

Befriender

Opportunity:

Become a Reading Friend



READING
FRIENDS
READING
WELL

B&NES Library Service is looking for befrienders to connect with others through a shared love of reading and conversation.



Make a real difference in your community whilst learning new skills, boosting your CV, meeting like-minded others and having fun.

To find out more:

Telephone: **01225 394041**

Email: **Reading_Friends@bathnes.gov.uk**

Bath & North East
Somerset Council

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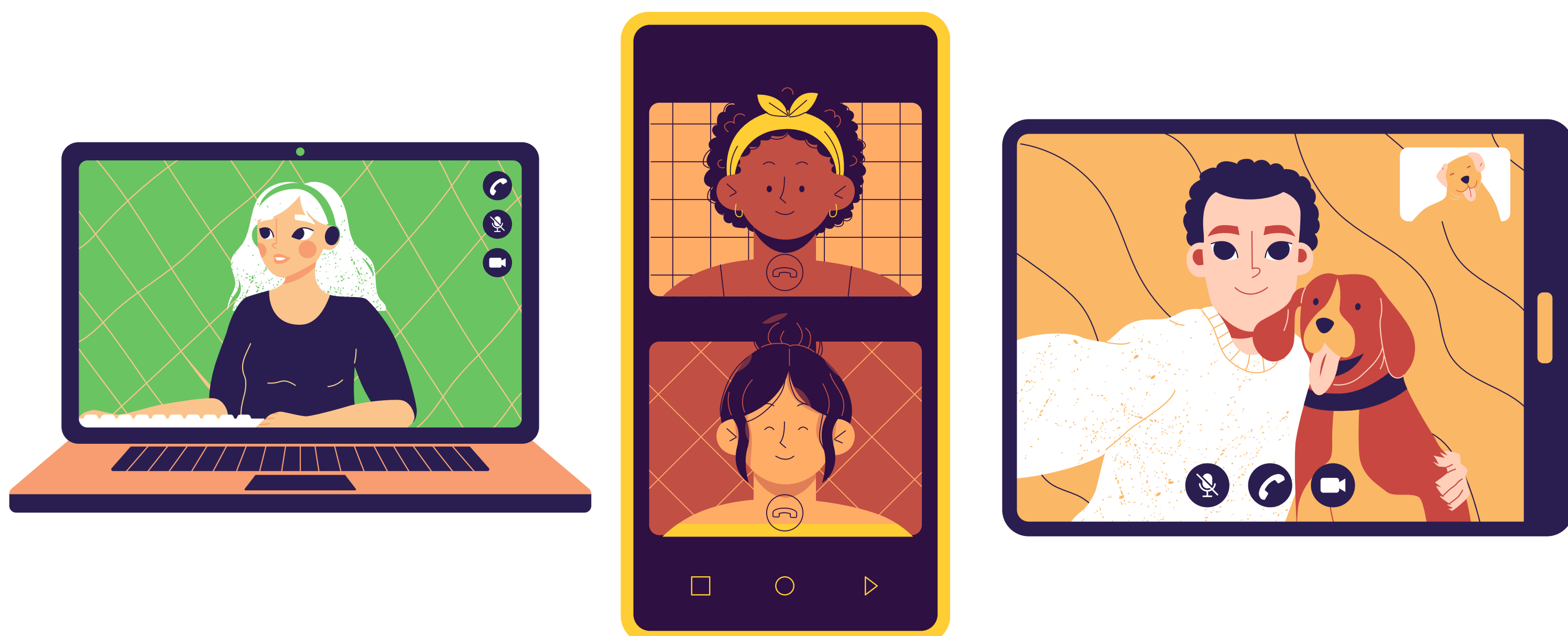
Join Reading Friends in Bath and North East Somerset:

A great way to meet others



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B&NES Library Service is looking for people to celebrate and share their love of reading through Reading Friends.



This is a great opportunity to socialise, meet like-minded others and have fun. If you're interested in any sort of reading - we would love for you to join us!

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Reading Friends in Bath and North East Somerset



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What is Reading Friends?

Reading Friends is a UK-wide social reading and befriending programme to help those who feel vulnerable, isolated or lonely.

- It starts with people's interests and passions and is about reading, chatting together and having fun.
- It connects people by starting conversations through reading.
- It is delivered by a volunteer/member of staff as a one-to-one phone call or virtually.

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Reading Friends in Bath and North East Somerset FAQ



What is Reading Friends?

Reading Friends is a UK Wide social reading and befriending programme to help those who feel vulnerable, isolated or lonely.

Is it an ongoing project?

That is what we are planning. Initially we have some funding from January to March 2021. But we want to expand and develop the project after that.

Do you need to be an avid reader to join up? No – we match the person to the volunteer. It is more about shared interests and experiences. More about chatting and having fun. Reading is just one way to make a connection. Volunteers/staff may develop a person's reading in whatever way fits with the person.

Is it like a book group?

No – it is more about reading in the moment. Sharing reading experiences of all kinds – includes things like magazines, newspapers and audio materials.

Where are volunteers coming from?

To start with we are focusing on Library Volunteers who currently may not be involved with other projects. We are also approaching frontline Council staff - Customer Services staff and the Wellbeing hub staff/volunteers.

If I want to volunteer, or know someone else who wants to volunteer, what do I do? Contact us: Reading_Friends@bathnes.gov.uk or 01225 394041

What is the application process to become a volunteer?

Current volunteers or staff will be able to start immediately. New volunteers will need to go through our application process (email for advice). You will need to fill in a form and provide 2 referees. We will ask everyone to sign a Reading Friends agreement.

What training will be available?

Telephone/online techniques. Tips and hints for starting a conversation. Guidance about library services. Safeguarding guidance.

If I know someone who wants to take part as a participant who do I contact?

Ask them to contact us on: Reading_Friends@bathnes.gov.uk or 01225 394041

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