Befriending Networks

Annual Conference
Thursday 7th November
9:00 - 14:30

Bringing the network together
to support, collaborate and lead
the celebration of befriending.

2024

#BefriendingWeek   #WythnosCyfeillio

Acknowledgement

Thank you to our members who responded to our call in May, joining our Conference Steering Group Committee. This event has been designed based on the discussions of these members - from which themes to focus on, the format of the event, to suggesting the ability to drop-in and out of sessions. We appreciate their time, input and support.

- Elspeth, Befriending Caithness
- Jane, Caring Together
- Joanna, Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Kerry, Berwickshire Housing
- Oyovwe, Widows Empowerment
- Betty, Rainham Foodbank
- Liliane, Jesuit Refugee Service

Annual Conference

We are excited to welcome our network online for our annual conference on **Thursday 7th November 2024**. At this event, you can access:

- Networking opportunities
- Guest speakers
- Befriending Week celebrations
- News and developments from Befriending Networks, including our Annual General Meeting
- And more.

This event is free and exclusive to our members.
[Click here to book your space.](#)

Conference Agenda

09:00 - 09:50 | **Networking**

10:00 - 10:50 | **Leading with Warmth & Edge**
Please arrive between 9:50 - 10:00 for this keynote

11:00 - 11:50 | **Inspiration & Innovation**
Please arrive between 10:50 - 11:00 for this keynote

12:00 - 12:30 | **The Future of Befriending : AGM**
Please arrive between 11:50 - 12:00 for the AGM

12:30 - 12:55 | **Lunch / Comfort Break**

13:00 - 13:50 | **Demystifying Volunteer Recruitment**
Please arrive between 12:50 - 13:00 for this keynote

14:00 - 14:30 | **Networking**

You can pick and choose which sessions you want to attend!

Networking

When is it?
There are two networking sessions available for our members: (Sesion 1) 09:00 - 09:50 and (Session 2) 14:00 - 14:30.

Purpose of these sessions?
These sessions are here for anyone who wants to socialise with others in the sector. There is no set agenda and the conversation can be anything related to befriending, creating meaningful connections, Befriending Week celebrations and more. Bring your brew and get chatting!

Two members of Befriending Networks staff will be online to host these segments.

Leading with Warmth & Edge

When is it?
This session is 10:00 - 10:50.

Guest Speaker - Who are they?
We are excited to welcome **Don Leadingham**, Co-Chief Executive Officer at Ceannas. Ceannas specialises in leadership skills and frameworks, creating a high impact, high-value culture in organisations. Full speaker bio on page 11.

Why have we selected this topic?
Our members have requested guidance on operations and leading a team to success.

The learning objectives of this session:
1. To explore how Leaders can successfully apply both Warmth and Edge
2. To examine two case stories of leaders applying warmth and edge - one successful another unsuccessful
3. To provide a framework which leaders can apply in their own context

Inspiration & Innovation

When is it?
This session is 11:00 - 11:50.

Guest Speaker - Who are they?
We are thrilled to welcome **Antonia Ypsilanti**, Associate Professor of the Centre for Loneliness Studies at Sheffield Hallam University, and Co-Director of the Campaign to End Loneliness. Full speaker bio on page 12.

Why have we selected this topic?
Having focused on co-design and collaboration with the new leadership of the Campaign, they are a fantastic example of a new approach which may inspire a fresh take for befriending operations.

The learning objectives of this session:
1. To demonstrate how the CtEL has influended decision-making and policy-making on Loneliness
2. To explain how the Campaign is structured, how it is resourced and to provide innovate ideas on how to make an impact in your community
3. To provide an overview of the international collaboration that the campaign is involved in and to share good pracitces on befriending services from across the world.

Future of Befriending

When is it?
This session is 12:00 - 12:30.

Key topics of this session
As a membership organisation, we invite all members to attend our Annual General Meeting (AGM). We will reflect on the year past and share our future direction. This short session will include the approval of our annual report and the appointment of trustees.

