assets less current liabilities		246,220	62,030	308,250	402,239
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY	10				
Restricted income funds		-	62,030	62,030	242,542
Unrestricted designated funds		69,000	-	69,000	145,000
Unrestricted funds		177,220	-	177,220	14,698
Total funds		246,220	62,030	308,250	402,240

Approved by the trustees on 31/07/2025

Signed:

On behalf of the trustees

1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

Basis of Accounting
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherise stated in the relevant note to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)
and with the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

INCOMING RESOURCES
Recognition of incoming resources
These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Offsetting
There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Grants and donations
Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met.

Contractual income and performance related grants
This is only included in the SoFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

Gifts in kind
Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised.
Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity.
Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable

Donated services and facilities
These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £250.
They are valued at cost
The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

3 ANALYSIS OF INCOMING RESOURCES

3.1

	This year £	Last year £
Donations and Gifts		
Grants	186,396	248,252
Donations	37,341	164,603
	223,737	412,855

4 ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	This year £	Last year £
Raising funds				
Advertising	2,812	-	2,812	927
Total expenditure on raising funds	2,812	-	2,812	927
Charitable activities				
Other expenditure	4,431	310,485	314,916	251,926
Total expenditure on charitable activities	4,431	310,485	314,916	251,926
Total expenditure	7,243	310,485	317,728	252,853

5 PAID EMPLOYEES

5.1 Staff costs

	This year £	Last year £
Salaries and wages	224,187	176,343
Social security costs	14,215	10,027
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	4,780	3,718
Total staff costs	243,182	190,088

No employees received employee benefits for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

	This year	Last year
Total amount paid to key personnel	£46,828	£45,760

5.2 Average head count in the year

	This year	Last year
Officers and administration	8	6
Support workers		
CEO	1	1
Management		
	9	7

6 DETAILS OF CERTAIN ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE

6.1 Trustee remuneration and expenses

No members of the management committee received any remuneration during the year.

£91.68 expenses were reimbursed to the management committee during the year.

6.2 Fees for examination of the accounts

	This year £	Last year £
Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	2,085	1,985
	2,085	1,985

7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Cost		Computer equipment	Total
At the beginning of the year		18,264	17,119
Additions		760	1,146
Disposals		-	-
At end of year		19,024	18,265
Depreciation			
	Basis Rate	Straight Line 3 years	
At the beginning of the year		16,714	15,630
Depreciation		1,146	1,084
Disposals		-	-
At end of year		17,860	16,714
Net book value			
At the beginning of the year		1,550	1,489
At end of year		1,164	1,551

8 DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

Analysis of debtors	This year £	Last year £
Funding debtors	2,000	2,000
Prepayments and accrued income	2,290	1,925
Total	4,290	3,925

9 CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

Analysis of creditors	This year £	Last year £
Trade Creditors	1,500	2,183
Accruals and deferred income	64,116	66,177
Taxation and social security	-	-
Total	65,616	68,360

10 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

10.1 Restricted funds held

Fund name	Purpose and restrictions
Voluntary Action Rotherham	to provide cores service provision in Rotherham
Barnsley MBC	to provide core service provision in the Dearne area
South Yorkshire Community Fund	to provide core service provision in the Mexborough area
South Yorkshire Community Fund	to provide core service provision in the Doncaster Central area
Coalfields Regeneration Trust - Barnsley South	to provide core service provision in Worsborough, Wombwell and Darfield
BOPPA	funding for physical activity sessions at the Dearne social clubs
Derbyshire Voluntary Action	to provide core service provision in Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire and Bolsover
Big Lottery Reaching Communities	to provide core service provision in Doncaster
SYCF Green	funding for outings and other activities that connect older neighbours with nature
Sheffield City Council - Covid recovery fund	to provide core service provision in Sheffield
Doncaster MBC	to provide doncaster clubs a warm place in winter
SYCF: Community Resilience A585035	sheffield befriending
SCC: East LAC	coronation celebration for sheffield social club
Talbot Trust	sheffield befriending
TNLCF: Awards for All	social group sessions
LNER	doncaster befriending
BMBC: Barnsley Better Bonds	funding for outings
Elsie Pilkington	rotherham befriending
McCarthy Stone: Spring Grants	core funding
Peoples Postcode Lottery	core funding
Rank Foundation	core funding

10.2 Restricted funds summary

	Balance b/f £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfer to Unrestricted £	Balance c/f £
Doncaster MBC	2,500	850	3,350		-
Voluntary Action Rotherham	15,063	6,051	15,213		4,901
SYCF: Community Resilience A585035	-	4,000	4,000		-
Barnsley MBC	71,880	40,085	93,307		18,657
Big Lottery Reaching Communities	74,826	45,000	101,076		18,750
SCC: East LAC	265		265		-
SYCF: Cost of Living Grant (Sheffield)	5,040		5,040		-
SYCF: Tween Bridge Wind Farm Community	2,557		924		1,634
Talbot Trust	1,727	2,500	4,227		-
TNLCF: Awards for All	4,973		4,973		-
BMBC: Barnsley Better Bonds	334		334		-
Coalfields Regeneration Trust - Barnsley South	5,820		5,820		-
BOPPA	353		353		-
Derbyshire Voluntary Action - Feeling Connected	4,030	2,502	6,532		-
Sheffield City Council - Covid Recovery Fund	9,057		9,057		-
Elsie Pilkington	3,103		3,103		-
McCarthy Stone: Spring Grants	6,000		6,000		-
Peoples Postcode Lottery	25,000		25,000		-
HSBC	-	10,207	8,069		12,138
AIM Consortia	-	12,266	8,181		4,085
Liz & Tony Bramall	-	5,000	5,000		-
Sheffield Church Burgesses	-	600	600		-
Sir George Earle Trust	-	2,228	372		1,856
Sheffield University Intern scheme		1,000	1,000		-
Total	232,476	140,089	310,465	-	62,032

10.3 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	1,164	1,164
Current assets	248,220	128,483	372,702
Current liabilities	-	(65,616)	(65,616)
Net assets at 31 October 2024	248,220	62,030	308,250

11 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the period.

B:FRIEND

England & Wales - Charity number 1171148

Accounts

b:friend Annual Report

Nov-22/Oct-23

b:friend

b:friend is a charity registered in the UK with registered Charity Number 1171148.

Norah & Harvir

Norah: “I feel that my life has become richer since I have a befriender. It becomes richer the more people you know, and are in touch with, and it widens your horizons. I feel better having contact with other people, everyone needs that. It is nice to be interested in others, and have someone else who is interested in you.”

Harvir: “Norah has not only given me amazing friendship these past few months but has shared wisdom, knowledge and compassion in such a unique way. I'm really lucky to have become friends with Norah.”

Norah: “It clicked so easily with him, he is so easy to be with. I was a bit nervous at first, what if I didn't have anything in common with a younger man? But Harvir is lovely. I feel he is not just doing this out of duty, but a true friendship developed between us.”

b:friend

A message from our CEO

As I reflect on the past year at b:friend, I can't help but feel incredibly proud of what we've achieved together. Taking the reins as CEO in 2022 from Mike, b:friend's founder, has been quite the journey, and I've loved every minute of it.

This incredibly passionate and creative team have been a real pleasure to get to know and I'm in awe of them for their tireless commitment to the cause. I've met so many volunteers who are the backbone of our organisation, dedicating their time and energy to building connections and fostering friendships. Their kindness has made a world of difference in our community, and I'm endlessly grateful for their dedication.

Getting to know our older neighbours over countless cups of tea has been a real privilege. Hearing their stories has really brought home the profound impact of b:friend. It's also opened my eyes to the societal issues they face – from loneliness and isolation to health challenges and beyond.

Stories are what b:friend is built on. Some of them are included in this report, along with a handful of stats and updates that hopefully give you an idea of what we've been up to and the successes and challenges that the last year has presented.

I want to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has been a part of our journey this past year – our volunteers, staff, supporters, and partners. Your generosity and support have been invaluable, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to work alongside each and every one of you. Here's to another year of friendship, connection, and positive change.

Cheers,

C. Bunker

Colette Bunker, Chief Executive Officer of b:friend

Vision Mission Values

Vision

At b:friend, our vision is a world where all older neighbours can connect, laugh and inspire others every day.

Loneliness sucks, and we want to help end it. For older people, loneliness is something that doesn't happen overnight, it creeps up on you. It's influenced by life events such as deteriorating health, decreased mobility and the passing away of partners and friends. Having no family close by and having to stop driving (from health or confidence issues) can also lead to an older person spending more time alone in their home. 42% of people over 65 live alone. This is set to rise to over 50% by 2041 (ONS data).

Loneliness can lead to depression, coronary disease, weaker immune systems and dementia – it's as bad for your health as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. Not only do we want older people to live longer and healthier lives, we want them to have fun! So we don't take life too seriously and we make sure to challenge stereotypes when it comes to ageing. We also believe that society is missing out on the stories and experiences that older people have to offer. Reconnecting isolated people with their community can lead to younger generations gaining insights and wisdom from their older neighbours.

b:friend

Vision Mission Values

Mission

Our mission? To facilitate meaningful friendships and enjoyable connections between people and communities

We want to reignite that spark of joy in older people that they may have lost along the way, something that only true friendships can do. So we're not time-limited and we never charge for friendship. That way, both older neighbours and befrienders know that their connection is genuine and long lasting. Real friendship and social connection can create a sense of self-worth, build confidence and resilience and improve mental and physical wellbeing. In many cases, friendship really can save lives.

Values

Our values are at the heart of everything we do.

We are...

b:friend

FUN

No two weeks are the same with b:friend. We celebrate later years and we know from experience that being old in body doesn't mean being old in mindset. Mental wellbeing is our priority, having something to look forward to and having a good old giggle should be something everyone can enjoy.

BOLD

We challenge the stigma around ageing; bingo is banned at b:friend. We'd much rather be cheerleading, boxing or exploring exotic cultures. We never sit still, we are constantly thinking up new, innovative ideas and ways of making older people's lives richer.

DOWN-TO-EARTH

We are firmly rooted in the local community and everything we do is with a strong sense of place. Being led by our community anchors us to our purpose. You'll see no fancy business speak here, we say what we mean and we mean what we say.

EMBRACING

Friendship is for everyone and everyone is welcome at b:friend. We strive to break down divisions created by age, heritage, digital skills and social norms and make sure people feel comfortable to be themselves.

PASSIONATE

The cause drives us and we believe in it whole heartedly. We always have the voice and the best interests of our older neighbours in mind, but you'll never hear us use the word 'beneficiary'. Our older neighbours give as much joy and value back to their befrienders and their communities as they receive.

WHAT WE DO

A year in numbers

by the end of FY 22/23 we have delivered...

34,440 Volunteering hours

11 Social Clubs benefiting

169 older neighbours per week

528 Social Club sessions where no two weeks are the same (that's over 1000 hours of laughter yoga, ballet, neurobics, mandala art, murder mysteries, drumming, boxing, curling and armchair travels to Croatia, Egypt and Hungary...plus hundreds more fun sessions!)

694 Active friendships (That's over **36,000** cuppas!)

2,619 Friendships created since inception

181 New pairings

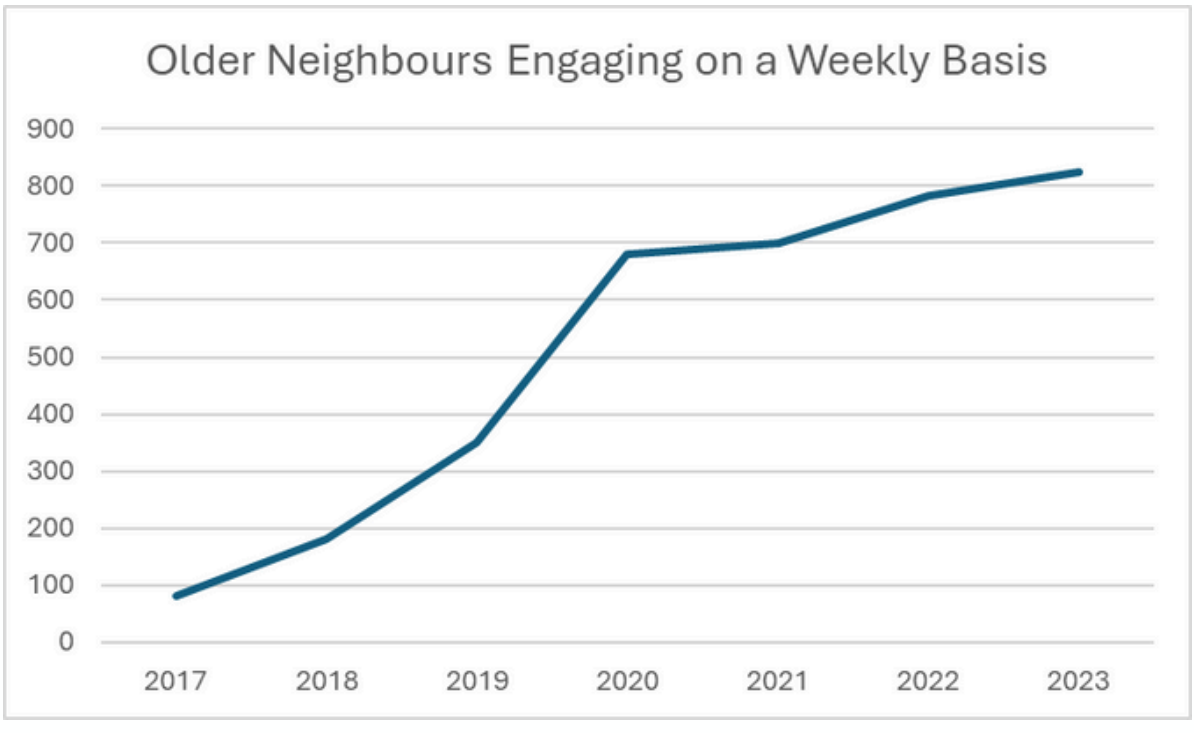
b:friend

WHAT WE DO

A year in numbers

825 older neighbours engaging on a weekly basis

2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
80	180	350	680	700	782	825



b:friend

Our focus for 22/23

Our strategic focus for 22/23 was two-fold:

1 Futureproofing Infrastructure

B:friend has grown year on year in terms of both turnover and number of people supported. This year our focus was to ensure that all our systems, processes, policies and procedures were robust and fit for purpose as we grow. We have focused on safeguarding in particular through new training, policies and processes and set ourselves a target to appropriately respond to all serious incidents within one working day. We have also made changes to our team roles and structure in order to create capacity for growth.

2 Service Design

B:friend has a focused offering; one to one friendships and Social Clubs. Because of this simplicity, we have the capacity to really master our approach to creating community connection. This year we spent time as an organisation distilling down our 'recipes for success' as well as experimenting with different delivery models such as volunteer-led Social Clubs, online Social Clubs and blended telephone/face to face befriending to ensure we remain flexible and can adapt to differing needs. Our focus on service design also included the formation of our 'Friends of b:friend' consultation group to guide us in our work and keep us focused on our ultimate goals. We have also put new impact measurement processes in place in order to become more evidence based and data-driven as an organisation.

HIGHLIGHTS

Expansion

A hugely successful partnership with Strata as their Charity of the Year, led to an incredible fundraising total of £145,000 raised by Strata's staff, suppliers, family and friends. The funds raised have helped b:friend take the first steps to expanding into the new region of Nottinghamshire, with the aim of changing the lives of 126 older neighbours in the region within the first year.

New Clubs

We identified a need and demand for a new Club in Askern, Doncaster, this year, and we also launched our first ever volunteer-led Club in Chesterfield, a model that we want to replicate in all the areas we work in to reach even more isolated people. Both Clubs have gone from strength to strength, and this means 30 more older neighbours can benefit from weekly activities and social connection. By the end of the year, we were also preparing to launch our first online Social Club, partnering with other organisations that could offer digital inclusion training and referrals.

HIGHLIGHTS

Innovative projects

We often hear from our older neighbours that they feel overlooked, ignored and invisible in their community, so a few years ago b:friend created a theatre show called 'b:heard', where we hire out a local theatre and paying audiences are regaled with tales and adventures from some of our older neighbours. This year we had a sold-out show and the stories were captured for posterity by Heritage Doncaster.

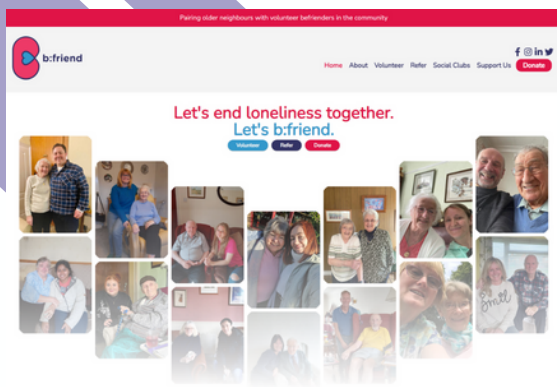
We also experimented with a project called 'b:seen', an equivalent for those with artistic skills, where we held a month long exhibition of their works in the lobby of a local theatre and held a launch party. Participants in these events said they felt valued, 'seen' and one b:heard performer said they felt like a 'rock star for the night'.

Thanks to Temasek, a corporate partner, we were also able to launch our 'buck-it' project, where older neighbours could choose to do something they never thought they would get a chance to do in later life. Outings included a glider flight 2000ft above the Peak District, a trip to Ru Paul's Drag Race Live, and afternoon tea on a London Bus.

> I had an amazing day at the Gliding Club. It was fantastic! It's been exactly 70 years since I'd flown as a schoolboy in the Air Training Corps.
>
> (John, buck-it project participant)

b:friend

HIGHLIGHTS



New Website

This year, we launched a shiny new website with the aim of providing seamless user journeys for volunteers, referrers and supporters. Thanks to input from our 'Friends of b:friend' consultation panel, we have content designed by and for older neighbours who visit our site. We also now have dynamic content where our community can keep up to date and involved with everything we're up to.

Let's party!

Another first for b:friend, thanks to funding from TNLCF: Awards for All, we could bring all 160 Social Club members together in one room to celebrate the King's Coronation.

> It's really good to have a chance to celebrate with people of your own age. There was a singer, and it is surprising how older people like to get into the swing of things. It takes years off you, really.
>
> (Older neighbour Terry about the Coronation Party)

b:friend

CHALLENGES

It hasn't all been plain sailing but we believe the work we have put in this year has, and will continue to, allow us to adapt to challenges as they occur.

Cost of living crisis

This year we have made great efforts to respond to the widescale impact of the cost of living crisis. Our Social Clubs moved beyond a place to have fun each week, and became a vital source of warmth and sustenance, especially through the winter months. We benefited from our close-knit networks in the public, private and voluntary sectors in various ways; some came along to our Social Clubs and gave talks on keeping a warm home, budgeting and how to make sure you're claiming all the benefits you're entitled to. Others we knew had services we could signpost to for the most vulnerable. Thanks to cost-of-living specific funding, in certain instances we could provide warm food and supermarket vouchers to help ease the pressure on our older neighbours. We now have a model of support that we can replicate in future years.

Fundraising Environment

We are incredibly grateful to our supporters this year, in particular our friends at Strata and all those who fundraised with them for what has been a record year for income at b:friend. That said, as we look ahead, with the increased costs that come with organisational growth and high inflation, and as the fundraising environment continues to get more competitive, sustainability has never been more important at b:friend. We want to be around sparking new friendships and community connections for many years to come, so this year, we invested in a Fundraising Manager role in order to build capacity to seek more funding and help us diversify our income streams. We now have a strategy in place for the coming years to work towards our financial sustainability in the longer term.

Falling volunteer numbers

This is a national issue and b:friend have not been immune. Volunteering take-up is lower than pre-pandemic levels and we have been working really hard to make sure people understand that befriending with us isn't your typical volunteering role. Loneliness hasn't gone away now that the pandemic has ended and it's important that we all take the time to nurture our relationships and be open to situations for new friendships to blossom. We have invested in a Communications Officer role and are experimenting with different ways of reaching people to ensure that we continue to grow our movement of kindness and friendship as the years go on. We now have a communications strategy in place that is dynamic and focuses on volunteer recruitment in order to guide us in our decision making for the coming years.

