

MAY 2023 NEWSLETTER



FAITH IN OLDER PEOPLE

is a small voluntary organisation which aims to enhance the quality of life and well-being of older people by working with those providing practical, pastoral or spiritual care

Celebrating the lasting inclusive legacy of the legendary Eric Liddell

The Eric Liddell Community is a registered Edinburgh based charity which has a mission is to bring people together in their local communities to enhance health and wellbeing and have a positive impact on their lives.



We hold a vision for people to live in a society where no-one feels lonely or isolated.

The Eric Liddell 100

Our charity was founded in 1980 to honour the legendary sportsman and missionary Eric Liddell. We reflect his values and principles to help and support those who need it and the people who look after them in a spirit of community, inclusivity, diversity and generosity.

It is in celebration of Eric's centenary of winning his 440 yards gold medal at the Paris Olympics in 1924 that the Eric Liddell Community is planning a series of developments and events to commemorate Eric's life and how he lived it. These will launch in the lead up to 2024 with the intention of establishing a continuation of his legacy for future generations.



We call this major programme The Eric Liddell 100 and are delighted that Her Royal Highness The Princess Royal has agreed to become the Patron of this initiative.



Eric's belief in community service whilst he lived and studied in Edinburgh, England and China was dedicated to inspiring, empowering, and supporting people of all ages, faiths, cultures and abilities.

The Eric Liddell 100 will secure, develop and celebrate the legacy of The Flying Scotsman in the lead up to (and beyond) the centenary of his historic Olympic success, that will take place at the Paris Games in 2024.

Our Vision is to create a global community that celebrates Eric Liddell's inspirational legacy, values and integrity.

Our Mission is to bring his achievements to life for everyone, and inspire new generations to make a positive impact on their community, their society and their world.

We believe that any individual can make a positive impact on the world if they approach the challenges they face with passion, compassion and integrity.

Passion – enthusiasm, dedication, optimism, self-belief

Compassion – humility, selflessness, respect, care, community-minded

Integrity – discretion, loyalty, self-sacrifice, principled

I have been overwhelmed by the number of local people, cultural champions, sporting heroes, educational masterminds and corporate professionals who have joined together with us to launch a major programme of events and developments to celebrate Eric's life and ensure his legacy for future generations. This is being developed via three major workstreams:-

Education – Development of physical and online resources to support learning in schools, universities and adult learning globally.

Sports/Physical Activity – Promoting the legacy of Eric Liddell's sporting success

through participation, engagement, fun and competition across multiple disciplines.

Cultural – The creation of an Eric Liddell Exhibition and other cultural celebrations in keeping with his legacy.

As part of this, we are now connected to a number of international communities which celebrate Eric and we wanted to recognise and embrace their worldwide connectivity to our own community.

Our first international event included the invitation for Sir James MacMillan and Lord Smith of Kelvin, KT CH, to deliver keynote addresses at our recent event in Chicago, USA in March this year.

I have had positive discussions with Faith in Older People, the Church of Scotland, Eric Liddell's Church in Edinburgh – Morningside United Church/The United Reformed Church, The Interfaith Community in Scotland, more recently the Council for World Mission, the Edinburgh Medical Missionary Society and colleagues at St Giles Cathedral, Edinburgh, linked to all working together to celebrate the life and times of Eric as a committed Christian, but in an inclusive and interfaith manner.

I look forward to hearing from the faith community and working with colleagues to ensure that we celebrate Eric Liddell's achievements and legacy in the right way in 2024 and beyond.

As I look every day at the portrait of Eric which hangs in my office, I think of him having been immortalised in the film "Chariots of Fire" and celebrated in Scottish author and broadcaster Sally Magnusson's book 'The Flying Scotsman' and a number of other excellent books which have been written about his life.

Eric is remembered in many ways to different people – as a sportsman, a husband and father, a devout soul who lived his life according to his beliefs, a graduate of Edinburgh University and a missionary in China who refused to leave those he looked after during the Second World War. If he had lived longer than his forty-three years, who knows what more he could have done.



John MacMillan, CEO, The Eric Liddell Community

If you would like any further details or would like to become involved, please contact:-

- *Caroline Clark, Programme Manager - clarkc@ericliddell.org*
- *John MacMillan, CEO - macmillanj@ericliddell.org*
- *or call The Eric Liddell Community on 0131 447 4520*

BECOME A FRIEND OF FIOP

IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY - we'd like to ask you to become a FRIEND OF FIOP
An annual contribution of, say £25, would make an enormous difference to our small organisation. As a Friend you will receive our regular eNewsletter and invitations to our regular events.

PLEASE CONTACT US FOR AN APPLICATION FORM – info@fiop.org.uk
You can find out more about our work on www.faithinolderpeople.org.uk

OUR GRATEFUL THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY SIGNED UP

Faith in Older People's ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022
is available on our website.
Please click [HERE](#) to read it

FAITH IN OLDER PEOPLE – RECENT EVENTS

Faith in Older People has been involved in a range of activities over the past few months.