The learning objectives of this session:
1. To share developments in the sector of befriending
2. To demonstrate good governance of Befriending Networks
3. To celebrate our network and communicate next steps

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Demystifying Volunteer Recruitment

When is it?
This session is 13:00 - 13:50.

Guest Speaker - Who are they?
We are delighted to welcome **Wendy Halley**, Assemble Product Manager who focuses on volunteer development and has a wealth of knowledge and experience in volunteer management. Full speaker bio on page 13.

Why have we selected this topic?
Volunteer recruitment is one of the top raised issues by our members - Wendy is here to help!

The learning objectives of this session:
1. To understand how to find suitable applicants
2. To be able to design and manage an effective recruitment process
3. To know how to retain volunteers through supportive management

Befriending Networks

Get to know our Guest Speakers

A special thanks to our three speakers presenting on Thursday 7th Nov.

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Don Ledingham
Ceannas

Antonia Ypsilanti
Campaign to End Loneliness /
Sheffield Hallam University

Wendy Halley
Assemble

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Don Ledingham

Don Ledingham is the Founder and Chairman of Ceannas, the Scottish-based Leadership Development and Consultancy Service. The Ceannas Vision is to build a 100-year-old company - so only 90 years to go!

With a high-profile list of global clients, such as Allianz and Google Cloud, they have developed a range of proprietary products and services which have had a transformative impact on the performance of organisations.

Don Ledingham has had a lifelong interest in education and leadership. It led him earlier in his career to become a teacher, university lecturer, headteacher, and executive director of education.
He is the author of 'A Small Step to Wise Leadership, (2017) and 'The Wisdom of Knowing you Know Nothing' (2021) and an honorary professor of leadership at Queen Margaret University Edinburgh. In 2019 he wrote 'Edinburgh Revisited' with Gordon Hunter.

He subscribes to the words of Seamus Heaney: "Believe that a further shore is reachable from here".

Antonia Ypsilanti

Associate Professor Antonia Ypsilanti is the co-Director of the Campaign to End Loneliness, which is one of UK's leading advocacy bodies focusing on research, policy, and practice on loneliness. She has worked on loneliness research for 10 years with a focus on understanding the underlying psychological mechanisms that make loneliness problematic.

Antonia's session aims to present how the Campaign to End Loneliness has influenced decision making and policy making on Loneliness. Also, during the session, attendees will learn how the Campaign is structured and how it is resourced and provide innovative ideas on how to make an impact in your community. A final aim is to provide an overview of the international collaboration that the Campaign is involved in and share good practices on befriending services from across the world.

Antonia will be joined by Professor Andrea Wigfield, the Director of the Centre for Loneliness Studies and the co-Director of the Campaign to End Loneliness. Her research focuses on the wider social determinants of loneliness and social isolation and advocates evidence based research which is policy driven and leads to impact and change.

Wendy Halley

From setting up support groups for people living with lung conditions to head of volunteering, Wendy's had roles in multiple charities of varying sizes. Mainly in volunteering development, Wendy has supported local volunteer managers across the UK with volunteer recruitment, retention, day-to-day management and dealing with difficult conversations.