Our plans for 23/24

In the upcoming year, our focus will be on further expansion as we extend our services into Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire. Additionally, we will remain committed to enhancing our digital infrastructure and diversifying our income streams. Our efforts in South Yorkshire will proceed as usual, with an unwavering dedication to continual service enhancement and reaching out to support as many isolated older neighbours as we can. Alongside this, we will be launching innovative projects that aim to increase awareness of loneliness and isolation and shine a light on the value of older people in the community.

Delivery targets

- 24% increase in older neighbours supported
- Maintaining 85%+ improvement in older neighbour wellbeing after 6 months
- Create 42,706 volunteering hours

Income targets

- Achieve an income stream split of 75% trusts and foundations and 25% 'other' income

"I didn't have anybody until I met [my befriender] Diane. I don't know if I could have coped without her... She's my best friend."

(Older neighbour John)

b:friend

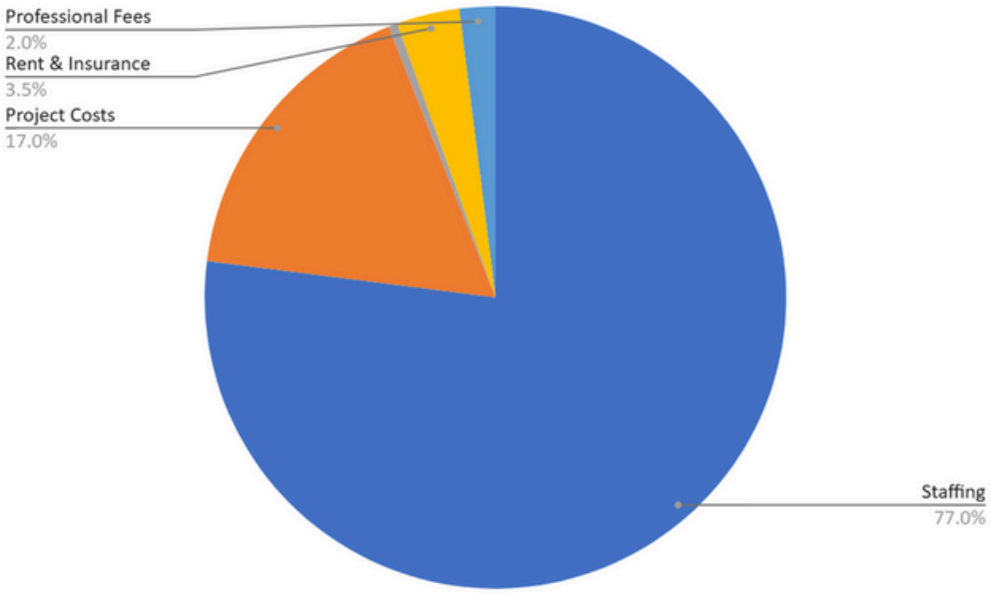
FINANCE

How we spent £1

The majority of our costs are on staffing who deliver our befriending project across the region, support volunteers and older neighbours and make local connections.

The full cost of running a weekly social club for 1 year = £5,533

The full cost of setting up a befriending pairing for 1 year = £230



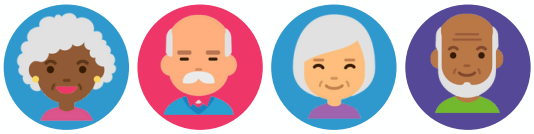
77%	Staffing	3.50%	Rent & Insurance
17%	Project Costs	0.50%	Professional fees
0.50%	Marketing		

b:friend

OUR IMPACT

From our 1:1 befriending, our impact shows there is a 66% increase in overall life satisfaction after 6 months and 92% say their life had become richer since being involved with b:friend.

Here's what our older neighbours said:



"b:friend has saved my life. I was ready to give up when I lost my husband, but now I have something to look forward to."

"It's (the befriending) been a real lift for me – it's got me wanting to keep going to the gym and other places – I feel less mixed up in my head."

"My befriender made a difference to my life, you know, because I didn't want to be here before I met her. It's changed my life.

b:friend

OUR IMPACT

Of our Social Club members:

96% Made new friendships

77% Learnt something new

74% Felt more connected to the community

54% Have become more physically active

"My doctor told me to come to the Club because I was in a bad way after my wife died, and the counselling didn't help. It's the best thing I could have done. I really enjoy it."

Our volunteers rate their befriending experience 9/10 (where 1 is poor and 10 is excellent)

"It's very much a two-way street. We get as much out of it as they do. There's a huge age gap between me and my neighbour, you might think what on earth do you have in common. I know I find it as uplifting as she does".

b:friend

CASE STUDIES

Volunteer Chris' befriending journey

Chris came to us as a volunteer to help out at our Balby Club because he was feeling lonely and wanted to get involved. As he got to know b:friend he decided to become a befriender too and now visits not one but three older neighbours, Alan, Frank and Stephen every week. Last Christmas he visited Alan on Christmas Day and Frank on Boxing Day. Chris told Karen, our Befriending Coordinator, "My week is so full now and I'm so much happier. I don't know what I did with myself before I was introduced to b:friend".

"My week is so full now and I'm so much happier. I don't know what I did with myself before I was introduced to b:friend".

John's gliding adventure

John, a former university professor, found himself feeling isolated and lonely in his later years, so we matched him with his now good friend Evelyn. John had been a keen glider as a teen and never thought he would get the chance to do it again, so as part of our 'buck-it' project we arranged a glider flight for him 2000ft above the Derbyshire Peak District. It was touch and go as to whether or not John would be able to fly - one of the criteria was to be able to get in and out of a bathtub unaided and at the time we arranged the flight, he wasn't sure he could do it. But over the weeks leading up, and with encouragement from Evelyn, John practiced every day until he had developed the strength and mobility to take that glider flight. In a Christmas card to Sara, his Befriending Coordinator, John wrote, "I have been elated about that for the rest of the year...thank you, thank you, thank you!"

"I have been elated about that for the rest of the year...thank you, thank you, thank you!"

b:friend

CASE STUDIES

Sue & Shane: a friendship across generations

Shane and Sue met through b:friend over two years ago. After Sue lost her husband and Shane's grandmother passed away, they were both looking for a meaningful connection – and found friendship in an unexpected place.

The duo quickly formed a firm friendship. They enjoyed catching up over a cuppa or going out together, and Shane even met Sue's family. Shane introduced Sue to his partner, Max, who also joined the visits. Max performs as a drag artist, and Sue has been to see his shows with Shane and loved them.

Sue said: "I was lonely you see. I'd been married for 53 years and knew my husband for 58 years and all of a sudden he was gone. So, to me I was lonely."

> "I've been 58 years really in my own little world, and I've come out of it, and it's different and it's nice."

Although Sue attended a bereavement support group and her family encouraged her to get out more, she said she felt it didn't help, so she used to stay in a lot. She said the befriending with Shaun was just what she needed: "I just needed somebody different. (...) I really enjoyed the fact it was different. It's happened to be a new life to me. I've never done this before and you know, I've been 58 years really in my own little world, and I've come out of it, and it's different and it's nice."

Shane said: "I lost one of my grandparents, I lost my Nana, and I felt like I've got a bit of a hole in my life. I saw this advert on Facebook and I thought, 'why not I'll give it a go', and I got paired with Susan. I remember coming around the first day and I expected a shy, retiring elderly, maybe watching *The Chase* on an evening, and it's certainly not what I've got! But we're very happy, aren't we? I think we suit."

b:friend

Our partners

We'd like to extend thanks to the awesome organisations that partner with our project. Their commitment to reducing isolation is significant & we're able to achieve huge impact as a result of their belief in a more connected society.

Our People: The Team

Colette Bunker,
Chief Executive Officer

Karen Booker,
Befriending Coordinator

Rayella Broomhead,
Programme Manager

Laura Coucom,
Befriending Coordinator

Sara Kopecsni,
Senior Communications Officer

Rachael Mullen,
Befriending Coordinator

Jenny Pitman,
Programme Manager

Helen Twelves,
Fundraising Manager

Maryanne Wylde,
Project Officer

b:friend

Our People:
The Board of Trustees

Simon Moxon,
Chair of the Board of Trustees

Clare Legg,
Treasurer

Becky Marlor

Matthew Lollar

Let's end loneliness together, let's b:friend!

b:friend is a charity registered in the UK with registered Charity Number 1171148.

B:FRIEND
(A charitable incorporated organisation limited by guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

CHARITY NUMBER 1171148

COMPANY NUMBER CE009648

B:FRIEND

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023.

The Management Committee presents its report and accounts for the year ended 31 October 2023.

Charity information

Management Committee

Simon Moxon	Chairsperson – Appointed April 2023
Lucy Cole	Acting Chairperson – Resigned July 2023
Tara Walker	Treasurer – Resigned March 2024
Clare Legg	Treasurer – Appointed March 2024
Louis Stokes	Non-Executive member – Resigned August 2023
Kloe Tegg	Non-Executive member – Resigned February 2023
Matthew Lollar	Non-Executive member – Appointed April 2023
Rebecca Roberts	Non-Executive member – Appointed April 2023

Charity Registration number	1171148
Charity registered office and Operational address	Unit 315 The Workstation 15 Paternoster Row Sheffield S1 2BX
Secretary	None
Independent examiner	Smith Craven (Yorkshire) Ltd Sidings House Sidings Court Doncaster DN4 5NU
Bankers	Santander UK Plc Doncaster

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document
The organisation is a charitable incorporated organisation formed on 17 January 2017 and registered as a charity.

The charity was established under a Constitution which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Constitution.

In the event of the charity being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee
The Trustees of the charity for the purposes of charity law and under the charity's Constitution are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Constitution the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

Objectives and Activities
The objectives of the charity are to promote social inclusion amongst elderly persons, in particular, but not exclusive to over 65's, resident in England and Wales and the surrounding areas who are excluded by society, by provision of:

- Befriending services through weekly outreach to individuals.

Such other ways from time to time as the trustees see fit in furtherance with said objects. B:Friend is a not-for-profit organisation.

B:Friend pairs volunteer befrienders with socially isolated older neighbours in the community with the aim of reducing loneliness by reengaging with people and places around them. Our key activities are 1:1 befriending pairings, visiting once a week for a "cuppa" and a chat. B:Friend also provides two hour social clubs, held in various locations that offer peer support through a range of physically and mentally stimulating sessions.

All activities undertaken by the charity are to benefit people in the community, be they volunteers or older neighbours, and all remain equitable with services free at the point of delivery.

Trustees ensure all activities are in accordance with the charity objects outlined in the constitution and are for the public benefit.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

Achievements and performance

- In the reporting period, the charity has created over 290 x 1:1 befriending pairings across Doncaster, Barnsley, Sheffield, Rotherham, Chesterfield, Bolsover and North East Derbyshire. In addition to this our team has supported and managed an additional 700 x 1:1 befriending pairings already in existence.
- Facilitated approximately 1008 hours of Social Club activity across the region with weekly activity, peer support and entertainment.
- Collaborated with 89 other charity and community groups, along with statutory health and social care colleagues, on wider social challenges faced across towns and cities we work in.
- Created over 32,160 volunteer hours providing community connection for our isolated older neighbours.

Financial Review

Principal Funding Sources

B:Friend was grateful to receive funding from: The National Lottery Community Fund, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, South Yorkshire Community Fund, Derbyshire Voluntary Action, Irwin Mitchell, Masonic Charitable Trust, Rank Foundation. Sheffield City Council and Voluntary Action Rotherham.

Reserve Policy

As a policy, it has always been felt prudent to maintain reserves at a level whereby at least three months expenditure, but ideally six months expenditure, could be met in the event of a significant loss of funding.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2023

Statement of Management Committee's Responsibilities

Charity law requires the Management Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the CIO as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial period. In preparing those financial statements, the Management Committee should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Management Committee is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities SORP (FRS102). The Management Committee is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Members of the Management Committee

Members of the Management Committee, who are trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 2.

In accordance with charities law, as the CIO's trustees, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant accounting information of which the charity's independent examiners are unaware; and
- as the trustees of the CIO, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant accounting information and to establish that the charity's independent examiners are aware of that information.

Approval

This report was approved by the Management Committee on 21-6-24 and signed on its behalf by:

C Legg

Clare Legg

Treasurer

B:FRIEND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees of B:Friend on the accounts for the period ended 31 October 2023 set out on pages 7 to 15

.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (''the Act'').
The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Act, and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking of explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kelvin Fitton BA FCA
For and on behalf of Smith Craven (Yorkshire) Ltd
Sidings Court
Doncaster DN4 5NU

Dated: 9/7/24

B:FRIEND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (Including Income and Expenditure Account)

YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2023

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES	3				
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and gifts		174,812	238,043	**412,855**	**304,569**
Charitable activities		-	-	-	-
Total		174,812	238,043	**412,855**	**304,569**
RESOURCES EXPENDED	4				
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		927	-	**927**	**898**
Charitable activities		99,813	152,113	**251,926**	**248,880**
Total		100,740	152,113	**252,853**	**249,777**
Transfer between funds		-	-	-	-
Net movement in funds		74,073	85,930	**160,002**	**54,791**
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		85,625	156,612	242,237	187,448
Total funds carried forward		159,698	242,542	**402,240**	**242,237**

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the period. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

B:FRIEND

BALANCE SHEET

AT 31ST OCTOBER 2023

Company No: CE009648

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	-	1,550	1,550	1,489
Total fixed assets		-	1,550	1,550	1,489
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	-	3,925	3,925	15,644
Cash at bank and in hand		159,698	305,426	465,124	296,720
Total current assets		159,698	309,351	469,049	312,364
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	9	-	68,360	68,360	71,615
Net current assets		159,698	240,991	400,689	240,749
Total assets less current liabilities		159,698	242,541	402,240	242,238
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY	10				
Restricted income funds		-	242,542	242,542	156,612
Unrestricted designated funds		145,000	-	145,000	-
Unrestricted funds		14,698	-	14,698	85,626
Total funds		159,698	242,542	402,240	242,238

Approved by the trustees on 21-6-24

Signed:

On behalf of the trustees

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2023

1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

Basis of Accounting
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherise stated in the relevant note to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)
and with the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

INCOMING RESOURCES
Recognition of incoming resources
These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Offsetting
There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Grants and donations
Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met.

Contractual income and performance related grants
This is only included in the SoFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

Gifts in kind
Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised.
Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity.
Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable

Donated services and facilities
These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £250.
They are valued at cost
The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

3 ANALYSIS OF INCOMING RESOURCES

3.1

	This year £	Last year £
Donations and Gifts		
Grants	248,252	256,309
Donations	164,603	48,260
	412,855	304,569

4 ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	This year £	Last year £
Raising funds				
Advertising	927	-	927	898
Total expenditure on raising funds	927	-	927	898
Charitable activities				
Other expenditure	99,813	152,113	251,926	248,880
Total expenditure on charitable activities	99,813	152,113	251,926	248,880
Total expenditure	100,740	152,113	252,853	249,778

5 PAID EMPLOYEES

5.1 Staff costs

	This year £	Last year £
Salaries and wages	176,343	181,508
Social security costs	10,027	11,356
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	3,718	3,209
Total staff costs	190,088	196,073

No employees received employee benefits for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

	This year	Last year
Total amount paid to key personnel	£45,760	£60,041

5.2 Average head count in the year

	This year	Last year
Officers and administration	6	6
Support workers		
CEO	1	1
Management		1
	7	8

6 DETAILS OF CERTAIN ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE

6.1 Trustee remuneration and expenses

No members of the management committee received any remuneration during the year.

£91.58 expenses were reimbursed to the management committee during the year.

6.2 Fees for examination of the accounts

	This year £	Last year £
Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	1,985	1,890
	1,985	1,890

7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Cost		Computer equipment	Total
At the beginning of the year		17,119	17,119
Additions		1,146	1,146
Disposals		-	-
At end of year		18,265	18,265
Depreciation			
	Basis Rate	Straight Line 3 years	
At the beginning of the year		15,630	15,630
Depreciation		1,084	1,084
Disposals		-	-
At end of year		16,714	16,714
Net book value			
At the beginning of the year		1,489	1,489
At end of year		1,551	1,551

8 DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

Analysis of debtors	This year	Last year
	£	£
Funding debtors	2,000	14,010
Prepayments and accrued income	1,925	1,634
Total	3,925	15,644

9 CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

Analysis of creditors	This year	Last year
	£	£
Trade Creditors	2,183	1,473
Accruals and deferred income	66,177	70,141
Taxation and social security	-	-
Total	68,360	71,614

10 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

10.1 Restricted funds held

Fund name	Purpose and restrictions
Voluntary Action Rotherham	to provide cores service provision in Rotherham
Barnsley MBC	to provide core service provision in the Dearne area
South Yorkshire Community Fund	to provide core service provision in the Mexborough area
South Yorkshire Community Fund	to provide core service provision in the Doncaster Central area
Coalfields Regeneration Trust - Barnsley South	to provide core service provision in Worsborough, Wombwell and Darfield
BOPPA	funding for physical activity sessions at the Dearne social clubs
Derbyshire Voluntary Action	to provide core service provision in Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire and Bolsover
Big Lottery Reaching Communities	to provide core service provision in Doncaster
SYCF Green	funding for outings and other activities that connect older neighbours with nature
Sheffield City Council - Covid recovery fund	to provide core service provision in Sheffield
Doncaster MBC	to provide doncaster clubs a warm place in winter
SYCF: Community Resilience A585035	sheffield befriending
SCC: East LAC	coronation celebration for sheffield social club
Talbot Trust	sheffield befriending
TNLCF: Awards for All	social group sessions
LNER	doncaster befriending
BMBC: Barnsley Better Bonds	funding for outings
Elise Pilkington	rotherham befriending
McCarthy Stone: Spring Grants	core funding
Peoples Postcode Lottery	core funding
Rank Foundation	core funding

10.2 Restricted funds summary

	Balance b/f £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfer to Unrestricted £	Balance c/f £
Doncaster MBC		4,860	2,360		2,500
Voluntary Action Rotherham	15,063				15,063
SYCF: Community Resilience A585035	4,738		4,738		-
Barnsley MBC	62,774	28,500	19,385		71,889
Big Lottery Reaching Communities	48,865	116,200	90,240		74,825
SCC: East LAC	-	395	140		255
SYCF: Cost of Living Grant (Sheffield)	-	6,825	885		5,940
SYCF: Tween Bridge Wind Farm Community	-	4,900	2,343		2,557
Talbot Trust	-	2,500	773		1,727
TNLCF: Awards for All	-	9,991	5,018		4,973
BMBC: Barnsley Better Bonds	-	500	166		334
Coalfields Regeneration Trust - Barnsley South	5,820				5,820
BOPPA	500		148		353
Derbyshire Voluntary Action - Feeling Connected	4,030				4,030
Sheffield City Council - Covid Recovery Fund	10,774		1,717		9,057
SYCF Green	4,050	9,086	3,019		10,117
Elise Pilkington		6,000	2,897		3,103
McCarthy Stone: Spring Grants		5,000			5,000
Peoples Postcode Lottery		25,000			25,000
Rank Foundation		18,286	18,286		-
Total	156,612	238,043	152,113	-	242,542

10.3 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	1,550	1,550
Current assets	159,698	309,351	469,049
Current liabilities	-	(68,360)	(68,360)
Net assets at 31 October 2023	159,698	242,542	402,240

11 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the period.

B:FRIEND

England & Wales - Charity number 1171148

Accounts

B:FRIEND
(A charitable incorporated organisation limited by guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022

CHARITY NUMBER 1171148

COMPANY NUMBER CE009648

B:FRIEND

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022

The Management Committee presents its report and accounts for the year ended 31 October 2022.

Charity information

Management Committee

Lucy Cole	Acting Chairperson
Tara Walker	Treasurer
Louis Stokes	Non-Executive member
Daniel Burton	Chairperson – Resigned October 2022
Geraint Evans	Non-Executive member – Resigned April 2022
Kloe Tegg	Non-Executive member – Resigned February 2023
Charlotte Cremers	Non-Executive member – Appointed April 2023
Matthew Lollar	Non-Executive member – Appointed April 2023
Rebecca Roberts	Non-Executive member – Appointed April 2023
Simon Moxon	Non-Executive member – Appointed April 2023
Charity Registration number	1171148
Charity registered office and Operational address	Unit 315 The Workstation 15 Paternoster Row Sheffield S1 2BX
Secretary	None
Independent examiner	Smith Craven (Yorkshire) Ltd Sidings House Sidings Court Doncaster DN4 5NU
Bankers	Santander UK Plc Doncaster

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document

The organisation is a charitable incorporated organisation formed on 17 January 2017 and registered as a charity.