- Contributing to the development of the Scottish Government Spiritual Care Framework and Delivery Plan.
- Contributing to the Scottish Government Advisory Group on the development of the palliative and end of life delivery plan.
- Published the On-Line Interactive Resource to assist faith communities to support people experiencing dementia – One Step at a Time.
- Collaborating with the Anna Chaplaincy to build awareness of its potential to support older people and to facilitate a workshop in St Mary’s Cathedral Edinburgh as part of the Edinburgh Diocese event ‘The Big Story’.
- Disseminating the Gift of Age final report and organising events.
- Produced a newsletter devoted to issues around bereavement in collaboration with Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief.
- Contributing to the Alzheimer Scotland Long Term Care Commission.
- Contributing to the University of West of Scotland research programme on dementia care in prison.

Demystifying Death Week – Good Life, Good Death, Good Grief

Faith in Older People was delighted to be shortlisted in the award category of ‘Increasing Understanding’.



Dedicated Minister for Older People – a collective letter to the First Minister - If you wish to publish on your website and share, that would be great.

“Along with many others, we are calling on First Minister @HumzaYousaf to reinstate a named Minister for Older People. Find out more in @Sunday Post” The link to the story is on the Sunday Post website; you’ll find it here <https://www.sundaypost.com/>

Humza Yousaf MSP, First Minister, The Scottish Government
Shirley-Anne Somerville MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Social Justice, The Scottish Government
Emma Roddick MSP, Minister for Equalities, Migration and Refugees, The Scottish Government

Dear First Minister, Cabinet Secretary and Minister,
Reinstating a Minister for Older People

We would like to offer our congratulations to you on your respective election as First Minister and appointments as Cabinet Secretary and Minister.

However, we are disheartened and extremely disappointed that the prominence of older people’s issues and its position as a named responsibility have been downgraded within the new Minister for Equalities, Migration and Refugees’ portfolio. The list of policy areas covered here are larger and more diverse than ever before, which gives us cause for concern about the amount of necessary focus older people will receive.

We feel this is a backward step on the progress that has been made, and reduces the importance of older people’s issues at a time when Scotland’s population is ageing and facing a growing number of serious challenges. Collectively, we have heard from many older people’s groups and individual older people who feel let down by this.

In order to demonstrate a serious commitment to improving the lives of older

people in Scotland, we believe that you should reinstate a named ministerial title for older people.

We look forward to hearing from you.

- Stuart Purdy**, Chair, Age Scotland
- David Paterson**, Chair, Scottish Older People’s Assembly
- Susan Hunter**, CEO, Befriending Networks
- Dr Rowan Wallace**, Chair, Scotland Council - British Geriatrics Society
- Maureen O’Neill**, Director, Faith in Older People
- Michelle Carruthers**, Chief Executive, Food Train
- Alison Clyde**, Chief Executive Officer, Generations Working Together
- Richard Robinson**, CEO, Hourglass
- John Palmer**, Director of Policy and Communications, Independent Age
- Graham Galloway**, Chief Executive, Kirrie Connections
- Anne Gallacher**, Director, Luminato
- Louise Wilson**, Chief Executive, Outside the Box
- Dr Leeanne McGurk**, Principal Investigator, School of Life Sciences, University of Dundee
- Dr Donald Macaskill**, Chief Executive, Scottish Care
- Mukami McCrum**, Chair, Scottish Ethnic Minority Older People Forum
- Rose Jackson**, Chairperson, Scottish Pensioners’ Forum
- Elizabeth Lumsden**, Community Safety Manager (Scotland), The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents

Dear First Minister
Please reinstate a named minister for older people



MARCH 2023 NEWSLETTER

Our March Newsletter was dedicated to issues around bereavement in collaboration with the Scottish Partnership on Palliative Care and

Good Life; Good Death; Good Grief. If you missed this particular newsletter you can find it on our website by clicking [here](#)

FAITH IN OLDER PEOPLE – FORTHCOMING EVENTS FOR 2023

End of Life Skills for Everyone

FiOP is planning an EASE course (End of Life Skills for Everyone) in the early summer. This is a free course. It will take place over four half days online and has excellent resources behind it.

Please note that numbers for this course are restricted to twelve; if you register, it is important to attend each of the half day sessions.

If you are interested in taking part, please let Maureen O’Neill know on email: director@fiop.org.uk

SCOTTISH GOVERNMENT

Benefits for Carers Research Recruitment - Voices Needed

Share your experience
and help us improve
benefits for carers

The Scottish Government is working to improve benefits for people who care and we would like to hear from you.



mygov.scot/carers-survey

[Download](#)

The Scottish Government's Social Security Programme is currently working on developing new carer's benefits in Scotland, and they are looking to speak to carers to help us design the new benefits offering. So far the team have spoken to over 160 carers about their experiences and taken their feedback on board, and they would love your help reaching more voices.