Back in 2015, Wendy commissioned Save the Children's volunteer management system, helping to shape and direct the features of the software that would become Assemble. Seven years later, she moved from volunteering development to work directly with Assemble itself. Initially delivering all of the customer training she now manages the direction and delivery of Assemble across the volunteering sector. But volunteering is still a passion and supporting "digitally nervous" volunteers (and managers!) in a world for digital natives, has become an increasing focus.
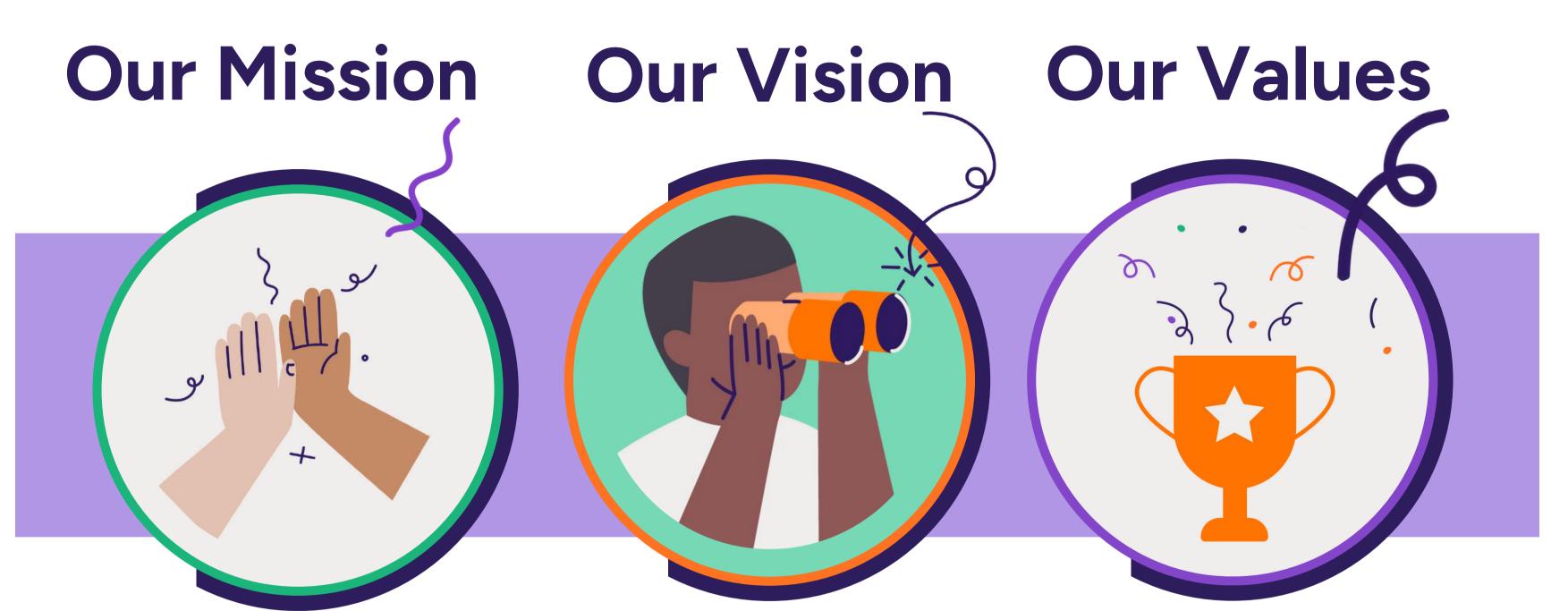
Getting involved

1. There will be one Zoom link for the whole day
2. You can jump in and out, attending the sessions that fit with your needs and capacity. There is a break between each segment to allow for joining time. The waiting room will be opened for each session.
3. Participants are welcome to join us and be present for the whole event, we'd love to see you there!
4. Please respect the cap of five spaces maximum per membership organisation. This is to ensure as many befriending projects can attend as possible.
5. As well as the ten minutes in-between sessions, there is a lunch break 12:30 - 12:55 to ensure the comfort of staff and participants attending the event for the whole day.
6. To minimise disruption of our sessions and our guest speakers - if you arrive more than ten minutes after a session, entry cannot be promised. Please arrive in the comfort breaks before a keynote begins.
7. There will be a delegate pack for this event, sharing slides and presentations post-event.

About Us

We are a small team, working hard to support the network.

Our Mission

Our Vision

Our Values

Our mission is to support organisations to deliver quality befriending services that promote wellbeing and meaningful connections, ensuring that everyone feels valued.

Our vision is of a society where quality befriending support is available to everyone who needs it and the importance of meaningful connection is recognised.

Befriending Networks has three values. These values guide our behaviour, our service design, our planning, and our evaluation: (1) We are supportive; (2) We are collaborative; (3) We are sector-leading.

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Befriending Week

1st - 7th November

Befriending Networks

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