The charity was established under a Constitution which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Constitution.

In the event of the charity being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee

The Trustees of the charity for the purposes of charity law and under the charity's Constitution are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Constitution the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

Objectives and Activities

The objectives of the charity are to promote social inclusion amongst elderly persons, in particular, but not exclusive to over 65's, resident in England and Wales and the surrounding areas who are excluded by society, by provision of:

- Befriending services through weekly outreach to individuals.

Such other ways from time to time as the trustees see fit in furtherance with said objects. B:Friend is a not-for-profit organisation.

B:Friend pairs volunteer befrienders with socially isolated older neighbours in the community with the aim of reducing loneliness by reengaging with people and places around them. Our key activities are 1:1 befriending pairings, visiting once a week for a "cuppa" and a chat. B:Friend also provides two hour social clubs, held in various locations that offer peer support through a range of physically and mentally stimulating sessions.

All activities undertaken by the charity are to benefit people in the community, be they volunteers or older neighbours, and all remain equitable with services free at the point of delivery.

Trustees ensure all activities are in accordance with the charity objects outlined in the constitution and are for the public benefit.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022

Achievements and performance

- In the reporting period, the charity has created over 290 x 1:1 befriending pairings across Doncaster, Barnsley, Sheffield, Rotherham, Chesterfield, Bolsover and North East Derbyshire. In addition to this our team has supported and managed an additional 700 x 1:1 befriending pairings already in existence.
- Facilitated approximately 1008 hours of Social Club activity across the region with weekly activity, peer support and entertainment.
- Collaborated with 89 other charity and community groups, along with statutory health and social care colleagues, on wider social challenges faced across towns and cities we work in.
- Created over 32,160 volunteer hours providing community connection for our isolated older neighbours.

Financial Review

Principal Funding Sources

B:Friend was grateful to receive funding from: The National Lottery Community Fund, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, South Yorkshire Community Fund, Derbyshire Voluntary Action, Irwin Mitchell, Masonic Charitable Trust, Rank Foundation. Sheffield City Council and Voluntary Action Rotherham.

Reserve Policy

As a policy, it has always been felt prudent to maintain reserves at a level whereby at least three months expenditure, but ideally six months expenditure, could be met in the event of a significant loss of funding.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2022

Statement of Management Committee's Responsibilities

Charity law requires the Management Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the CIO as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial period. In preparing those financial statements, the Management Committee should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Management Committee is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities SORP (FRS102). The Management Committee is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Members of the Management Committee

Members of the Management Committee, who are trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 2.

In accordance with charities law, as the CIO's trustees, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant accounting information of which the charity's independent examiners are unaware; and
- as the trustees of the CIO, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant accounting information and to establish that the charity's independent examiners are aware of that information.

Approval
This report was approved by the Management Committee on 4 Aug '23 and signed on its behalf by:

T. Q

Tara Walker

Treasurer

B:FRIEND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees of B:Friend on the accounts for the period ended 31 October 2022 set out on pages 7 to 15

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (''the Act'').
The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Act, and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking of explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kelvin Fitton BA FCA
For and on behalf of Smith Craven (Yorkshire) Ltd
Chartered Accountants
Sidings Court
Doncaster DN4 5NU

Dated: 26/7/23

B:FRIEND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including Income and Expenditure Account)

YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2022

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES	3				
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and gifts		90,811	213,758	**304,569**	**210,989**
Charitable activities		-	-	-	-
Total		90,811	213,758	**304,569**	**210,989**
RESOURCES EXPENDED	4				
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		469	429	**898**	**5,147**
Charitable activities		102,798	145,665	**248,463**	**165,955**
Total		103,267	146,094	**249,361**	**171,101**
Transfer between funds		25,914	(25,914)	-	-
Net movement in funds		13,458	41,750	**55,208**	**39,887**
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		72,584	114,862	187,446	147,561
Total funds carried forward		86,042	156,612	**242,654**	**187,446**

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the period. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

B:FRIEND

BALANCE SHEET

AT 31ST OCTOBER 2022

Company No: CE009648

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	7	-	1,489	1,489	2,802
Total fixed assets		-	1,489	1,489	2,802
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	8	-	16,060	16,060	7,813
Cash at bank and in hand		86,042	210,678	296,720	230,242
Total current assets		86,042	226,738	312,780	238,055
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	9	-	71,615	71,615	53,411
Net current assets		86,042	155,123	241,165	184,644
Total assets less current liabilities		86,042	156,612	242,654	187,446
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY	10				
Restricted income funds		-	156,612	156,612	114,862
Unrestricted funds		86,042	-	86,042	72,584
Total funds		86,042	156,612	242,654	187,446

Approved by the trustees on 4 August 2023

Signed: T. CRO

On behalf of the trustees

1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

Basis of Accounting
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherise stated in the relevant note to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)
and with the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

INCOMING RESOURCES
Recognition of incoming resources
These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Offsetting
There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Grants and donations
Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met.

Contractual income and performance related grants
This is only included in the SoFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

Gifts in kind
Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised.
Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity.
Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable

Donated services and facilities
These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £250.
They are valued at cost
The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

3 ANALYSIS OF INCOMING RESOURCES

3.1

	This year £	Last year £
Donations and Gifts		
Grants	256,307	194,667
Donations	48,262	16,322
	304,569	210,989

4 ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	This year £	Last year £
Raising funds				
Advertising	469	428	898	5,147
Total expenditure on raising funds	469	428	898	5,147
Charitable activities				
Other expenditure	102,798	145,665	248,463	165,955
Total expenditure on charitable activities	102,798	145,665	248,463	165,955
Total expenditure	103,267	146,093	249,361	171,102

5 PAID EMPLOYEES

5.1 Staff costs

	This year £	Last year £
Salaries and wages	181,508	122,441
Social security costs	11,356	6,131
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	3,209	2,485
Total staff costs	196,073	131,057

No employees received employee benefits for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

	This year	Last year
Total amount paid to key personnel	£60,041	£32,278

5.2 Average head count in the year

	This year	Last year
Officers and administration	6	4
Support workers		2
CEO	1	
Management	1	
	8	6

6 DETAILS OF CERTAIN ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE

6.1 Trustee remuneration and expenses

No members of the management committee received any remuneration during the year.

£91.58 expenses were reimbursed to the management committee during the year.

6.2 Fees for examination of the accounts

	This year £	Last year £
Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	1,890	1,800
	1,890	1,800

7 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Cost		Computer equipment	Total
At the beginning of the year		17,119	17,119
Additions		-	-
Disposals		-	-
At end of year		17,119	17,119
Depreciation			
	Basis Rate	Straight Line 3 years	
At the beginning of the year		14,317	14,317
Depreciation		1,313	1,313
Disposals		-	-
At end of year		15,630	15,630
Net book value			
At the beginning of the year		2,802	2,802
At end of year		1,489	1,489

8 DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

Analysis of debtors	This year £	Last year £
Funding debtors	14,010	6,229
Prepayments and accrued income	2,050	1,584
Total	16,060	7,813

9 CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

Analysis of creditors	This year £	Last year £
Trade Creditors	1,473	982
Accruals and deferred income	70,141	52,429
Taxation and social security	-	-
Total	71,615	53,411

10 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

10.1 Restricted funds held

Fund name	Purpose and restrictions
Voluntary Action Rotherham	to provide cores service provision in Rotherham
Barnsley MBC	to provide core service provision in the Dearne area
South Yorkshire Community Fund	to provide core service provision in the Mexborough area
South Yorkshire Community Fund	to provide core service provision in the Doncaster Central area
Coalfields Regeneration Trust - Barnsley South	to provide core service provision in Worsborough, Wombwell and Darfield
BOPPA	funding for physical activity sessions at the Dearne social clubs
Derbyshire Voluntary Action	to provide core service provision in Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire and Bolsover
Big Lottery Building Connectionss	to provide core service provision in the South Yorkshire area
Big Lottery Reaching Communities	to provide core service provision in Doncaster
SYCF Green	funding for outings and other activities that connect older neighbours with nature
SYCF Tween Bridge Wind Farm	to provide transport for members to attend the Thorne social club
Sheffield City Council - Covid recovery fund	to provide core service provision in Sheffield

10.2 Restricted funds summary

	Balance b/f £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfer to Unrestricted £	Balance c/f £
Doncaster MBC	9,479	-	-	9,479	-
Voluntary Action Rotherham	6,668	25,776	17,382	-	15,063
SYCF: Community Resilience A585035	7,386	14,767	17,415	-	4,738
Barnsley MBC	50,275	30,096	17,596	-	62,774
Big Lottery Reaching Communities	20,790	114,072	85,997	-	48,865
Masonic Charitable Trust	6,919	-	-	6,919	-
Voluntary Action Doncaster (VAD) micro - Book Club	403	-	-	403	-
Charles Hayward Foundation	3,000	-	-	3,000	-
Cleaves & Whitehead Foundation	2,000	-	-	2,000	-
WG Edwards Trust	1,500	-	-	1,500	-
Yorkshire Building Society	2,000	-	-	2,000	-
Virgin Money Giving - Together project	614	-	-	614	-
Coalfields Regeneration Trust - Barnsley South	3,830	1,990	-	-	5,820
BOPPA	-	500	-	-	500
Derbyshire Voluntary Action - Feeling Connected	-	4,030	-	-	4,030
Sheffield City Council - Covid Recovery Fund	-	14,352	3,578	-	10,774
SYCF Green	-	8,175	4,125	-	4,050
Total	114,864	213,758	146,093	25,914	156,612

10.3 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	1,489	1,489
Current assets	86,042	226,738	312,363
Current liabilities	-	71,615	71,615
Net assets at 31 October 2022	86,042	156,612	242,238

11 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the period.

B:FRIEND

England & Wales - Charity number 1171148

Accounts

2020 - 2021

B:FRIEND

ANNUAL REPORT

Annual Report 2020-2021

ABOUT B:FRIEND

DELIVERY FIGURES

Cover the period of January 1st 2021 – December 31st 2021

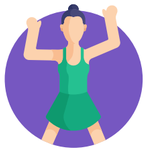
FINANCIAL FIGURES

Cover our accounting year November 1st 2020 – October 31st 2021

No one should have no one

I've been coming here for over 3 years and I've enjoyed every minute of it. I lost Eric, my husband, and felt that down so I needed to join a club. My friend Jo told me about b:friend and brought me to the club and it's been great. I like coming to be with people so I look forward to Wednesday because I can get out of the house and mix with everybody. Everybody's friendly here

FREDA



QUICK FACT

LAST YEAR WE HOSTED OVER 768-HOURS OF GROUP SOCIAL CLUB ACTIVITY

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MESSAGE FROM OUR CEO

So much has been happening beyond our control, domestically and internationally, to influence our lives. We've all experienced relative powerlessness over the last year. Something we do control is our time. What we choose to do with it and with whom we choose to spend it.

It continues to inspire knowing so many people choose to spend an hour a week with an older neighbour nearby. They feel the strength gained from connection. That we all derive our happiness from others.

Our awesome staff team continue to support incredible volunteers across our region to create meaningful improvement for isolated people living in our communities. We can only include a few stats and stories in this report but there are hundreds more like them. They demonstrate that we are not powerless and change is just a cuppa away.

This last year has shown that, despite everything we read in the news, there's a lot more good happening just around the corner if we're interested in seeing it.

MIKE NILES
FOUNDER

OUR MISSION & VALUES

I wouldn't be without befriending I really wouldn't. It's changed my life

Reducing social isolation for older people and younger people alike by creating opportunities for community togetherness

Improving well-being through local connections to ensure older people have the confidence, self-worth and agency to reconnect with the people and places around them

I don't know where I'd be without this club you know? I really love it

Bringing people together to dilute division created by age, heritage, digital skills and attitudinal divides

ORGANISATION

b:friend is a Yorkshire charity, founded in January 2017, that pairs volunteer befrienders with socially isolated older neighbours in the community with the aim of reducing social isolation and re-engaging individuals with the people and places around them. At the core of our model people in the community are taking the lead to make real improvements for local people. By popping in once a week for a cuppa and a chat, 1:1 befrienders provide companionship to people that may not speak to another person all week or longer. This low-level preventative measure is vital early action transforming the lives of socially isolated older neighbours. All befrienders received an Enhanced DBS background check, training and two accompanied visits to their assigned older neighbour with a member of the b:friend team.

VALUES

No one should have no one. We believe in facilitating meaningful community connections to transform an individual's value of themselves, reduce their feeling of loneliness and enable them to build resilience in later life.

OUR THOUGHTS

Befriending is not a new concept, and we've never claimed to have cornered the market when it comes to reducing social isolation, but we've been overwhelmed by the uptake of this project in South Yorkshire & Derbyshire. On a daily basis, older neighbours and befrienders alike approach us to explain how this project has completely changed their lives. We were sceptical at fir t. We know it has impact but 'life changing' is something we weren't initially willing to accept given the once-a-week nature of the volunteering. But it changes a psyche: from monotonous solitude to knowing that someone cares, someone visits and they do it without recompense because they want to.

FAMILY QUOTE...

"MY MUM ATTENDED THE SOCIAL CLUB FOR THE FIRST TIME. SHE COULDN'T STOP TALKING ABOUT HOW MUCH SHE ENJOYED IT. SHE LOVED THE ACTIVITIES WHICH IS GOOD BECAUSE SHE HAD SPENT MONTHS IN FRONT OF THE TV." STEPH

QUICK FACT

70% OF OLDER NEIGHBOURS WE SUPPORT ARE OVER THE AGE OF 80

These clubs are as good as medication you know. They're just as important. More important!

PAT
NEIGHBOUR, DONCASTER

WHAT WE DO

BEFRIENDING

It's all about spending time together having auppa & chat each week. It's face-to-face, local and people become friends rather than volunteers.

Our model:

- A good match isn't just about shared interests
- People feel safe & can 'be themselves'
- No such thing as the 'Perfect Pairing'
- Promote power symmetry
- Opportunities for neighbours to demonstrate their skills & value
- Establish clear boundaries
- Aim for positive endings: onward referral or repair

SOCIAL CLUBS

Group connection is a key strand of our intervention. All sessions are unique and each week is different. All activity is rooted in theory but is fun.

Our model:

- Focused on the Five Ways to Wellbeing
- Members feel safe & can 'be themselves'
- Promote shared identity & what people have in common
- Activities are fun & purposeful
- Opportunities for members to demonstrate their skills & value
- Actively encourage co-designed sessions
- Anti-ageism Zone: acceptance of everyone

DID YOU KNOW...

AS A RESULT OF THE PANDEMIC WE'VE INCREASED ACCESSIBILITY TO OUR PROJECT ADDING TELEPHONE BEFRIENDING, BOOK CLUB, WALKING GROUPS

QUICK FACT

WE POURED OVER 3,072 LITRES OF TEA/COFFEE LAST YEAR. THAT'S EQUAL TO THE VOLUME OF WINE PRODUCED BY A A MEDIUM SIZED VINEYARD

I spent a lot of my time as a kid with older, retired neighbours who became like adopted grandparents, even best friends! I learned a lot from them that made me who I am today. Because of the work that b:friend do, I now get to spend time with my older friend Pamela and even better, so do my kids! Both Pamela and I benefit greatly from our friendship. Life is richer for the diversity of age and life experience. If you have some spare time, I encourage you to consider getting involved

MATTHEW

BEFRIENDER, SHEFFIELD

OUR PARTNERS

We'd like to extend thanks to the awesome organisations that partner with our project. Their commitment to reducing isolation is significant & we're able to achieve huge impact as a result of their belief in a more connected society.

This Club gives me something to get out of bed for

It is life changing. I wasn't going out & now if the weather is nice we go for a little walk

THE NATIONAL LOTTERY COMMUNITY FUND

DEARNE AREA COUNCIL (BMBC)

MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION

LNER London North Eastern Railway

Voluntary Action Rotherham

NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group

strata

ARGENTO

the coalfields regeneration trust

CAF Charities Aid Foundation

Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council

e·on

SWC The Scurrah Wainwright Charity

Derbyshire County Council

OUR 1:1 BEFRIENDING

In the last 12-months, we've created over 300 new befriending pairings connecting people locally for weekly social interaction. Birthday meals out, day-trips to the seaside or just a quiet cuppa... these meaningful meet-ups have a huge impact.

305 Befriending pairings made

873 Total number of older neighbours connected

15,600 Hours of one-to-one connection

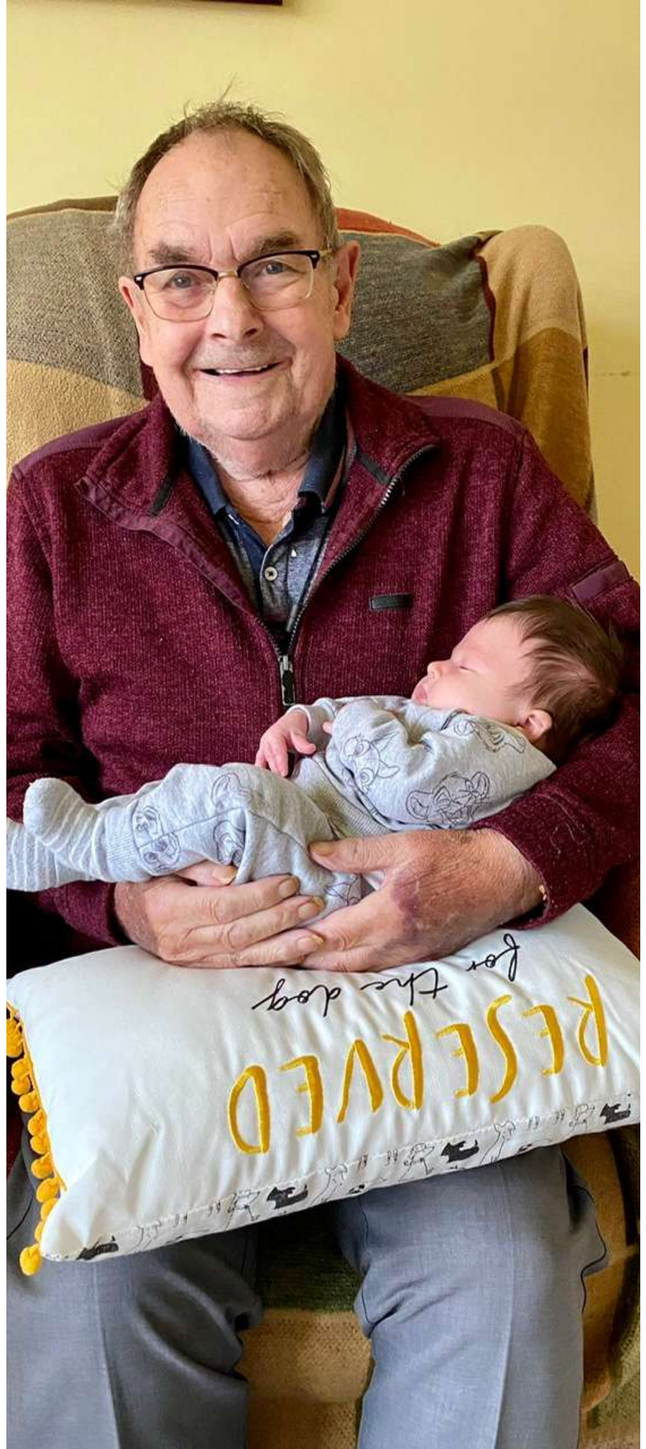
182 Social bundles created & delivered

576 New older & younger neighbours joined the project

4 years is our longest pairing

64 Partner organisations worked with

712 Active befriending connections

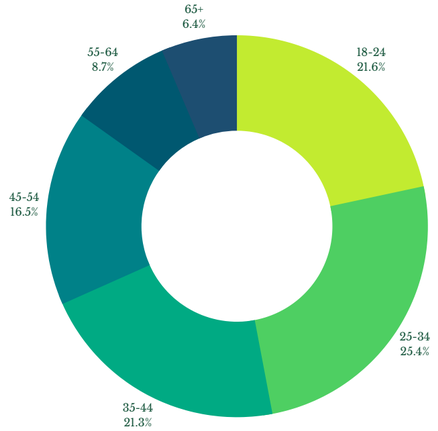

RESERVED
for the dog

USG
UNION STANDARD GROUP

BEFRIENDING IN ACTION

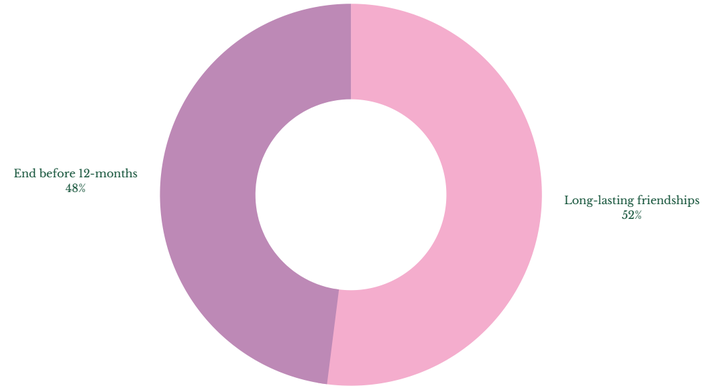
AGE GROUPS OF BEFRIENDERS

Our befrienders give an hour a week to connect with an isolated neighbour nearby. Over 68% of volunteers are under the age of 45 and around 6% of volunteers are themselves aged 65+.