The Social Security Programme Team would appreciate your help in sharing our social media assets via your relevant channels. They have created a graphic that provides a link to a five-minute, online survey where carers can register their interest in taking part in our research.

Social media, website, newsletter and poster assets are available for download. The printable poster also contains a QR code that links directly to the survey and also has a phone number for people that do not have access to a mobile device or internet to contact us to register.

How You Can Help

- Please **share** the campaign assets via your social media, website, newsletters
- Please **post** the printable posters available in your relevant buildings.

- Please **forward** these assets to relevant stakeholders who may be able to spread the word

Please don't hesitate to get in touch with eduard.vasile@gov.scot if you have any questions or feedback.

Research Report about the impact of COVID on faith communities

This Research Report has been published on the government website and is available via the following link: [The impact of COVID-19: Conversations with Faith Communities - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/research-reports/pages/12.aspx)

GENERAL INFORMATION



FM Open Letter to Scotland's Faith and Belief Communities

We were delighted to read First Minister Humza Yousaf's Letter to Scotland's faith and belief communities, citing the importance of interfaith relations.

[FM-Open-Letter-to-All-of-Scotlands-Faith-and-Belief-Communities-April-2023](#)

[Download](#)



Anna Chaplaincy

Offering spiritual care in later life

You can read all the previous posts on the [Anna Chaplaincy blog](#).

Debbie Thrower and the Anna Chaplaincy team at BRF

annachaplaincy@brf.org.uk | annachaplaincy.org.uk | brf.org.uk

New vice president for BRF



Professor John Swinton

years. Professor Swinton is professor in practical theology and pastoral care at the University of Aberdeen. He is a leading practitioner in the field of spiritual care for older people in the UK and has been instrumental in the development of the groundbreaking Spiritual Care Series course which BRF promotes and distributes through its Anna Chaplaincy ministry.

We are delighted to announce that Professor John Swinton has accepted our invitation to become a vice president of BRF. This is an honorary role for an initial period of three



A summary of the ALLIANCE member event on Realistic Medicine.

[Realistic Medicine - ALLIANCE member event summary report - Health and Social Care Alliance Scotland \(alliance-scotland.org.uk\)](#)

Age Scotland's Big Survey

sample of over 50s about how they are coping.



Background

In 2021, we introduced Age Scotland's Big Survey, our first ever comprehensive survey of what it is like to grow older in Scotland. We are delighted to be working with researchers from Scotinform once again to re-run the Big Survey to find out whether the issues facing older people have remained the same, got better, or got worse.

The Big Survey

The Big Survey asks about a range of topics to help give us a greater understanding of what it is like to be an older person living in Scotland today. We'll use the findings to prioritise what issues we campaign on and it will help construct our media and policy responses. It also asks about the impact of the cost of living, so we can capture information from a large

In addition to helping Age Scotland with our future work, respondents also have the chance to win one of ten £50 vouchers for filling out the survey.

An online version of the survey is available [here](#), at www.age.scot/bigsurvey. You can also order paper copies by calling

0333 323 2400 or emailing us at bigsurvey@agescotland.org.uk.

Our ambition is to reach and capture the views and experiences of as many people over the age of 50 as possible.

We would be very grateful if you could help us by sharing this survey with your members and across your networks.

Jo McGilvray (she/her)
Policy officer



[Click here](#) to read the latest news from **VHS**

Volunteers' Week 2023: Celebrate and Inspire



With just over two months to go until **Volunteers' Week 2023**, taking place 1-7 June, the organisers have shared the theme for this year's week-long celebration is 'Celebrate and Inspire'. Volunteers' Week is an annual

event, now entering its 39th year.

You can find out more about how to get involved and get resources to plan your own participation on the Volunteers' Week website in Scotland volunteersweek.scot



SILVER SUNDAY

THE NATIONAL DAY FOR OLDER PEOPLE – 1 OCTOBER 2023

As we head towards the brighter days of spring, we are so excited to be looking ahead and making plans to hold the biggest celebration of older people yet. So, if you haven't already, make sure **Silver Sunday on 1st October** is firmly in your calendar and join us and thousands of others to celebrate older people this year!

Silver Sunday 2022 was an overwhelming success, with more than 1,000 events for older

people taking place across the country. From dance-a-thons to dog shows, communities and generations came together to celebrate, connect and try something new. Thank you so much to everyone who took part and brought so much happiness to lonely and isolated older people.

We're well underway with plans for this year's event and look forward to hearing your ideas. Look out for our updated Info Pack and other **resources** later this month.





New Research Publication

'The Cost of Living Crisis – Quarterly Bulletin No.2'

Volunteer Scotland has just published its second bulletin examining the impact of the cost of living and wellbeing crisis on volunteering and volunteers:

[VIEW PUBLICATION HERE](#)

**IF YOU WISH TO UNSUBSCRIBE FROM OUR NEWSLETTER,
PLEASE EMAIL info@fiop.org.uk**



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