

Just when you
need it – a new
friend

Good
conversation,
companionship
and a
sympathetic
ear



**How is a referral
made?**

It's simple
and
Straightforward:

Contact Gill MacLellan,
befriending co-ordinator

on 020 8296 0735

or

email gmaclellan@wimbledonguild.co.uk.

Gill will arrange a visit to
get the necessary details
and assess the suitability
of the scheme for the
person.



Wimbledon Guild

Guild House,
30 / 32 Worple Road,
Wimbledon,
SW19 4EF
Registered Charity No 200424

First Service
Befriending

*A service which has time
for you*



Contact us for more
information on

020 8946 0735



Wimbledon Guild of Social Welfare

Befriending

What is 'First Service' Befriending?

A visiting and befriending service, which is part of First Service, managed by The Wimbledon Guild. We work in partnership with community and faith groups and Volunteer Centre Merton (VCM).

The area covered is Wimbledon, Colliers Wood and Raynes Park

Many older people are socially isolated - living on their own or caring for a partner. Our aim is to lessen their social isolation and enhance their quality of life.

We believe that befriending helps to fulfil their emotional needs and maintain their mental health.

Who's it for?

The clients are older people who live alone and find it difficult to get out of their homes. They are normally over sixty years old.



The Guild hears of them through referrals from Social Services, local surgeries, hospital links, VCM, local groups and its own staff and contacts.

After the initial contact, an application form is filled in and the Guild makes its own assessment of the suitability of the scheme for the older person.

Who are the befrienders?

Befrienders are friendly people who work in a voluntary capacity, visiting an older person for approximately an hour a week.

They commit themselves to an initial period of six months, but there is no set rule as to how long the relationship should last.

Wherever possible, a befriender is matched with an older person who has similar interests.

Some befrienders carry out one-off tasks instead of, or in addition to, the above.

Befrienders are at least 18 years of age.

After initial interviews and mandatory criminal records checks, the befrienders are given induction training. Ongoing support and further training opportunities are also provided.

Any expenses are fully re-imbursed.



What else does the Guild do?

Charity Shop
Counselling
Gifts in Kind (Furniture, White Goods etc)
Grants
IT, art, exercise, drama groups (for seniors)
The Guild Rendezvous (Activity & Social Centre)
Rosemary Lodge Residential Home, with nursing facilities
Social Work

Other services supported by the Wimbledon Guild include:

Chiropody
Clubs for older people
Faith in Action Merton Homelessness Project
Merton Multicultural Co-operative (MeMu)
SSAFA
The Pensions Service