LEGACY PAIRINGS

Over half of all one-to-one community connections made continue beyond 12-months. These become self-sufficient friendships, many of which continue for many years.



LISA & MURIEL

Muriel says befriending has made such a difference to her as it's given her a new friend & something to look forward to each week. Muriel admits that she is quite a shy person & wasn't sure if this would work but she is so glad she gave it a chance.

Muriel: "She's nearly 40 & I'm 86 & it's a lovely relationship we've got. She's so genuine & it really has made a difference to me."

Lisa: "We have a bit of a routine now and we go to the cemetery each week to see her husband & I know this really makes her happy."

HERBERT & MALC

Malc (right) decided he would like to volunteer and support someone in his community as he has found the 1:1 support he received incredibly beneficial. After experiencing bereavement he was paired with befriender Hayley in 2020.

Malc: "b:friend is brilliant! I wouldn't be without Hayley, b:friend has done so much to help me I just wanna give something back."

Malc has stated that he is feeling better about himself now as he is getting out and doing things for both himself and others.

NEIGHBOUR QUOTE...

"THE MOMENT I MET HER IT JUST CLICKED. SHE'S A YOUNG WOMAN BUT I'VE ALWAYS HAD A YOUNG MIND. IT'S NEVER BORING." BARBARA

QUICK FACT

92% OF OLDER NEIGHBOURS PAIRED TELL US THEY'RE PLEASED WITH THE PROJECT & RECORDED A 40% RISE IN WELLBEING WHEN SURVEYED

It's been a lifeline for me. Every meeting is different & enjoyable. b:friend has made me feel better about myself & given me some confidence back

SANDRA
NEIGHBOUR, DONCASTER

OUR SOCIAL CLUBS

In the last 12-months, we've hosted almost 770-hours of weekly community group sessions welcoming approx. 130 neighbours. No two sessions are ever the same & are all rooted in wellbeing theory. Most importantly, they're great fun!

384 Social Club sessions delivered

360 session in a bag clubs at home

27 awesome Social Club volunteers

180 telephone social club sessions

768 hours of community group activity sessions

9 weekly Social Club sessions

55 unique activity sessions throughout the year

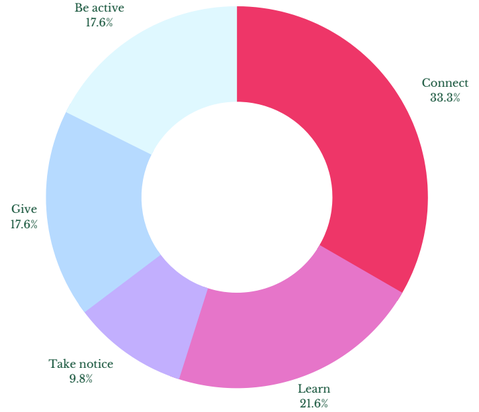
11,520 cups of tea/coffee made at club sessions

OUR SOCIAL CLUBS

Bingo & dominoes is fine... but this social group takes things to a different level

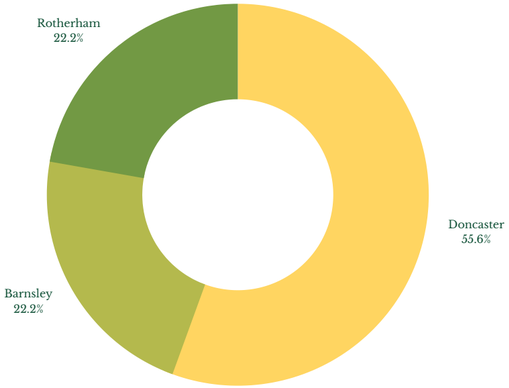
PRIMARY FOCUS OF SESSIONS

Each of our 384 annual Social Club sessions are based on the Five Ways to Wellbeing model. Each has a primary focus but many sessions achieve multiple outcomes. This is the breakdown based on primary objectives.



LOCATIONS

We host 9-weekly Social Clubs in community venues across South Yorkshire. Two clubs in Sheffield closed in 2021 but we have plans plans to launch two new weekly groups in Sheffield next year.



Fiction A-Z
KEN
KEVIN
LINDA
DIANE
MARGARET
Merry Christmas

ROSES

RITA

After losing her husband, Ted, Rita became very socially isolated. They had always socialised as a couple so she was not used to doing things on her own & found it quite daunting. During the lockdowns Rita joined telephone social calls & sent every single person a birthday card. These were people she didn't know a year ago but now counts as her friends.

Rita: "I was ready for bolting that first time I came but do you know I'm so glad I stayed. I love that club, it's brilliant. I hate to miss it. I didn't have confidence but those girls at the club have made me brave."

GRAHAM

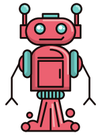
Graham joined the Balby Social Club having recently moved to the area. He came to the club looking lost & was quiet. At the end he would thank staff for making him happy & he always said this with tears in his eyes.

Recently Graham offered to do a spot of gardening for another member of the club & has signed up as a volunteer befriender to support someone else.

He recently told us he can't believe how happy he feels now. He believed he had reached rock bottom but everyone at the Social Club had made him enjoy life again.

FAMILY QUOTE...

"THANKS TO THIS LOVELY GROUP MY MUM HAS STARTED TO LOOK FORWARD TO GOING OUT OF THE HOUSE AGAIN. SHE SAID TODAY WAS GREAT FUN" – RITA'S SON



QUICK FACT

THIS YEAR'S SESSIONS INCLUDED: STREET DANCE, ARMCHAIR TRAVELS, YOGA, BOAT RACING, ROBOT WARS, DESERT ISLAND DISCO & MUCH MORE

SURVEY & EVALUATION

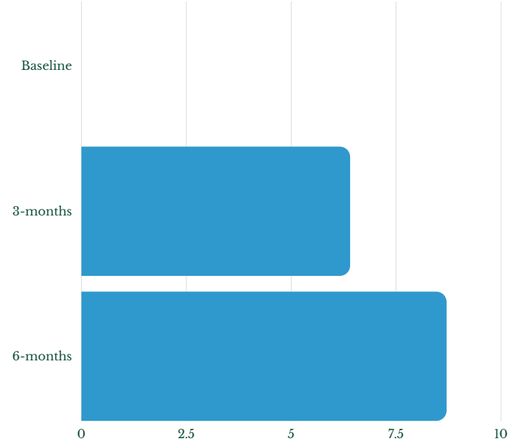
FOR EVERY £1 INVESTED IN B:FRIEND THE SOCIAL VALUE ADDED IS

£10.12

figure based on 12-month period

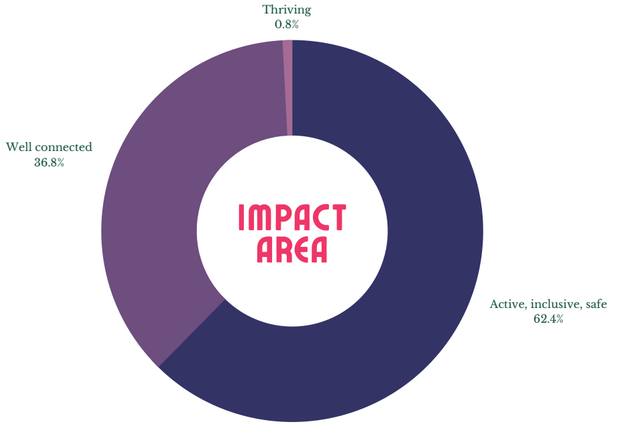
WELLBEING SURVEYS

By conducting the Warwick-Edinburgh Wellbeing scale surveys at clear intervals we can identify an upward trajectory in self-determined wellbeing in the six-months after b:friend intervention. From 0 score at baseline we show improvement over time



SOCIAL VALUE IMPACT

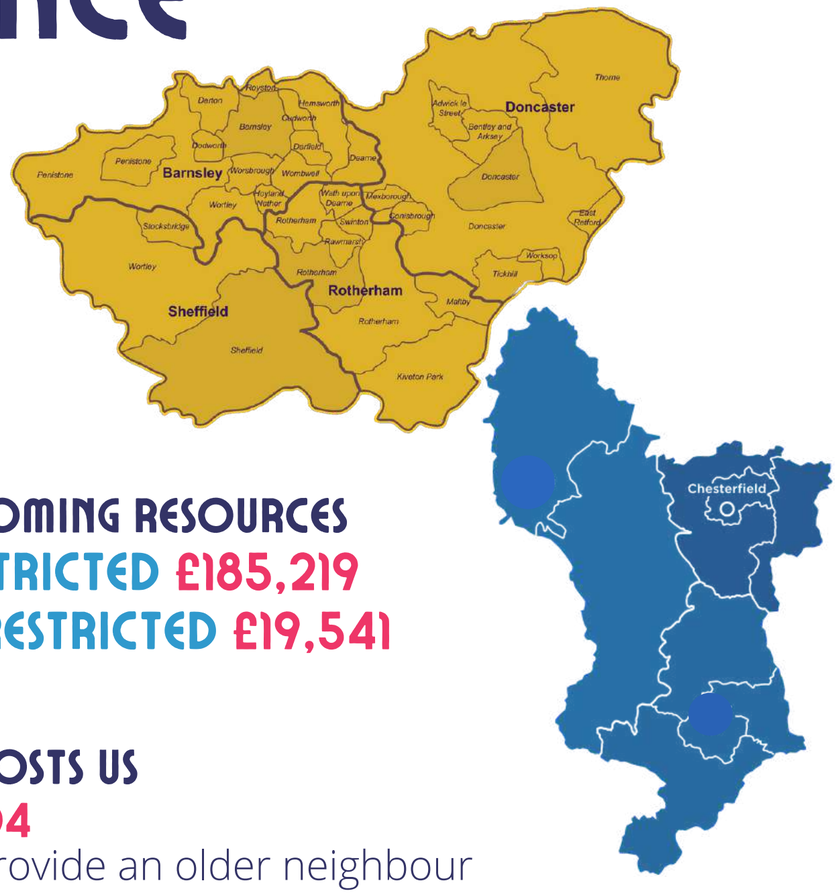
The Bristol Accord sets out eight characteristics of a sustainable community. Our project focuses on adding social value in a number of impact areas to build stronger communities



GUYLIAN
Belgian Chocolates
The Original

Face Shield

FINANCE



INCOMING RESOURCES

RESTRICTED £185,219

UNRESTRICTED £19,541

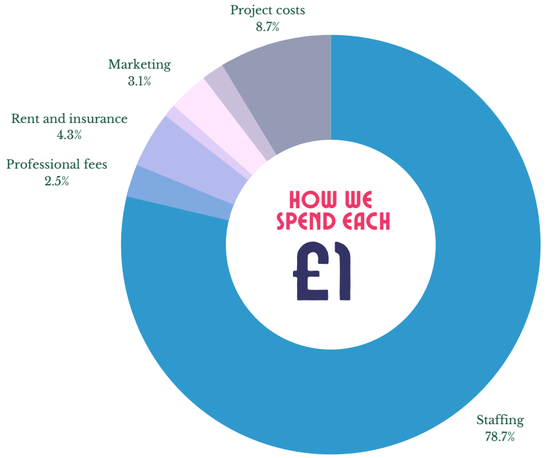
IT COSTS US

£204

to provide an older neighbour with weekly social connection for a whole year

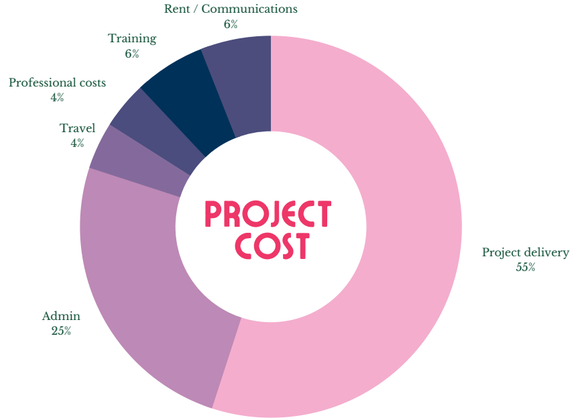
BREAKDOWN OF SPEND

Each of our 384 annual Social Club sessions are based on the Five Ways to Wellbeing model. Each has a primary focus but many sessions achieve multiple outcomes. This is the breakdown based on primary objectives.



BREAKING DOWN OUR COSTS

The majority of our expenditure is on salaries. This enables us to deliver the project across our region along with the dedicated staff resource for documentation, training & travel.



OUR PEOPLE

MARYANNE

KAREN

ZUBAIR

RAYELLA

JENNY

TRACEY

SARA

OUR TRUSTEE & ADVISORY BOARD Daniel Burton (Chair); Lucy Cole (Vice-chair); Louis Stokes; Tara Walker (Treasurer); Geraint Evans; Kloe Tegg

OUR PLEDGES

To make sure our project is inclusive & representative now & in future, we commit to proactively ensuring:

- All social media includes image descriptions for visually impaired
- Effective signposting & referral between agencies
- Bring people together who do not normally interact, such as intercultural encounters
- Proactively tackle discrimination
- Increase shared-identity social support groups (SSG)
- Buffering any external hostile context & actively myth busting
- All online & offline marketing optimised for accessibility
- Creating safe, authentic, reciprocal social experiences
- Promoting cultural appreciation

1

Strive relentlessly to be an inclusive organisation

We will never discriminate against any persons and pledge to deliver benefit to all people in the communities we support. Our inclusivity pledge:

- Regularly review representation on staff and Board teams
- Ensure all projects are adapted to be accessible to all individuals
- Always review volunteer and beneficiary demographics and pro-actively attempt to reach under-represented communities
- Regularly improve our knowledge of inclusive approaches

2

Champion good mental health by providing access to staff & volunteers

All staff and volunteers can access free CBT counselling. Our mental health pledge:

- Offer no questions access to 24/7 counselling service
- In-person or telephone access 365 days of the year
- Always anonymous, always free
- Additional training opportunities sourced

3

Pay the UK Living Wage to all staff

Our living wage pledge:

- Always review salaries annually
- Always pay UK Living Wage (outside London)
- Always endeavour to increase salary annually in-line with inflation

4

Target net zero annual carbon emissions

Our environmental pledge:

- De-carbonisation strategies including: digitising all activity, no paper documentation
- Paperless office
- Only use contractors with eco-friendly approach (including Amazon following their launch of the Climate Pledge) and those committed to net-zero emissions by 2040
- Credible, quantifiable and local offset

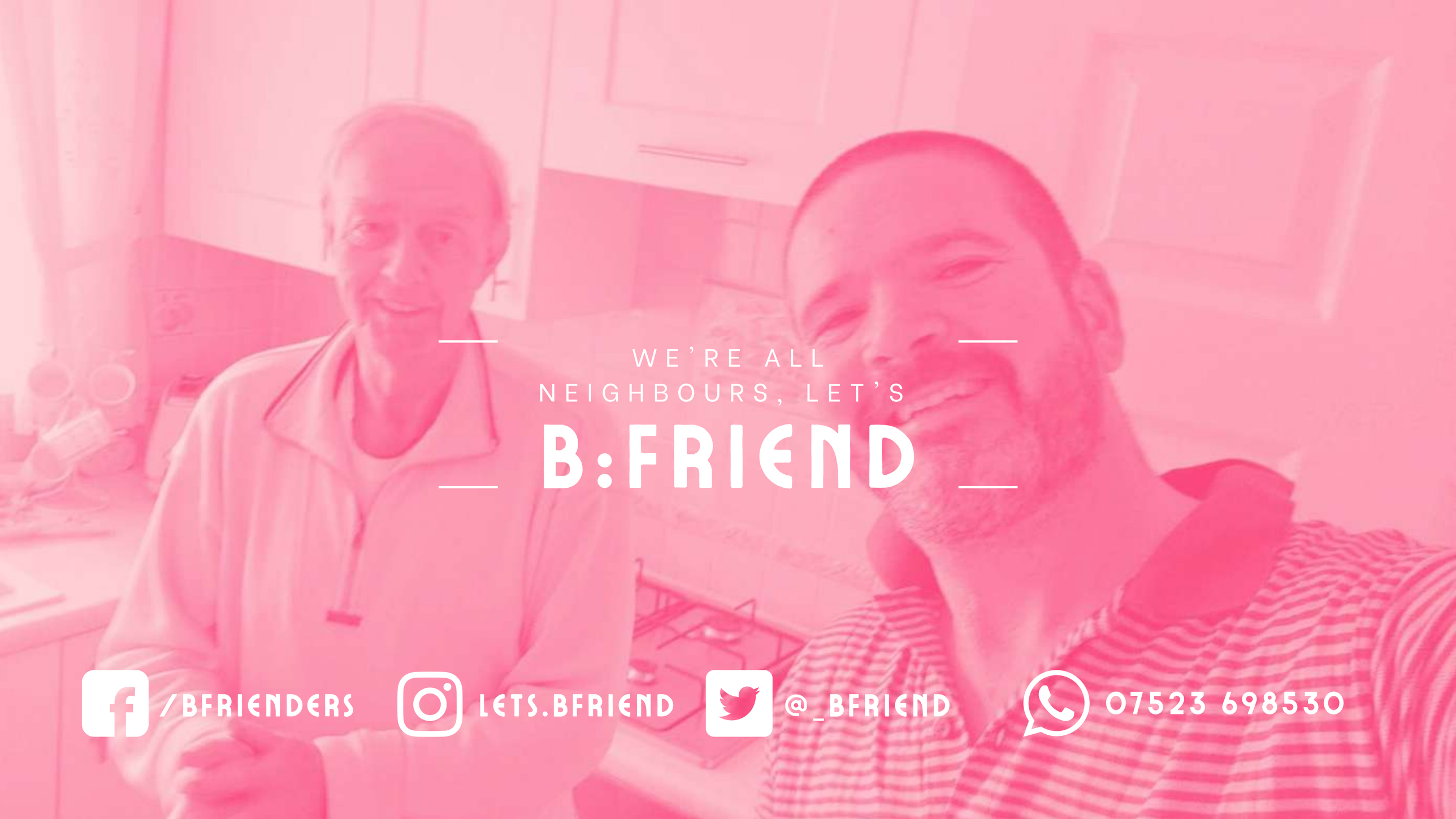
MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

I want to take this opportunity to firstly offer a heartfelt thanks to every member of staff and volunteer that has pulled together once again in uncertain and challenging times to support more older neighbours than ever before.

This year has been an exciting one; a return to face-to-face 1:1 befriending and social clubs, introducing new means of supporting socially-isolated neighbours, and extending our reach in to communities in Derbyshire and further afield. From day one, it's been our mission to go beyond traditional befriending models. We set out to facilitate intergenerational friendships that become part of the fabric of society. We're proud that of the 712 active pairings in 2021, 68% of volunteers are under the age of 45, more than half of community connections become self-sufficient friendships, and that the longest pairing is more than 4 years. This is the b:friend model in action; people in the community taking the lead to make real improvements for local people.

We are committed to making sure b:friend is more inclusive and representative of our communities now and in to the future. It's with great enthusiasm that we enter a new year at b:friend, with the ambition to support even more friends in more communities across the UK. We are all neighbours.

