



## Chorlton Good Neighbours – Something to Celebrate

Chorlton Good Neighbours is a charity based in St Ninian's church, providing practical and personal support to older people in the south Manchester areas of Chorlton, Chorlton Park and Whalley Range. Their activities include coffee mornings and trips, Sunday tea parties, chair-based exercise classes, a history group and a men's group. They have a very active team of dedicated volunteers who provide befriending and support services such as visiting, shopping support, doing odd jobs, dog walking, wheelchair pushing, small practical DIY jobs and transport to appointments.



In 2017 the group reaches its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and approached Macc to see whether there was any support to help them mark it in a very special way. As well as holding a big party for everyone involved, they wanted to have a more permanent record of residents' involvement with the organisation.

Macc helped the group to look at different types of activities, and they settled on a project that would be run as part of Chorlton Arts Festival, where people would be invited to create a painted pebble marking the history of the area over the last 50 years, and the group's work. The pebbles would then be used to create a permanent border around the pathway to the church.

In a separate project, they would work with a community artist create a commemorative timeline display to go inside the building. Macc's Community Reporters project would also work with the group and a local school, helping the school's film club to make a film that could be shown at events and used on Chorlton Good Neighbours' website.

But all of this required funding. Macc supported the group to submit an application to the Lottery's Celebrate fund. This was open for part of 2016, and offered groups up to £10,000 to fund activities that would bring communities together to celebrate positive things about their areas.



Chorlton Good Neighbours was awarded the maximum amount, and Helen Hibberd, the group's Coordinator said, 'we are absolutely delighted. This is such good news and means we can now involve everyone in celebrating our anniversary in style, and in several different ways.'

For more information about Chorlton Good Neighbours, see their website [www.chorltongoodneighbours.org](http://www.chorltongoodneighbours.org)