

POPULAR HOME LIBRARY SERVICE LOOKING FOR MORE READER CLIENTS



Health Connections Mendip, working alongside a number of local service providers including Mendip District Council, Somerset Public Health and Mendip General Practices launched the End Loneliness in Mendip campaign in April 2017. Each month the End Loneliness in Mendip campaign highlights different services that might support people if they are feeling lonely. This month the focus is on one of the local organisations supporting the campaign - the Home Library Service.

Calling all book lovers! A popular home library service run by Royal Voluntary Service, the national volunteering organisation, is looking for more reader clients across the Mendip region.

The Home Library Service is run by volunteers who deliver books, audio books and other reading materials to people who can no longer get to a library. The service operates from libraries in Frome and the surrounding Mendip areas.

Royal Voluntary Service volunteers choose and deliver books and share their love of reading with clients. They are a friendly face, are regular visitors to older people whose mobility and social interaction are limited and provide a check on clients' safety and well-being too.

Jackie Thompson is a Home Library Service volunteer. She visits Pat (Stevens) who enjoys a good murder story, especially anything by Alexandra McCall Smith, and particularly enjoys listening to audio books, especially in the evenings. Pat says: "I have lost the sight in one eye so talking books are a lifeline. I really enjoy the books that Jackie brings me."

Jackie says: "I enjoy visiting Pat and find her feedback on authors invaluable when choosing books for her or using the online ordering service in Somerset libraries."

Jacquetta Fielder, Volunteer Coordinator for Frome Home Library Service says: "For older people who enjoy reading or listening to an audio recording but find getting out of the house challenging, this service offers a vital link to the local library. The service enables older people to carry on doing something they've always enjoyed and helps alleviate feelings of isolation and loneliness. We'd love as many older people in Somerset as possible to be able to access their local library through the Home Library Service."

To find out more about the Royal Voluntary Service in Mendip:

- Glastonbury and Shepton Mallet contact Lynn Rendell: lynn.rendell@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk
- Frome Home Library Service contact Jacquetta Fielder 07387 548 724 or jacquetta.fielder@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk,
- The rest of the Mendip area contact Kirsty Jenssen on 07920 250 834 or kirsty.jenssen@royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

Website: www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk

For information about other groups and services in Mendip visit www.healthconnectionsmentip.org or call Health Connections Mendip 01373 468 368.

MORE DETAILS:

To find out more about the End Loneliness in Mendip campaign:

<https://endlonelinessinmendip.org.uk/>

For further information about the Royal Voluntary Service, please contact:

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About Royal Voluntary Service

- Royal Voluntary Service is one of the largest voluntary service organisations in the country. We inspire and enable 25,000 volunteers to give their skills, experience, energy and time to help people in need in hospitals, at home and in the community.
- Originally set up as the Women's Voluntary Service (subsequently the WRVS) in 1938, the charity started out helping civilians during the Second World War.
- To mark our 75th anniversary in 2013, we changed our name to 'Royal Voluntary Service' to reflect the role played by all our volunteers, men as well as women.
- The charity's volunteers improve patient experience in hospital, aid recovery after a stay on ward, help older people better support themselves at home and stay fit and active and build meaningful social connections.
- Royal Voluntary Service supports volunteers to run services in the community such as lunch and dining clubs, physical activity classes, craft, gardening and other hobby groups.
- The charity is one of the UK's largest hospital retailers with 230 volunteer-run shops, cafes and trolley services providing tea and company to patients, hospital staff and visitors. Royal Voluntary Service promotes healthy eating and drinking in hospitals through its *Healthier Choices* programme. It has been ranked top of the [Healthy Hospital Food League Table](#) by the Campaign for Better Hospital Food and has been awarded a Social Enterprise Mark for its retail operation.
- We work collaboratively with other charities, social care providers and the NHS to help create a society where everyone feels valued and involved. We are partnering with [HelpForce](#) to scale up the number of volunteers embedded in the NHS.
- For more information on the Royal Voluntary Service, please visit <https://www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk/>