DANIEL BURTON
CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES



WE'RE ALL
NEIGHBOURS, LET'S

B:FRIEND

/BFRIENDERS

LETS.BFRIEND

@_BFRIEND

07523 698530

B:FRIEND
(A charitable incorporated organisation limited by guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021

CHARITY NUMBER 1171148

COMPANY NUMBER CE009648

B:FRIEND

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BALANCE SHEET	8
NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS	9-15

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021

The Management Committee presents its report and accounts for the year ended 31 October 2021.

Charity information

Management Committee

Daniel Burton	Chairperson
Tara Walker	Treasurer – Appointed August 2021
Louis Stokes	Non-Executive member
Lucy Cole	Non-Executive member
Geraint Evans	Non-Executive member
Melissa Beckett	Non-Executive member – Resigned June 2021
Kloe Tegg	Non-Executive member – Appointed August 2021
Charity Registration number	1171148
Charity registered office and Operational address	Unit 315 The Workstation 15 Paternoster Row Sheffield S1 2BX
Secretary	Matthew Cutmore - Resigned August 2021
Independent examiner	Smith Craven Chartered Accountants Sidings House Sidings Court Doncaster
Bankers	Santander UK Plc Doncaster

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document
The organisation is a charitable incorporated organisation formed on 17 January 2017 and registered as a charity.

The charity was established under a Constitution which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Constitution.

In the event of the charity being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee
The Trustees of the charity for the purposes of charity law and under the charity's Constitution are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Constitution the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

Objectives and Activities
The objectives of the charity are to promote social inclusion amongst elderly persons, in particular, but not exclusive to over 65's, resident in England and Wales and the surrounding areas who are excluded by society, by provision of:

- Befriending services through weekly outreach to individuals.

Such other ways from time to time as the trustees see fit in furtherance with said objects. B:Friend is a not-for-profit organisation.

B:Friend pairs volunteer befrienders with socially isolated older neighbours in the community with the aim of reducing loneliness by reengaging with people and places around them. Our key activities are 1:1 befriending pairings, visiting once a week for a "cuppa" and a chat. B:Friend also provides two hour social clubs, held in various locations that offer peer support through a range of physically and mentally stimulating sessions.

All activities undertaken by the charity are to benefit people in the community, be they volunteers or older neighbours, and all remain equitable with services free at the point of delivery.

Trustees ensure all activities are in accordance with the charity objects outlined in the constitution and are for the public benefit.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021

Achievements and performance

- In the reporting period, the charity has created over 305 x 1:1 befriending pairings across Doncaster, Barnsley, Sheffield and Rotherham. In addition to this our team has supported and managed an additional 650 x 1:1 befriending pairings already in existence.
- Facilitated approximately 768 hours of Social Club activity across the region with weekly activity, peer support and entertainment.
- Collaborated with 64 other charity and community groups, along with statutory health and social care colleagues, on wider social challenges faced across towns and cities we work in.
- Delivered over 9,900 hours of community connection to isolated neighbours

Financial Review

Principal Funding Sources

B:Friend was grateful to receive funding from: The National Lottery Community Fund, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Sheffield University Union, South Yorkshire Community Fund, Yorkshire Building Society, Virgin Money Giving, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Masonic Charitable Trust, Voluntary Action Doncaster, Voluntary Action Rotherham, Charles Hayward Foundation, Cleaves & Whitehead Foundation, LNER and Public Health Doncater.

Reserve Policy

As a policy, it has always been felt prudent to maintain reserves at a level whereby at least three months expenditure could be met in the event of a significant loss of funding.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021

Statement of Management Committee's Responsibilities

Charity law requires the Management Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the CIO as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial period. In preparing those financial statements, the Management Committee should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Management Committee is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities SORP (FRS102). The Management Committee is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Members of the Management Committee

Members of the Management Committee, who are trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 2.

In accordance with charities law, as the CIO's trustees, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant accounting information of which the charity's independent examiners are unaware; and
- as the trustees of the CIO, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant accounting information and to establish that the charity's independent examiners are aware of that information.

Approval

This report was approved by the Management Committee on and signed on its behalf by:

Tara Walker

Treasurer

B:FRIEND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees of B:Friend on the accounts for the period ended 31 October 2021 set out on pages 7 to 15

.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (''the Act'').
The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Act, and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking of explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kelvin Fitton BA FCA
For and on behalf of Smith Craven
Chartered Accountants
Sidings Court
Doncaster DN4 5NU

Dated:

B:FRIEND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including Income and Expenditure Account)

YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and gifts		11,041	199,948	**210,989**	**251,166**
Charitable activities		-	-	**-**	**3,319**
Total		11,041	199,948	**210,989**	**254,485**
RESOURCES EXPENDED	3				
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	5,147	**5,147**	**2,224**
Charitable activities		22,247	143,708	**165,955**	**178,160**
Total		22,247	148,855	**171,101**	**180,384**
Transfer between funds		45,615	(45,615)	**-**	**-**
Net movement in funds		34,409	5,478	**39,887**	**74,101**
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		38,175	109,386	147,561	73,460
Total funds carried forward		72,584	114,862	**187,446**	**147,561**

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the period. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

B:FRIEND

BALANCE SHEET

AT 31ST OCTOBER 2021

Company No: CE009648

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	-	2,802	2,802	4,683
Total fixed assets		-	2,802	2,802	4,683
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	7	-	7,813	7,813	1,077
Cash at bank and in hand		72,584	157,658	230,242	209,120
Total current assets		72,584	165,471	238,055	210,197
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	8	-	53,411	53,411	67,319
Net current assets		72,584	112,060	184,644	142,878
Total assets less current liabilities		72,584	114,862	187,446	147,561
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY	9				
Restricted income funds		-	114,862	114,862	109,386
Unrestricted funds		72,584	-	72,584	38,175
Total funds		72,584	114,862	187,446	147,561

Approved by the trustees on

Signed:

On behalf of the trustees

1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherise stated in the relevant note to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)
and with the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

INCOMING RESOURCES

Recognition of incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met.

Contractual income and performance related grants

This is only included in the SoFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

Gifts in kind

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised.
Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity.
Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable

Donated services and facilities

These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

2 **ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £250.
They are valued at cost
The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

3 ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	This year £	Last year £
Raising funds				
Advertising	-	5,147	5,147	2,224
Total expenditure on raising funds	-	5,147	5,147	2,224
Charitable activities				
Other expenditure	22,247	143,708	165,955	178,160
Total expenditure on charitable activities	22,247	143,708	165,955	178,160
Total expenditure	22,247	148,855	171,102	180,384

4 PAID EMPLOYEES

4.1 Staff costs

	This year £	Last year £
Salaries and wages	122,441	121,670
Social security costs	6,131	6,163
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	2,485	2,422
Total staff costs	131,057	130,255

No employees received employee benefits for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

	This year	Last year
Total amount paid to key personnel	£32,278	£29,728

4.2 Average head count in the year

	This year	Last year
Officers and administration	4	4
Support workers	2	2
	6	6

5 DETAILS OF CERTAIN ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE

5.1 Trustee remuneration and expenses

No members of the management committee received any remuneration during the year.

£32.10 expenses were reimbursed to the management committee during the year.

5.2 Fees for examination of the accounts

	This year £	Last year £
Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	1,800	1,800
	1,800	1,800

6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Cost		Computer equipment	Total
At the beginning of the year		14,439	14,439
Additions		2,680	2,680
Disposals		-	-
At end of year		17,119	17,119
Depreciation			
	Basis Rate	Straight Line 3 years	
At the beginning of the year		9,755	9,755
Depreciation		4,562	4,562
Disposals		-	-
At end of year		14,317	14,317
Net book value			
At the beginning of the year		4,684	4,684
At end of year		2,802	2,802

7 DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

Analysis of debtors	This year £	Last year £
Funding debtors	6,229	-
Prepayments and accrued income	1,584	1,077
Total	7,813	1,077

8 CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

Analysis of creditors	This year £	Last year £
Trade Creditors	982	-
Accruals and deferred income	52,429	65,100
Taxation and social security	-	2,219
Total	53,411	67,319

9 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

9.1 Restricted funds held

Fund name	Purpose and restrictions
Barnsley MBC	to provide core service provisions in the Dearne area
South Yorkshire Community Fund	to provide core service provisions in the Mexborough area
South Yorkshire Community Fund	to provide core service provisions in the Doncaster Central area
Doncaster MBC	to provide a weekly social club in the Dearne area
Awards For All	to fund photographic and video material to promote the charities aims
Keepmoat	to provide a weekly social club in the Denaby Main area
Big Lottery Building Connectionss	to provide core service provisions in the South Yorkshire area
Big Lottery Reaching Communities	to provide core service provisions in Doncaster for 3 years and fund staff salaries
South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue	To provide funds for a new website and part fund staff salaries

9.2 Restricted funds summary

	Balance b/f £	Incoming £	Outgoing £	Transfer to Unrestricted £	Balance c/f £
Doncaster MBC	6,105	5,000	1,626	-	9,479
Voluntary Action Rotherham	3,024	11,250	7,606	-	6,668
South Yorkshire Community Fund	4,236	-	-	4,236	-
South Yorkshire Community Fund	2,845	-	-	2,845	-
South Yorkshire Community Fund	3,711	-	-	3,711	-
SYCF: Community Resilience A585035	-	14,767	7,381	-	7,386
Barnsley MBC	17,877	63,166	30,768	-	50,275
Big Lottery Reaching Communities	34,740	57,036	70,986	-	20,790
Big Lottery Building Connections	-	10,875	10,875	-	-
Big Lottery Awards for All	127	-	-	127	-
Sheffield University Union (placement)	-	1,000	942	58	-
South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue	18,914	-	-	18,914	-
Tesco Bags for Help	500	-	-	500	-
Keepmoat	2,230	-	-	2,230	-
DMBC - Covid-19 Response	2,918	-	-	2,918	-
CAF - Charities Aid Foundation	4,589	-	-	4,589	-
Nesta - Covid-19 Response	722	-	-	722	-
Masonic Charitable Trust	2,083	5,000	164	-	6,919
Greggs Foundation - Rotherham	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
Scurrah Wainwright Charity	1,006	-	-	1,006	-
SOAR - Sheffield	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
Voluntary Action Doncaster (VAD) micro - Book Club	-	750	347	-	403
Charles Hayward Foundation	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
Cleaves & Whitehead Foundation	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
WG Edwards Trust	-	1,500	-	-	1,500
Yorkshire Building Society	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
LNER	-	13,556	13,556	-	-
Virgin Money Giving - Together project	-	1,000	386	-	614
Coalfields Regeneration Trust - Barnsley South	-	8,048	4,218	-	3,830
Aviva Crowdfunder	1,759	-	-	1,759	-
Total	109,386	199,948	148,855	45,615	114,864

9.3 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	2,802	2,802
Current assets	72,584	165,471	238,055
Current liabilities	-	53,411	53,411
Net assets at 31 October 2021	72,584	114,862	187,446

10 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the period.

B:FRIEND
(A charitable incorporated organisation limited by guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021

CHARITY NUMBER 1171148

COMPANY NUMBER CE009648

B:FRIEND

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021

The Management Committee presents its report and accounts for the year ended 31 October 2021.

Charity information

Management Committee

Daniel Burton	Chairperson
Tara Walker	Treasurer – Appointed August 2021
Louis Stokes	Non-Executive member
Lucy Cole	Non-Executive member
Geraint Evans	Non-Executive member
Melissa Beckett	Non-Executive member – Resigned June 2021
Kloe Tegg	Non-Executive member – Appointed August 2021
Charity Registration number	1171148
Charity registered office and Operational address	Unit 315 The Workstation 15 Paternoster Row Sheffield S1 2BX
Secretary	Matthew Cutmore - Resigned August 2021
Independent examiner	Smith Craven Chartered Accountants Sidings House Sidings Court Doncaster
Bankers	Santander UK Plc Doncaster

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document
The organisation is a charitable incorporated organisation formed on 17 January 2017 and registered as a charity.

The charity was established under a Constitution which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Constitution.

In the event of the charity being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee
The Trustees of the charity for the purposes of charity law and under the charity's Constitution are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Constitution the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

Objectives and Activities
The objectives of the charity are to promote social inclusion amongst elderly persons, in particular, but not exclusive to over 65's, resident in England and Wales and the surrounding areas who are excluded by society, by provision of:

- Befriending services through weekly outreach to individuals.

Such other ways from time to time as the trustees see fit in furtherance with said objects. B:Friend is a not-for-profit organisation.

B:Friend pairs volunteer befrienders with socially isolated older neighbours in the community with the aim of reducing loneliness by reengaging with people and places around them. Our key activities are 1:1 befriending pairings, visiting once a week for a "cuppa" and a chat. B:Friend also provides two hour social clubs, held in various locations that offer peer support through a range of physically and mentally stimulating sessions.

All activities undertaken by the charity are to benefit people in the community, be they volunteers or older neighbours, and all remain equitable with services free at the point of delivery.

Trustees ensure all activities are in accordance with the charity objects outlined in the constitution and are for the public benefit.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021

Achievements and performance

- In the reporting period, the charity has created over 305 x 1:1 befriending pairings across Doncaster, Barnsley, Sheffield and Rotherham. In addition to this our team has supported and managed an additional 650 x 1:1 befriending pairings already in existence.
- Facilitated approximately 768 hours of Social Club activity across the region with weekly activity, peer support and entertainment.
- Collaborated with 64 other charity and community groups, along with statutory health and social care colleagues, on wider social challenges faced across towns and cities we work in.
- Delivered over 9,900 hours of community connection to isolated neighbours

Financial Review

Principal Funding Sources

B:Friend was grateful to receive funding from: The National Lottery Community Fund, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Sheffield University Union, South Yorkshire Community Fund, Yorkshire Building Society, Virgin Money Giving, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council, Coalfields Regeneration Trust, Masonic Charitable Trust, Voluntary Action Doncaster, Voluntary Action Rotherham, Charles Hayward Foundation, Cleaves & Whitehead Foundation, LNER and Public Health Doncater.

Reserve Policy

As a policy, it has always been felt prudent to maintain reserves at a level whereby at least three months expenditure could be met in the event of a significant loss of funding.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2021

Statement of Management Committee's Responsibilities

Charity law requires the Management Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the CIO as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial period. In preparing those financial statements, the Management Committee should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Management Committee is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities SORP (FRS102). The Management Committee is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Members of the Management Committee

Members of the Management Committee, who are trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 2.

In accordance with charities law, as the CIO's trustees, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant accounting information of which the charity's independent examiners are unaware; and
- as the trustees of the CIO, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant accounting information and to establish that the charity's independent examiners are aware of that information.

Approval

This report was approved by the Management Committee on and signed on its behalf by:

Tara Walker

Treasurer

B:FRIEND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees of B:Friend on the accounts for the period ended 31 October 2021 set out on pages 7 to 15

.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (''the Act'').
The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144(2) of the Act, and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking of explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material matters have come to my attention which gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kelvin Fitton BA FCA
For and on behalf of Smith Craven
Chartered Accountants
Sidings Court
Doncaster DN4 5NU

Dated:

B:FRIEND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including Income and Expenditure Account)

YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2021

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES					
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and gifts		11,041	199,948	**210,989**	**251,166**
Charitable activities		-	-	**-**	**3,319**
Total		11,041	199,948	**210,989**	**254,485**
RESOURCES EXPENDED	3				
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		-	5,147	**5,147**	**2,224**
Charitable activities		22,247	143,708	**165,955**	**178,160**
Total		22,247	148,855	**171,101**	**180,384**
Transfer between funds		45,615	(45,615)	**-**	**-**
Net movement in funds		34,409	5,478	**39,887**	**74,101**
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		38,175	109,386	147,561	73,460
Total funds carried forward		72,584	114,862	**187,446**	**147,561**

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the period. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

B:FRIEND

BALANCE SHEET

AT 31ST OCTOBER 2021

Company No: CE009648

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	6	-	2,802	2,802	4,683
Total fixed assets		-	2,802	2,802	4,683
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	7	-	7,813	7,813	1,077
Cash at bank and in hand		72,584	157,658	230,242	209,120
Total current assets		72,584	165,471	238,055	210,197
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	8	-	53,411	53,411	67,319
Net current assets		72,584	112,060	184,644	142,878
Total assets less current liabilities		72,584	114,862	187,446	147,561
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY	9				
Restricted income funds		-	114,862	114,862	109,386
Unrestricted funds		72,584	-	72,584	38,175
Total funds		72,584	114,862	187,446	147,561

Approved by the trustees on

Signed:

On behalf of the trustees

1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

Basis of Accounting

The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherise stated in the relevant note to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)
and with the Charities Act 2011.

The financial statements are prepared in sterling, which is the functional currency of the charity.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

INCOMING RESOURCES

Recognition of incoming resources

These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Offsetting

There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Grants and donations

Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met.

Contractual income and performance related grants

This is only included in the SoFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

Gifts in kind

Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised.
Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity.
Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable

Donated services and facilities

These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

Volunteer help

The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

2 **ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)**

EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £250.
They are valued at cost
The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

3 ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	This year £	Last year £
Raising funds				
Advertising	-	5,147	5,147	2,224
Total expenditure on raising funds	-	5,147	5,147	2,224
Charitable activities				
Other expenditure	22,247	143,708	165,955	178,160
Total expenditure on charitable activities	22,247	143,708	165,955	178,160
Total expenditure	22,247	148,855	171,102	180,384

4 PAID EMPLOYEES

4.1 Staff costs

	This year £	Last year £
Salaries and wages	122,441	121,670
Social security costs	6,131	6,163
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	2,485	2,422
Total staff costs	131,057	130,255

No employees received employee benefits for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

	This year	Last year
Total amount paid to key personnel	£32,278	£29,728

4.2 Average head count in the year

	This year	Last year
Officers and administration	4	4
Support workers	2	2
	6	6

5 DETAILS OF CERTAIN ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE

5.1 Trustee remuneration and expenses

No members of the management committee received any remuneration during the year.

£32.10 expenses were reimbursed to the management committee during the year.

5.2 Fees for examination of the accounts

	This year £	Last year £
Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	1,800	1,800
	1,800	1,800

6 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Cost		Computer equipment	Total
At the beginning of the year		14,439	14,439
Additions		2,680	2,680
Disposals		-	-
At end of year		17,119	17,119
Depreciation			
	Basis Rate	Straight Line 3 years	
At the beginning of the year		9,755	9,755
Depreciation		4,562	4,562
Disposals		-	-
At end of year		14,317	14,317
Net book value			
At the beginning of the year		4,684	4,684
At end of year		2,802	2,802

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Analysis of debtors	This year £	Last year £
Funding debtors	6,229	-
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Analysis of creditors	This year £	Last year £
Trade Creditors	982	-
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Taxation and social security	-	2,219
Total	53,411	67,319

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Fund name	Purpose and restrictions
Barnsley MBC	to provide core service provisions in the Dearne area
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South Yorkshire Community Fund	3,711	-	-	3,711	-
SYCF: Community Resilience A585035	-	14,767	7,381	-	7,386
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CAF - Charities Aid Foundation	4,589	-	-	4,589	-
Nesta - Covid-19 Response	722	-	-	722	-
Masonic Charitable Trust	2,083	5,000	164	-	6,919
Greggs Foundation - Rotherham	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
Scurrah Wainwright Charity	1,006	-	-	1,006	-
SOAR - Sheffield	1,000	-	-	1,000	-
Voluntary Action Doncaster (VAD) micro - Book Club	-	750	347	-	403
Charles Hayward Foundation	-	3,000	-	-	3,000
Cleaves & Whitehead Foundation	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
WG Edwards Trust	-	1,500	-	-	1,500
Yorkshire Building Society	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
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Virgin Money Giving - Together project	-	1,000	386	-	614
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Aviva Crowdfunder	1,759	-	-	1,759	-
Total	109,386	199,948	148,855	45,615	114,864

9.3 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General Funds £	Restricted Funds £	Total Funds £
Tangible fixed assets	-	2,802	2,802
Current assets	72,584	165,471	238,055
Current liabilities	-	53,411	53,411
Net assets at 31 October 2021	72,584	114,862	187,446

10 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the period.

B:FRIEND

England & Wales - Charity number 1171148

Accounts

2019-2020 Annual Report

b:friend

In the last 12 months,
b:friend has enabled

over 13,000 hours

of community connection in South Yorkshire

DELIVERY FIGURES

Cover the period of
January 1st 2020 — December 31st 2020

FINANCIAL FIGURES

Cover our accounting year
November 1st 2019 — October 31st 2020

b:friend

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our ceo

“

Reflecting on the last year stirs a lot of emotions.
There’s very little to say about the enormity of the challenge that’s not already been said by others.

b:friend aims to bring people together, reducing disconnection by enabling inclusion. Overnight we had to rethink our approach.

In an instant, when lockdown began, we transformed everything we do: activities migrated online, befriending took place on the phone, our team mobilised to meet immediate need, whatever it may be. In the following months we enrolled record-numbers of volunteers (more than ever before), reached more isolated older neighbours, and delivered the most hours of social connection in our history.

And we haven’t stopped since. Over the phone, at the doorstep, meeting in the park. From emergency food deliveries and well-being packs to virtual activity sessions and supportive phone calls late into the night. We’ve connected older neighbours with volunteer befrienders near and far, from Kimberworth to Kuwait, Neepsend to Naples, High Green to the Highlands and everywhere in between. Those connections have transformed lives.

We lost some close friends this year, witnessed the incredible courage of NHS staff and realised how much our society relies on essential workers. We can’t take any of that for granted again. Let’s not simply copy-and-paste what things were like before the pandemic. We’ve seen how it can be different, what we value most: the importance of nearby neighbours, the strength of a shared objective, the will of policymakers to just get things done.

In years to come, when we all look back at these years, our staff and volunteers can be very proud. In a time of crisis, and despite the unique challenges we all faced, they stepped forward pledging time to connect with some of the most isolated people in our society, ensuring they were not alone.
We’re hopeful for a recovery phase in 2021-22. When Facetime friends can meet in-person, Social Club members can enjoy a cuppa in the same room, we can all get back to our communities.

”

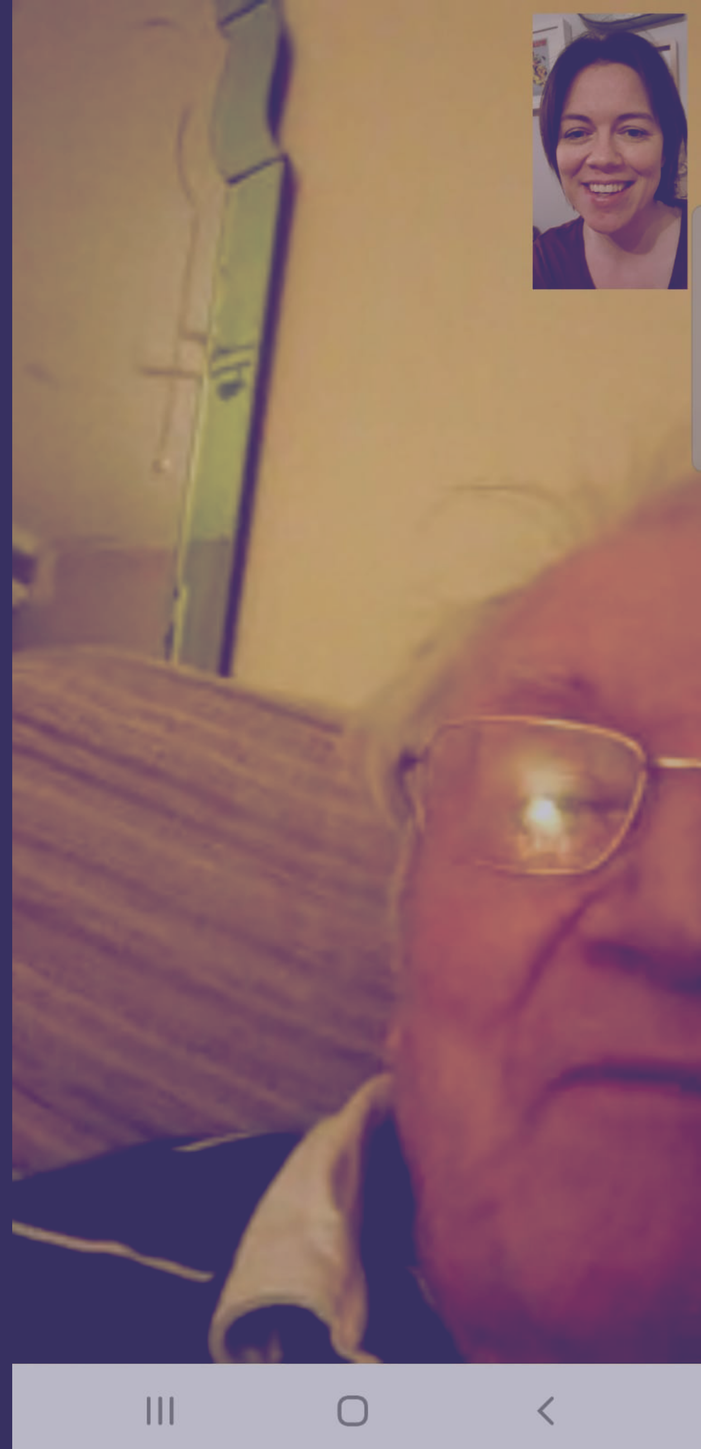
Mike Niles | Founder & CEO | **b:friend**

“We sat outside one day eating fish and chips in the rain. It makes you realise there’s something worth living for when you get to a certain age.”

Brian | Sheffield

Listen to Brian on BBC Radio Sheffield

< Listen here >



“**He’s a darling,** he’s so interested in the world. We speak all about Hungary where he’s from, I’ve only driven through before it but **I can just picture the mountains and the rivers when we speak**”

CASE STUDY

Ursula | Dearne

Overview

Ursula was very isolated and often called the ambulance or her doctors’ surgery for someone to speak to. We paired her with three befrienders over a period of a year, including one volunteer who can speak her native German. She loves Marcell’s calls every Monday and looks forward to meeting him.

Ursula is 97 and moved to Rotherham from Hamburg in 1949 after marrying an English soldier. She has lived alone since the passing of her husband a number of years ago and her only son (in his 70s) lives in Hull. Ursula was referred to us by the social prescribing services as she frequently called for ambulances just to have someone to speak to.

We introduced Ursula to her first befriender Sarah in November 2019. Sarah teaches science at the local college and Ursula said that she hadn’t had a conversation so engaging for a long time. During lockdown, visits haven’t been possible and Ursula really struggled as the telephone was her only means of connecting with the outside world - “my world has ended at my garden gate”, she told us in May 2020. We paired her with a second befriender Eli, a qualified occupational therapist, and they love chatting about Eli’s dog Ranger over the phone.

Ursula mentioned that she really missed the German magazines that her local shop used to stock for her but since they went out of business she hasn’t managed to get any. We put out a quick Facebook request and soon had 10 magazines to send to her – these have been a great source of comfort and entertainment while she couldn’t receive visitors. Seeing what a boost reconnecting with her mother tongue and culture gave her, we decided to pair her with a third befriender, a young man training to be a solicitor. Only this time, she would be able to converse with her befriender, as Marcell is native Hungarian with excellent German! She hadn’t spoken German for many years so was thrilled to have the opportunity to speak it again.

Volunteers

Building a network of local befrienders spreads messaging into communities. Many have never volunteered before and most are in employment. Our flexible model allows befriending to be absorbed into already busy lifestyles.

Integrational

We partner with schools, colleges and universities in South Yorkshire to provide younger people opportunities to volunteer with the project. Cat, from the University of Sheffield, explains how students have been engaging locally.

Leadership

b:friend have contributed to national campaigns focused on tackling social isolation. These include Campaign to End Loneliness, The Kings Fund, Befriending Networks, talk/together, Royal Society for Public Health and Public Health England. Alison Iliff, of Public Health England- Yorkshire/Humber, explains the health benefits of b:friend.

Partnerships

Across South Yorkshire, b:friend partner with other charity and community organisations to achieve shared goals and meet the needs of volunteers and older neighbours. Chermayne Bennett, of MHA Communities, describes how organisations working in the same geographies collaborate to meet the need.

STAKEHOLDERS

“If health is not improving, society is not improving. Good luck with your important work”

Prof Sir Michael Marmot

“The measurement of success for b:friend’s intervention is that no one that I’ve referred in to-date have ever been referred back into my service.”

Jack Dale, Sheffield City Council Social Services

“It’s not only about connecting people together outside their houses, we’ve seen that particularly during the pandemic. The role of community befrienders to support people has been particularly valuable.”

Rupert Suckling, Director of Public Health Doncaster

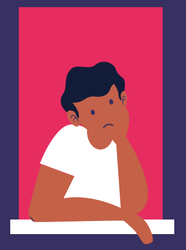
“b:friend has found a way to tackle the long standing societal problem of isolation and loneliness in a new and fresh way. They have a message that resonates with communities, make befriending a real and fun experience for everyone involved, and have found approaches that connect with new volunteers. Their impact is profound, and their work is never more needed.”

Karen Smith, Prevention Programme Manager | South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw Integrated Care System

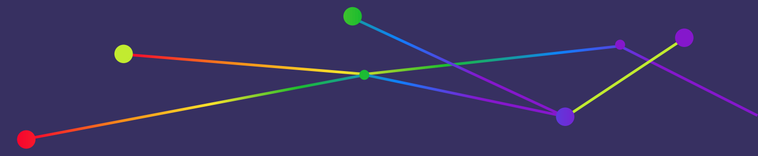
No one should have no one

WE DON'T WANT LIKES OR RETWEETS

Photos of intergenerational friendships are heart-warming and get plenty of social media 'likes' but underlying everything we do is research, theory and social value impact that makes befriending a crucial component to social inclusion for older people. To see befriending as a 'nice to have' rather than a 'need to have' misjudges the transformative impact social connection has on all of us. It sometimes seems that ageism is the last socially acceptable prejudice. Despite being one of the most excluded groups, little is commissioned through statutory health and social care to ensure this group remain engaged with their community and independent. The community won't stand for this. Befriending once again shows that whether we're starving people of food or companionship it's the community that take a stand and support each other.



THE PROBLEM



Loneliness does not discriminate and is primarily a perception of connections and value. Social isolation, arguably one of the chief causes of loneliness, can be more tangibly reduced through methodologies b:friend apply in their work.

South Yorkshire is home to some of the most socially isolated older neighbours in England.

Statistically and anecdotally we're acutely aware of the drastic need for preventative support for isolated older neighbours. **Unless someone receives a diagnosis there is no support available** to socially isolated individuals locally. In many instances empirical research demonstrates that no intervention, and subsequent periods of loneliness, lead to **health and well-being deterioration** and expensive reactive care packages.

Research shows that medium to long periods of social isolation have a direct influence on a diagnosis of dementia, depression, coronary disease, diabetes and readmission to hospital. **Extended periods of loneliness can have the same impact on premature mortality as smoking 15 cigarettes a day.**

With the older population set to rise by approximately 22% by the year 2027, this issue isn't going to disappear without preventative action.

ORGANISATION

b:friend is a Yorkshire charity, founded in January 2017, that pairs volunteer befrienders with socially isolated older neighbours in the community with the aim of reducing social isolation and re-engaging individuals with the people and places around them. At the core of our model people in the community are taking the lead to make real improvements for local people. By popping in once a week for a cuppa and a chat, 1:1 befrienders provide companionship to people that may not speak to another person all week or longer. This low-level preventative measure is vital early action transforming the lives of socially isolated older neighbours. All befrienders received an Enhanced DBS background check, training and two accompanied visits to their assigned older neighbour with a member of the b:friend team.

VALUES

No one should have no one. We believe in facilitating meaningful community connections to transform an individual's value of themselves, reduce their feeling of loneliness and enable them to build resilience in later life.

OUR THOUGHTS

Befriending is not a new concept, and we've never claimed to have cornered the market when it comes to reducing social isolation, but we've been overwhelmed by the uptake of this project in South Yorkshire. On a daily basis, older neighbours and befrienders alike approach us to explain how this project has completely changed their lives. We were sceptical at first. We know it has impact but 'life changing' is something we weren't initially willing to accept given the once-a-week nature of the volunteering. But it changes a psyche: from monotonous solitude to knowing that someone cares, someone visits and they do it without recompense because they want to.

b:friend mission

WHAT WE EXIST FOR

Reducing social isolation for older people and younger people alike by creating opportunities for community togetherness

Improving well-being through local connections to ensure older people have the confidence, self-worth and option to reconnect with the people and places around them

Bringing people together to dilute division created by age, heritage, digital skills and attitudinal divides

How many
people in their
80's
do you know
that
can street dance
to Kanye

When was the last time
you saw a 90 year old...

partake
in a poetry slam

mix Bond-style mocktails

take on all challengers in a fiercely
competitive boat race

b:friend MODEL

b:friend brings older neighbours and befrienders together to create meaningful connections in the community

1:1 Befriending

This is community support in its most authentic form. Volunteer befrienders pledge to visit a socially isolated older neighbour near them for one hour per week for a cuppa and a chat. On the way back from work, the shops, dropping the kids at school – whenever is convenient for both parties, a befriender will spend an hour just chatting, listening and supporting someone that otherwise may have no one.

Social Clubs

Each group activity is different... and they're certainly not boring. From performing songs from Broadway, designing tattoos, making bird boxes, chocolate tasting sessions and jiving to Bollywood-inspired music... members are exploring new horizons and getting out of their comfort zone each week.

The Five Ways to Well-being form a clear framework with which b:friend design all group activities and the model will be a vital factor in the co-design process to ensure each group achieves all five areas in most of their activities. Our Social Clubs ensure attendees are: connected to others through conversation and activity; active through physically engaged sessions; continue to learn through engaging talks, discuss topics of the day and take note of others around them; while giving time, support and attention to others.

“**b:friend has saved my life.** I was ready to give up when I lost my husband but **now I have something to look forward too.**”

Kath

Watch Kath talk about her experiences.

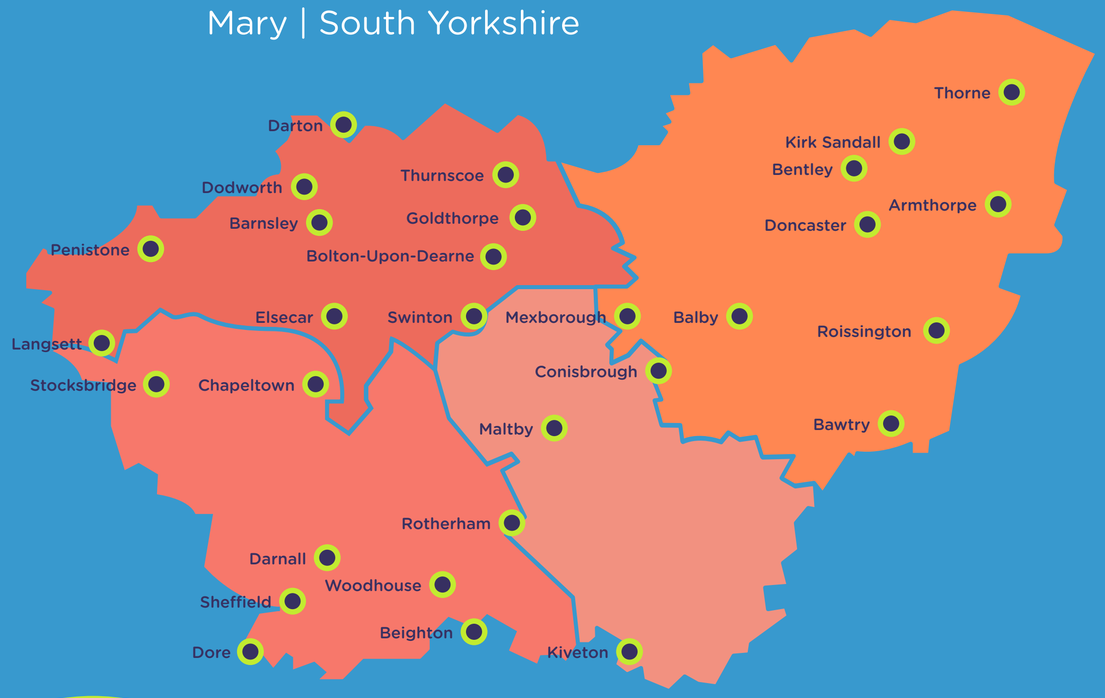
< Watch here >

“When I have someone with me, some company I relax. When I don’t see people I feel on edge.”

Mary | South Yorkshire

locations

WHERE WE WORK



b:friend launched as a charity in **Doncaster, South Yorkshire**, in January 2017 and have become a key provider of equitable 1:1 and peer-to-peer befriending support for socially isolated older neighbours in the Borough.

Localities across **South Yorkshire are areas of highest risk nationally** when it comes to social isolation of older people. With a large proportion of people aged 80 and over, many living in social housing and facing income deprivation – there’s high prevalence of the biggest determinants of loneliness.

In January 2019, our project expanded adding befriending provision in Sheffield, Rotherham and Barnsley to add to existing work in Doncaster and the Dearne area. It is available to any older neighbour, identifying as socially isolated, and we’ve created pairings throughout the area from **Bolton to Bawtry, Woodhouse to Wombwell, Mexborough to Moorends, Thurnscoe to Thorne** - the length and breadth of the region.

Social Clubs have been established in areas identified as ‘high risk’ based on statistics and existing provision. We currently have **weekly Clubs in: Mexborough, Thorne, Denaby, Rossington, Armthorpe, Balby, Lowedges, Thurnscoe, Bolton upon Dearne, Longley and Wheatley Hills.**

Our model offers a unique approach to volunteering and is targeted at supporting the people at highest risk of isolation. Volunteers commit to an hour a week, in their local area, placing value on conversation and companionship. We achieve maximum impact by focusing our attention at those most acutely facing loneliness, including:

People who live alone - 93% of the older people we work with live alone; the ‘oldest old’ – 66% of older neighbours we identify are over 80; women – 72% of older neighbours we support are women; people who live in social or housing association homes – 59% of older neighbours we work with are social tenants.

Our awesome partners

Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council

Department for Digital, Culture, Media & Sport

COMMUNITY FUND

Masonic Charitable Foundation

CAF Charities Aid Foundation

South Yorkshire's Community Foundation

SWC The Scurrah Wainwright Charity

BARNSLEY Metropolitan Borough Council

NHS Rotherham Clinical Commissioning Group

nesta

VoluntaryAction Rotherham

the coalfields regeneration trust

b:friend PARTNERSHIPS

Introducing our collaborations

South Yorkshire Housing Association (Social Prescribing)

GP Federation (association for GP Practices)

Doncaster IAPT NHS

Club Doncaster Foundation

St Leger Homes / Leger Bus / NDDT

Health and Social Care Forum (VCSE orgs)

Public Health England / PH Doncaster

DMBC Well-being teams (locality based)

NHS / SYB Integrated Care System

Local MPs / Counsellors

South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue

South Yorkshire Police

Yorkshire Air Ambulance

Age UK Doncaster / MHA

Barnsley Council, Dearne Area Team

Voluntary Action Sheffield

Dearne Development Fund

Voluntary Action Doncaster

Barnsley CVS

Special mentions go to:

The Cares Family, Alex Smith, EVA Women's Aid, Richinda Taylor, Morrisons Doncaster, Tehsin Khan, The Good Things Foundation, Eshranie Toban, Journey Education, A Million Realities, The Packard Family and our incredible volunteers.

1:1 BEFRIENDING

Morning! How was your dad last night? It was a long day so i hope that he wasn't too tired!

He was as happy as i've seen him in a long time. He really enjoyed it. Thankyou so much for looking after him

That's lovely to hear! It was a fantastic day!

b:friend in action
in 2020

13,000+ hours
of 1:1 befriender interactions

620 NEW befrienders
delivered across South Yorkshire
...that's at least 2,480 cuppas!!

1,360 social packs
telephoning or a visit for an outdoor chat each week
... equates to four deliveries every day

384 social club sessions
held – both in-person and on telephone conference calls

80+ facebook live
sessions have taken place

Befrienders stating it's changed their lives **with many themselves experiencing bereavement, anxiety, redundancy, isolation.**

"If it wasn't for Maxine and my son ringing every week I reckon you'd find me in the loony bin by now...she always cheers me up when she rings, I can get very low"

John | Sheffield
Maxine | Volunteer

"She's been so helpful to me over the last few months, I've had a lot going off and she's helped me by just talking through it all, she's so calm. I don't know what I would have done without her. I've become very close with her parents too, we're always passing messages between the 4 of us, I love hearing what they're up to and I tell them my stories of being in the air force. Thank you so much, you've made a great match"

June | South Yorkshire
Anisha | Volunteer

"She's a lovely, very very caring young lady - we have the world in common. She's rejuvenated me in ways I wouldn't have imagined too - we both love cooking but I couldn't be bothered cooking for just me, but now I do because we talk about what we've made on the phone. I tell her 'I love you, you're fantastic, and your parents should be very proud of you"

Ruth | South Yorkshire
Ellie | Volunteer

24%
attrition

of pairings end following final supervised visit (0-6 months)

52%
of befriending

pairings exceed 12-months of connection

92%
of older neighbours

that have a befriending pairing are satisfied with project

WHAT DO WE GET UP TO AT VIRTUAL SOCIAL CLUB?

Dancing – all styles, from the Charleston to Rumba!

Reflexology – yoga & Pilates

Christmas Day (2019) big party

Armchair Travels – cultural trips to India, Mexico, France & much more...

b:friend **Breakfast Club**

Scams session featuring NatWest

Creative writing & Poetry Slam

Mardi Gras & festival fun

Bird feeders for local trees (photo)

Guest speakers inc. South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue, Doncaster Museum, local history experts & members themselves

Day-trips: garden centres, seaside & the theatre

Retro Games session

No bake sessions (...cheesecake was a favourite)

Intergenerational activities (local schools & NCS)

Graffiti art design sessions (...using water based paint)

Screen printing & decoupage

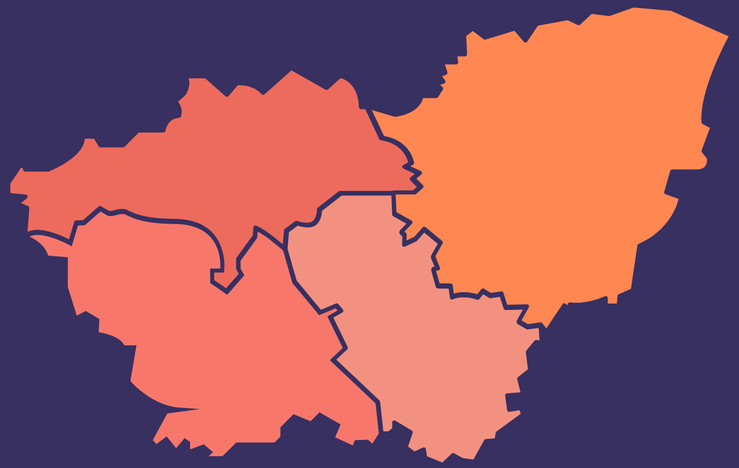
History Club, with Heritage Doncaster

FY 2019-2020

Incoming Resources

Restricted £243,674.00

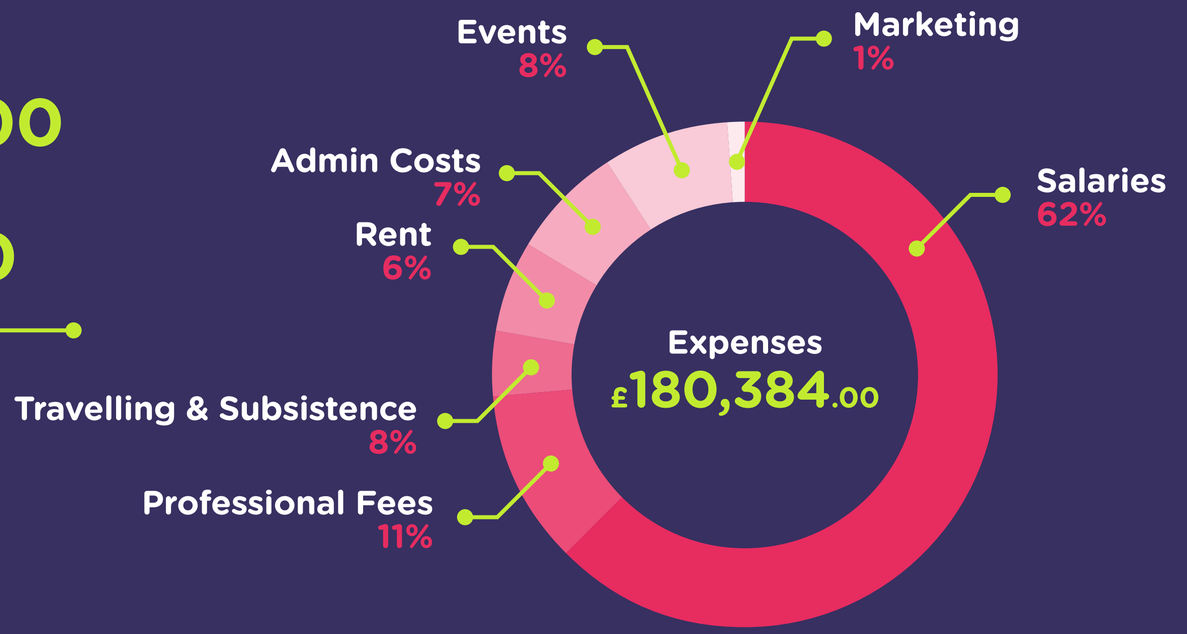
Unrestricted £10,812.00

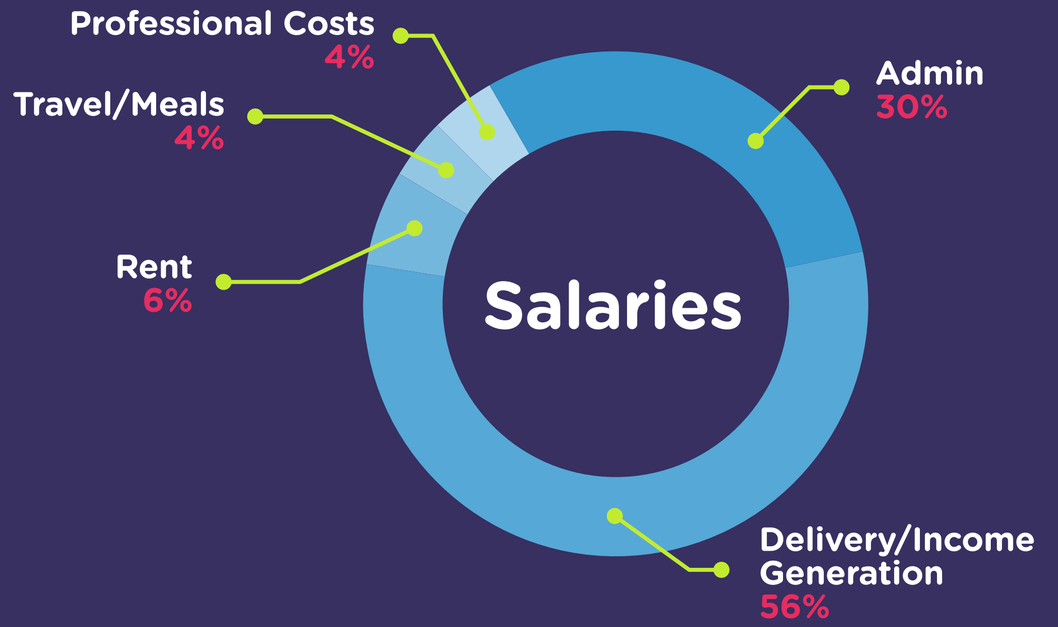


It costs

£408.00 per older member

to provide ongoing support





BENEFICIARY SURVEYS & PROJECT EVALUATION

The statements (scored 1-5)

I've been feeling optimistic about the future
I've been feeling useful
I've been feeling relaxed
I've been feeling interested in other people
I've had energy to spare
How many other agencies do you use? (Deflator question)
I've been dealing with problems well
I've been thinking clearly
I've been feeling good about myself
I've been feeling close to other people
I've been feeling confident
I've been able to make my mind up about things
I've been feeling loved
I've been interested in new things
I've been feeling cheerful
How many GP visits have you had in the last month?
How many of these GP visits (if any) have been with the sole purpose of wanting to talk to someone?
How many A&E visits in the last month?
How many of these A&E visits (if any) have been with the sole purpose of wanting to talk to someone?
How many times have you pressed your personal alarm in the last month?
How many of these personal alarm presses (if any) have been with the sole purpose of wanting to talk to someone?
How much physical exercise have you done in the last month (minutes)?

Average change (Baseline > 3 month)

+6.4 points

Older neighbours surveyed 3-months after being paired with a befriender **ALL** recorded higher overall scores when asked the same questions they answered at baseline.

The neighbour displaying the greatest positive change recorded answers 21 points higher than they responded at baseline. Others however scored -5 which suggests not all neighbours benefited the same from befriending intervention.

The average change is the median point difference registered by beneficiaries before, and three months following, intervention.

Data January 2019 – December 2019

The Social Value is £10.12 for every £1 spent

Figure is based on 12-month period

Average change (Baseline > 6 month)

+8.7 points

Older neighbours surveyed 6-months after paired **ALL** recorded higher overall scores when asked the same questions at baseline & three months.

Social impact deflators

Below are the definitions of deflator factors for the table on the next page:

Leakage: How much of an outcome might have delivered an impact outside of the area you intended.

Dead-weight: How much of the outcome might have been achieved without intervention.

Attribution: What proportion of an outcome might be attributed to others because their activity contributed to it.

Drop-off: What proportion of the outcome will diminish over time.

Displacement: How much of the outcome has displaced other outcomes.

Carbon footprint

Total carbon footprint 2020/2021 = **17.08 tonnes of CO2e**
Calculation to offset = £232.20 inc. 20% VAT invested in tree planting scheme in Yorkshire and Humber.
This enabled us to achieve net zero annual carbon emissions

Privately paid by CEO

Our environmental pledge (all currently active)

- ✓ De-carbonisation strategies including: digitising all activity, no paper documentation
- ✓ Paperless office
- ✓ Only use contractors with eco-friendly approach (including Amazon following their launch of the Climate Pledge) and those committed to net-zero emissions by 2040
- ✓ Credible, quantifiable and local offset

Staff salaries

All staff are paid above the **UK Living Wage** (not accredited)

Our living wage pledge (all currently active)

- ✓ Always review salaries annually
- ✓ Always pay UK Living Wage (outside London)
- ✓ Always endeavour to increase salary annually in-line with inflation

Mental health

All staff and volunteers can access free CBT counselling

Our mental health pledge (all currently active)

- ✓ Offer no questions access to 24/7 counselling service
- ✓ In-person or telephone access 365 days of the year
- ✓ Always anonymous, always free
- ✓ Additional training opportunities sourced

Inclusivity

Honest in our vision to be an inclusive organisation. We will never discriminate against any persons and pledge to deliver benefit to all people in the communities we support.

Our inclusivity pledge (all currently active)

- ✓ Regularly review representation on staff and Board teams
- ✓ Ensure all projects are adapted to be accessible to all individuals
- ✓ Always review volunteer and beneficiary demographics and pro-actively attempt to reach under-represented communities
- ✓ Regularly improve our knowledge of inclusive approaches (latest all staff training Nov-20 and Jan-21)

Equity

We will never charge a fee to access support.

Our equity pledge (all currently active)

- ✓ Regularly review representation on staff and Board teams
- ✓ Our community befriending is, and will always be free
- ✓ Finance will never be a barrier to entry
- ✓ Charity sustainability will never be achieved by financially benefiting from the most vulnerable

"It's the best thing I've ever done, it's surprising what you get off your chest. It's so nice to have someone that isn't my family to talk to, she's always there to listen to me, she's beautiful"

Tony | Rachel – Volunteer

"As things are now, getting a knock at your door and getting a present ...it was lovely, it made my day"

June | Lowedges Social Club Delivery

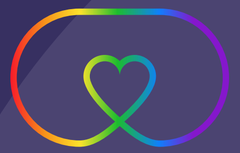
"We had a lovely long chat, it's odd but despite the difference in our ages and she being a northerner and me being from "down south", we seem to have a lot in common."

Chris | Pat – Volunteer

"I really needed you [to ring] today, I just felt so desperate, lockdown has really been getting to me these last few weeks"

Patricia

our chair...



“Everything is different today”

Daniel Burton | Interim-Chair | b:friend

“

This past year has demonstrated the debilitating impact that loneliness can have on the mental and physical well-being of people of all ages. The pandemic helped us realise and appreciate that which we often take for granted; our safety, our freedoms, and our relationships. The sad truth is that for many older neighbours in our communities, national lockdown felt like just another day / month / year; which is both incredibly frustrating and motivating.

This year, we’ve supported people gripped by deep grief and overwhelming anxiety. We’ve observed tears of relief and enjoyed reaffirming conversations. Our volunteers have been surrogate family; our staff have counselled people through suicidal thoughts. We’ve been there at the end of people’s lives, when nobody else was.

While 2020 was unquestionably a challenge – for us all – we’ve learned some incredible lessons that have transformed how our project operates. We’ve adapted to meet demand, evolved our model to be effective in new circumstances and established new operational practices that merge three-years of experience with one-year of complex community action. All of which will optimise our project going forward.

On 13 March 2020, the small but mighty b:friend staff team spearheaded a huge change in how we operate; rapidly adapting and scaling our support programmes. Whilst the rest of the UK was urged to stay at home, staff and volunteers went above and beyond; working tirelessly to source, pack and deliver parcels of essentials for the most vulnerable older neighbours in our communities. Over the past year b:friend has delivered 1,500 bundles, facilitated more than 13,000 hours of befriender phone calls (that’s 36 hours of calls per day!), and created and maintained 620 active pairings. On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I want to thank the b:friend team, our volunteers, our supporters and funders, and our CEO, Mike; this would not have been possible without your individual and collective contribution.

”

....continue >

...our chair

“

As a Board, we’ve sought to ensure that the charity represents the amazing people we support and that support us. We’ve involved the voices of staff, volunteers and beneficiaries at Board level to influence decision-making. We have strong governance practises, closely managing and reporting on key metrics and reviewing performance and finances in line with project objectives and growth ambitions. We’ve invested in our people, our processes, and our infrastructure in order to maintain the longevity and quality of our service delivery.

At a time when our older population are arguably more isolated than any time in history, befriending could not be more critical to community recovery. But it won’t be a continuation of what came before Coronavirus.

I am excited as b:friend enters a new era. As a board and staff team, we’ve collaborated with our partners, funders and supporters, and committed ourselves to ambitious targets, positioning ourselves locally and nationally to achieve even greater impact through scaled service delivery. We have a clear vision for how we can impact the issue we’re working on; by focussing on local community projects to ensure that we have the greatest impact on overcoming social isolation and loneliness at a grassroots level.

My job in the coming year is to build on our strong platform to help b:friend to bring even more older and younger neighbours together, to continue to innovate, and to make sure we are living up to our founding mission: to facilitate meaningful community connection, transforming an individual’s self value, reduce their isolation and enable them to build resilience in later life - no one should have no one.

On top of the building next-door to the b:friend office in Sheffield reads a neon sign saying “everything is different today”. The artwork, by Sheffield-based artist Tim Etchells, epitomises the year 2020 and the work of our charity moving forward.

”

Daniel Burton | Interim-Chair | **b:friend**

our team

Karen

Jenny

Maryanne

Hayley

Mike

Rayella

Our trustee & advisory board

Daniel Burton (Chair)
Lucy Cole
Matthew Cutmore
Geraint Evans
Melissa Beckett
Louis Stokes

In the last 12 months,
b:friend has enabled

over 13,000 hours

of community connection in South Yorkshire

We're all neighbours lets b:friend!

info@letsbfriend.org.uk
07523 698 530
facebook.com/brienders

b:friend

B:FRIEND
(A charitable incorporated organisation limited by guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

CHARITY NUMBER 1171148

COMPANY NUMBER CE009648

B:FRIEND

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

The Management Committee presents its report and accounts for the year ended 31 October 2020.

Charity information

Management Committee

Daniel Burton	Acting Chairperson (appointed)/Treasurer
Louis Stokes	Non-Executive member
Lucy Cole	Non-Executive member
Geraint Evans	Non-Executive member
Melissa Beckett	Non-Executive member
Charity Registration number	1171148
Charity registered office	Archway Doncaster Road High Melton Doncaster South Yorkshire DN5 7SU
Operational address	Unit 315 The Workstation 15 Paternoster Row Sheffield S1 2BX
Secretary	Matthew Cutmore
Independent examiner	Smith Craven Chartered Accountants Sidings House Sidings Court Doncaster
Bankers	Santander UK Plc Doncaster

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document
The organisation is a charitable incorporated organisation formed on 17 January 2017 and registered as a charity.

The charity was established under a Constitution which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Constitution.

In the event of the charity being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee
The Trustees of the charity for the purposes of charity law and under the charity's Constitution are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Constitution the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

Objectives and Activities
The objectives of the charity are to promote social inclusion amongst elderly persons, in particular, but not exclusive to over 65's, resident in Doncaster and the surrounding areas who are excluded by society, by provision of:

- Befriending services through weekly outreach to individuals.

Such other ways from time to time as the trustees see fit in furtherance with said objects. B:Friend is a not-for-profit organisation.

B:Friend pairs volunteer befrienders with socially isolated older neighbours in the community with the aim of reducing loneliness by reengaging with people and places around them. Our key activities are 1:1 befriending pairings, visiting once a week for a "cuppa" and a chat. B:Friend also provides two hour social clubs, held in various locations that offer peer support through a range of physically and mentally stimulating sessions.

All activities undertaken by the charity are to benefit people in the community, be they volunteers or older neighbours, and all remain equitable with services free at the point of delivery.

Trustees ensure all activities are in accordance with the charity objects outlined in the constitution and are for the public benefit.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

Achievements and performance

- In the reporting period, the charity has created over 140 x 1:1 befriending pairings across Doncaster, Barnsley, Sheffield and Rotherham. In addition to this our team has supported and managed an additional 120 x 1:1 befriending pairings already in existence.
- Facilitated approximately 960 hours of Social Club activity across the region with weekly activity, peer support and entertainment.
- Collaborated with other charity and community groups, along with statutory health and social care colleagues, on wider social challenges faced across towns and cities we work in.
- A community event hosted by the charity was featured on BBC Breakfast national news and other media coverage includes regional radio and print media.

Financial Review

Principal Funding Sources

B:Friend was grateful to receive funding from: The National Lottery Community Fund, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council and Public Health Doncaster during this period. We also received continued financial and skills support from partners including South Yorkshires Community Foundation, E-On Tween Bridge, Voluntary Action Rotherham, Coca Cola, Rotary Club of St Georges, Doncaster Medical Ball and the Santander Foundation.

Reserve Policy

As a policy, it has always been felt prudent to maintain reserves at a level whereby at least three months expenditure could be met in the event of a significant loss of funding.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

Statement of Management Committee's Responsibilities

Charity law requires the Management Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the CIO as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial period. In preparing those financial statements, the Management Committee should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Management Committee is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities SORP (FRS102). The Management Committee is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Members of the Management Committee

Members of the Management Committee, who are trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 2.

In accordance with charities law, as the CIO's trustees, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant accounting information of which the charity's independent examiners are unaware; and
- as the trustees of the CIO, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant accounting information and to establish that the charity's independent examiners are aware of that information.

Approval

This report was approved by the Management Committee on 25/08/2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Daniel Burton

Chairperson

B:FRIEND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees of B:Friend on the accounts for the period ended 31 October 2020 set out on pages 7 to 15

.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (''the Act'').
The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144 of the Act, and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW).

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking of explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no material mattes have come to my attention which
Gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

- the accounting records were not kept in accordance with section 130 of the Charities Act; and; or
- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kelvin Fitton BA FCA
For and on behalf of Smith Craven
Chartered Accountants
Sidings Court
Doncaster DN4 5NU

Dated: 25.08.21

B:FRIEND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including Income and Expenditure Account)

YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES	3				
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies		7,493	243,674	**251,166**	**213,511**
Charitable activities		3,319	-	**3,319**	**9,090**
Total		10,812	243,674	**254,485**	**222,601**
RESOURCES EXPENDED	4				
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		0	2,224	**2,224**	**2,445**
Charitable activities		0	178,160	**178,160**	**160,668**
Total		0	180,384	**180,384**	**163,113**
Net movement in funds		10,812	63,290	**74,102**	**59,488**
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward		27,363	46,097	73,460	13,972
Total funds carried forward		38,175	109,386	**147,561**	**73,460**

The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the period. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

B:FRIEND

BALANCE SHEET

AT 31ST OCTOBER 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	8	-	4,683	4,683	9,496
Total fixed assets		0	4,683	4,683	9,496
CURRENT ASSETS					
Debtors	9	-	1,077	1,077	8,847
Cash at bank and in hand		38,175	170,945	209,120	132,604
Total current assets		38,175	172,022	210,197	141,451
CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year	10	-	67,319	67,319	77,487
Net current assets		38,175	104,703	142,878	63,964
Total assets less current liabilities		38,175	109,386	147,561	73,459
FUNDS OF THE CHARITY	11				
Restricted income funds		-	109,386	109,386	46,097
Unrestricted funds		38,175	-	38,175	27,363
Total funds		38,175	109,386	147,561	73,460

Approved by the trustees on 25/08/2021

Signed:

On behalf of the trustees

1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

Basis of Accounting
The financial statements have been prepared under the historical cost convention with items recognised at cost or transaction value unless otherise stated in the relevant note to these accounts. The accounts have been prepared in accordance with the Financial Reporting Standard applicable in the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland (FRS 102)
and with the Charities Act 2011.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES

INCOMING RESOURCES
Recognition of incoming resources
These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

- the charity becomes entitled to the resources;
- the trustees are virtually certain they will receive the resources; and
- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

Offsetting
There has been no offsetting of assets and liabilities, or income and expenses, unless required or permitted by the FRS 102 SORP or FRS 102.

Grants and donations
Grants and donations are only included in the SoFA when the general income recognition criteria are met.

Contractual income and performance related grants
This is only included in the SoFA once the related goods or services have been delivered.

Gifts in kind
Gifts in kind are accounted for at a reasonable estimate of their value to the charity or the amount actually realised.
Gifts in kind for sale or distribution are included in the accounts as gifts only when sold or distributed by the charity.
Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable

Donated services and facilities
These are only included in incoming resources (with an equivalent amount in resources expended) where the benefit to the charity is reasonably quantifiable, measurable and material. The value placed on these resources is the estimated value to the charity of the service or facility received.

Volunteer help
The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £250.
They are valued at cost
The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

3 ANALYSIS OF INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	This year £	Last year £
Donations and legacies				
Donations and gifts	7,492	243,674	251,166	213,511
Legacies	-	-	0	0
Total	7,492	243,674	251,166	213,511
Charitable activities				
Other	3,319	-	3,319	9,090
Total	3,319	-	3,319	9,090
Total income	10,811	243,674	254,485	222,601

4 ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES EXPENDED

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	This year £	Last year £
Raising funds				
Advertising	-	2,224	2,224	2,445
Total expenditure on raising funds	-	2,224	2,224	2,445
Charitable activities				
Other expenditure		178,160	178,160	160,668
Total expenditure on charitable activities	-	178,160	178,160	160,668
Total expenditure	-	180,384	180,384	163,113

5 PAID EMPLOYEES

5.1 Staff costs

	This year £	Last year £
Salaries and wages	121,670	96,247
Social security costs	6,163	3,645
Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	2,422	1,506
Total staff costs	130,255	101,398

No employees received employee benefits for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

	This year	Last year
Total amount paid to key personnel	£29,728	£29,300

5.2 Average head count in the year

	This year	Last year
Officers and administration	4	4
Support workers	2	2
	6	6

6 DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PENSION SCHEME

	This year £	Last year £
6.1 Amount of contributions recognised in the SOFA as an expense	2,422	1,506

7 DETAILS OF CERTAIN ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE

7.1 Trustee remuneration and expenses

No members of the management committee received any remuneration during the year.

No expenses were reimbursed to members of the management committee.

7.2 Fees for examination of the accounts

	This year £	Last year £
Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	1,800	1,800
	1,800	1,800

8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Cost		Computer equipment	Total
At the beginning of the year		14,439	14,439
Additions		-	-
Disposals		-	-
At end of year		14,439	14,439
Depreciation			
	Basis Rate	Straight Line 3 years	
At the beginning of the year		4,943	4,943
Depreciation		4,813	4,813
Disposals		-	-
At end of year		9,756	9,756
Net book value			
At the beginning of the year		9,496	9,496
At end of year		4,683	4,683

9 DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

Analysis of debtors	This year £	Last year £
Funding debtors	-	5,870
Prepayments and accrued income	1,077	2,978
Total	1,077	8,848

10 CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

Analysis of creditors	This year £	Last year £
Accruals and deferred income	65,100	75,562
Taxation and social security	2,219	1,925
Total	67,319	77,487

11 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

11.1 Restricted funds held

Fund name	Purpose and restrictions
Barnsley MBC	to provide core service provisions in the Dearne area
South Yorkshire Community Fund	to provide core service provisions in the Mexborough area
South Yorkshire Community Fund	to provide core service provisions in the Doncaster Central area
Doncaster MBC	to provide a weekly social club in the Dearne area
Awards For All	to fund photographic and video material to promote the charities aims
Keepmoat	to provide a weekly social club in the Denaby Main area
Big Lottery Building Connectionss	to provide core service provisions in the South Yorkshire area
Big Lottery Reaching Communities	to provide core service provisions in Doncaster for 3 years and fund staff salaries
South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue	To provide funds for a new website and part fund staff salaries

11.2 Restricted funds summary

	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£
Doncaster MBC	4,516	5,103	3,514	6,105
Voluntary Action Rotherham	1,819	8,911	7,706	3,024
South Yorkshire Community Fund	-	4,970	734	4,236
South Yorkshire Community Fund	-	4,992	2,147	2,845
South Yorkshire Community Fund		3,750	39	3,711
Barnsley MBC	18,233	20,212	20,568	17,877
Big Lottery Reaching Communities	9,196	104,309	78,765	34,740
Big LotteryBuilding Connections	-	32,912	32,912	-
Big Lottery Awards for All		11,285	11,158	127
South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue	12,013	12,102	5,201	18,914
Tesco Bags for Help	-	500		500
Keepmoat	320	2,110	200	2,230
DMBC - Covid-19 Response		7,370	4,452	2,918
CAF - Charities Aid Foundation		10,370	5,781	4,589
Nesta - Covid-19 Response		7,929	7,207	722
Masonic Charitable Trust		2,083		2,083
Greggs Foundation - Rotherham		1,000		1,000
Scurrah Wainwright Charity		1,006		1,006
SOAR - Sheffield		1,000		1,000
Aviva Crowdfunder		1,759		1,759
Total	46,097	243,673	180,384	109,386

11.3 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	4,683	4,683
Current assets	38,175	172,022	210,197
Current liabilities	-	67,319	67,319
Net assets at 31 October 2020	38,175	109,386	147,561

11 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the period.

B:FRIEND
(A charitable incorporated organisation limited by guarantee)

REPORT AND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

CHARITY NUMBER 1171148

COMPANY NUMBER CE009648

B:FRIEND

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MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE PERIOD ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

The Management Committee presents its report and accounts for the year ended 31 October 2020.

Charity information

Management Committee

Daniel Burton	Acting Chairperson (appointed)/Treasurer
Louis Stokes	Non-Executive member
Lucy Cole	Non-Executive member
Geraint Evans	Non-Executive member
Melissa Beckett	Non-Executive member
Charity Registration number	1171148
Charity registered office	Archway Doncaster Road High Melton Doncaster South Yorkshire DN5 7SU
Operational address	Unit 315 The Workstation 15 Paternoster Row Sheffield S1 2BX
Secretary	Matthew Cutmore
Independent examiner	Smith Craven Chartered Accountants Sidings House Sidings Court Doncaster
Bankers	Santander UK Plc Doncaster

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

Structure, governance and management

Governing Document
The organisation is a charitable incorporated organisation formed on 17 January 2017 and registered as a charity.

The charity was established under a Constitution which establishes the objects and powers of the charitable company and is governed under its Constitution.

In the event of the charity being wound up members are required to contribute an amount not exceeding £1.

Recruitment and Appointment of Management Committee
The Trustees of the charity for the purposes of charity law and under the charity's Constitution are known as members of the Management Committee. Under the requirements of the Constitution the members of the Management Committee are elected to serve for a period of three years after which they must be re-elected at the next Annual General Meeting.

Objectives and Activities
The objectives of the charity are to promote social inclusion amongst elderly persons, in particular, but not exclusive to over 65's, resident in Doncaster and the surrounding areas who are excluded by society, by provision of:

- Befriending services through weekly outreach to individuals.

Such other ways from time to time as the trustees see fit in furtherance with said objects. B:Friend is a not-for-profit organisation.

B:Friend pairs volunteer befrienders with socially isolated older neighbours in the community with the aim of reducing loneliness by reengaging with people and places around them. Our key activities are 1:1 befriending pairings, visiting once a week for a "cuppa" and a chat. B:Friend also provides two hour social clubs, held in various locations that offer peer support through a range of physically and mentally stimulating sessions.

All activities undertaken by the charity are to benefit people in the community, be they volunteers or older neighbours, and all remain equitable with services free at the point of delivery.

Trustees ensure all activities are in accordance with the charity objects outlined in the constitution and are for the public benefit.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

Achievements and performance

- In the reporting period, the charity has created over 140 x 1:1 befriending pairings across Doncaster, Barnsley, Sheffield and Rotherham. In addition to this our team has supported and managed an additional 120 x 1:1 befriending pairings already in existence.
- Facilitated approximately 960 hours of Social Club activity across the region with weekly activity, peer support and entertainment.
- Collaborated with other charity and community groups, along with statutory health and social care colleagues, on wider social challenges faced across towns and cities we work in.
- A community event hosted by the charity was featured on BBC Breakfast national news and other media coverage includes regional radio and print media.

Financial Review

Principal Funding Sources

B:Friend was grateful to receive funding from: The National Lottery Community Fund, the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, South Yorkshire Fire and Rescue, Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council, Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council and Public Health Doncaster during this period. We also received continued financial and skills support from partners including South Yorkshires Community Foundation, E-On Tween Bridge, Voluntary Action Rotherham, Coca Cola, Rotary Club of St Georges, Doncaster Medical Ball and the Santander Foundation.

Reserve Policy

As a policy, it has always been felt prudent to maintain reserves at a level whereby at least three months expenditure could be met in the event of a significant loss of funding.

MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 OCTOBER 2020

Statement of Management Committee's Responsibilities

Charity law requires the Management Committee to prepare financial statements for each financial period which give a true and fair view of the state of the affairs of the CIO as at the balance sheet date and of its incoming resources and application of resources, including income and expenditure, for the financial period. In preparing those financial statements, the Management Committee should follow best practice and:

- select suitable accounting policies and then apply them consistently
- make judgements and estimates that are reasonable and prudent; and
- prepare the financial statements on the going concern basis unless it is inappropriate to assume that the company will continue on that basis.

The Management Committee is responsible for maintaining proper accounting records which disclose with reasonable accuracy at any time the financial position of the charitable company and to enable them to ensure that the financial statements comply with the Companies Act 2006 and Charities SORP (FRS102). The Management Committee is also responsible for safeguarding the assets of the charitable company and hence for taking reasonable steps for the prevention and detection of fraud and other irregularities.

Members of the Management Committee

Members of the Management Committee, who are trustees for the purpose of charity law, who served during the year and up to the date of this report are set out on page 2.

In accordance with charities law, as the CIO's trustees, we certify that:

- so far as we are aware, there is no relevant accounting information of which the charity's independent examiners are unaware; and
- as the trustees of the CIO, we have taken all the steps that we ought to have taken in order to make ourselves aware of any relevant accounting information and to establish that the charity's independent examiners are aware of that information.

Approval

This report was approved by the Management Committee on 25/08/2021 and signed on its behalf by:

Daniel Burton

Chairperson

B:FRIEND

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT ON THE ACCOUNTS

Report to the trustees of B:Friend on the accounts for the period ended 31 October 2020 set out on pages 7 to 15

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Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

The trustees are responsible for the preparation of the accounts in accordance with the Charities Act 2011 (''the Act'').
The trustees consider that an audit is not required for this period under section 144 of the Act, and that an independent examination is needed.

It is my responsibility to:

- examine the accounts under section 145 of the Act;
- to follow the procedures laid down in the General Directions given by the Charity Commission under section 145(5)(b) of the Act, and
- to state whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's statement

The charity's gross income exceeded £250,000 and I am qualified to undertake the examination by being a qualified member of Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales (ICAEW).

My examination was carried out in accordance with General Directions given by the Charity Commission. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking of explanations from the trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently no opinion is given as to whether the accounts present a 'true and fair view' and the report is limited to those matters set out in the statement below.

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Gives me cause to believe that in, any material respect:

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- the accounts did not accord with the accounting records; or
- the accounts did not comply with the accounting requirements concerning the form and content of accounts set out in the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008 other than any requirement that the accounts give a 'true and fair' view which is not a matter considered as part of an independent examination.

I have no concerns and have come across no other matters in connection with the examination to which attention should be drawn in this report in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

Kelvin Fitton BA FCA
For and on behalf of Smith Craven
Chartered Accountants
Sidings Court
Doncaster DN4 5NU

Dated: 25.08.21

B:FRIEND

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES (including Income and Expenditure Account)

YEAR ENDED 31ST OCTOBER 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted income funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
INCOMING RESOURCES	3				
Income and endowments from:					
Donations and legacies		7,493	243,674	**251,166**	**213,511**
Charitable activities		3,319	-	**3,319**	**9,090**
Total		10,812	243,674	**254,485**	**222,601**
RESOURCES EXPENDED	4				
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds		0	2,224	**2,224**	**2,445**
Charitable activities		0	178,160	**178,160**	**160,668**
Total		0	180,384	**180,384**	**163,113**
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The statement of financial activities includes all gains and losses in the period. All incoming resources and resources expended derive from continuing activities.

B:FRIEND

BALANCE SHEET

AT 31ST OCTOBER 2020

	Note	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	Total funds £	Prior year funds £
FIXED ASSETS					
Tangible assets	8	-	4,683	4,683	9,496
Total fixed assets		0	4,683	4,683	9,496
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Debtors	9	-	1,077	1,077	8,847
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Total assets less current liabilities		38,175	109,386	147,561	73,459
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Restricted income funds		-	109,386	109,386	46,097
Unrestricted funds		38,175	-	38,175	27,363
Total funds		38,175	109,386	147,561	73,460

Approved by the trustees on 25/08/2021

Signed:

On behalf of the trustees

1 BASIS OF PREPARATION

Basis of Accounting
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and with the Charities Act 2011.

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INCOMING RESOURCES
Recognition of incoming resources
These are included in the Statement of Financial Activities (SoFA) when:

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- the monetary value can be measured with sufficient reliability.

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Gifts in kind for use by the charity are included in the SoFA as incoming resources when receivable

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Volunteer help
The value of any voluntary help received is not included in the accounts but is described in the trustees' annual report.

2 ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

EXPENDITURE AND LIABILITIES

Liability recognition

Liabilities are recognised where it is more likely than not that there is a legal or constructive obligation committing the charity to pay out resources and the amount of the obligation can be measured with reasonable certainty.

Governance and support costs

Support costs have been allocated between governance costs and other support. Governance costs comprise all costs involving public accountability of the charity and its compliance with regulation and good practice.

Support costs include central functions and have been allocated to activity cost categories on a basis consistent with the use of resources.

ASSETS

Tangible fixed assets for use by the charity

These are capitalised if they can be used for more than one year, and cost at least £250.
They are valued at cost
The depreciation rates and methods used are disclosed in the notes to the accounts.

3 ANALYSIS OF INCOMING RESOURCES

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	This year £	Last year £
Donations and legacies				
Donations and gifts	7,492	243,674	251,166	213,511
Legacies	-	-	0	0
Total	7,492	243,674	251,166	213,511
Charitable activities				
Other	3,319	-	3,319	9,090
Total	3,319	-	3,319	9,090
Total income	10,811	243,674	254,485	222,601

4 ANALYSIS OF RESOURCES EXPENDED

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Raising funds				
Advertising	-	2,224	2,224	2,445
Total expenditure on raising funds	-	2,224	2,224	2,445
Charitable activities				
Other expenditure		178,160	178,160	160,668
Total expenditure on charitable activities	-	178,160	178,160	160,668
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5.1 Staff costs

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Pension costs (defined contribution scheme)	2,422	1,506
Total staff costs	130,255	101,398

No employees received employee benefits for the reporting period of more than £60,000.

	This year	Last year
Total amount paid to key personnel	£29,728	£29,300

5.2 Average head count in the year

	This year	Last year
Officers and administration	4	4
Support workers	2	2
	6	6

6 DEFINED CONTRIBUTION PENSION SCHEME

	This year £	Last year £
6.1 Amount of contributions recognised in the SOFA as an expense	2,422	1,506

7 DETAILS OF CERTAIN ITEMS OF EXPENDITURE

7.1 Trustee remuneration and expenses

No members of the management committee received any remuneration during the year.

No expenses were reimbursed to members of the management committee.

7.2 Fees for examination of the accounts

	This year £	Last year £
Independent examiner's fees for reporting on the accounts	1,800	1,800
	1,800	1,800

8 TANGIBLE FIXED ASSETS

Cost		Computer equipment	Total
At the beginning of the year		14,439	14,439
Additions		-	-
Disposals		-	-
At end of year		14,439	14,439
Depreciation			
	Basis Rate	Straight Line 3 years	
At the beginning of the year		4,943	4,943
Depreciation		4,813	4,813
Disposals		-	-
At end of year		9,756	9,756
Net book value			
At the beginning of the year		9,496	9,496
At end of year		4,683	4,683

9 DEBTORS AND PREPAYMENTS

Analysis of debtors	This year £	Last year £
Funding debtors	-	5,870
Prepayments and accrued income	1,077	2,978
Total	1,077	8,848

10 CREDITORS AND ACCRUALS

Analysis of creditors	This year £	Last year £
Accruals and deferred income	65,100	75,562
Taxation and social security	2,219	1,925
Total	67,319	77,487

11 MOVEMENT IN FUNDS

11.1 Restricted funds held

Fund name	Purpose and restrictions
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South Yorkshire Community Fund	to provide core service provisions in the Mexborough area
South Yorkshire Community Fund	to provide core service provisions in the Doncaster Central area
Doncaster MBC	to provide a weekly social club in the Dearne area
Awards For All	to fund photographic and video material to promote the charities aims
Keepmoat	to provide a weekly social club in the Denaby Main area
Big Lottery Building Connectionss	to provide core service provisions in the South Yorkshire area
Big Lottery Reaching Communities	to provide core service provisions in Doncaster for 3 years and fund staff salaries
South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue	To provide funds for a new website and part fund staff salaries

11.2 Restricted funds summary

	Balance b/f	Incoming	Outgoing	Balance c/f
	£	£	£	£
Doncaster MBC	4,516	5,103	3,514	6,105
Voluntary Action Rotherham	1,819	8,911	7,706	3,024
South Yorkshire Community Fund	-	4,970	734	4,236
South Yorkshire Community Fund	-	4,992	2,147	2,845
South Yorkshire Community Fund		3,750	39	3,711
Barnsley MBC	18,233	20,212	20,568	17,877
Big Lottery Reaching Communities	9,196	104,309	78,765	34,740
Big LotteryBuilding Connections	-	32,912	32,912	-
Big Lottery Awards for All		11,285	11,158	127
South Yorkshire Fire & Rescue	12,013	12,102	5,201	18,914
Tesco Bags for Help	-	500		500
Keepmoat	320	2,110	200	2,230
DMBC - Covid-19 Response		7,370	4,452	2,918
CAF - Charities Aid Foundation		10,370	5,781	4,589
Nesta - Covid-19 Response		7,929	7,207	722
Masonic Charitable Trust		2,083		2,083
Greggs Foundation - Rotherham		1,000		1,000
Scurrah Wainwright Charity		1,006		1,006
SOAR - Sheffield		1,000		1,000
Aviva Crowdfunder		1,759		1,759
Total	46,097	243,673	180,384	109,386

11.3 Analysis of net assets between funds

	General Funds	Restricted Funds	Total Funds
	£	£	£
Tangible fixed assets	-	4,683	4,683
Current assets	38,175	172,022	210,197
Current liabilities	-	67,319	67,319
Net assets at 31 October 2020	38,175	109,386	147,561

11 RELATED PARTY TRANSACTIONS

No trustee or other person related to the charity had any personal interest in any contract or transaction entered into by the charity during the period.