

**Café Scheme launched in Bury**

A new scheme that is aimed at reducing loneliness and social isolation was launched on 22nd November at three town centre cafes in Bury.

This scheme was the idea of Andy Smith from Bury. On visiting several cafes, he noticed that lots of people use the cafes as a social outlet but sit alone at their table. Andy thought that if there was a scheme in place that made it easier for people to talk and sit together, they would be more inclined to do so. This was where the scheme began. Andy said “I often go to cafes to do my work and get some peace, during my visits there are always people on their own or with babies. I thought they would probably all get on well together given the chance and so I approached the Friendly Bury project lead to talk about my idea. This is where the scheme was born”.

It is a simple idea anyone over the age of 18 can visit one of the cafes taking part at the times stated, make a purchase and ask the staff for a “friendly café” sign. The sign is placed on the table so people know the person wishes to have company. Andy stated, “Don’t be afraid, if a sign is displayed, the person wants to chat”.

The following cafes have kindly agreed to take part in this pilot which is aimed at reducing social isolation and loneliness. The scheme is open to anyone over the age of 18.

* Bap, 46 Haymarket, Millgate Shopping Centre, Bury, BL9 0BX. Friendly café scheme is available all day on Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays.
* Automatic at The Met, Market Street, Bury, BL9 0BW. Friendly café scheme is available from 10am-12pm and 2-4pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.
* Tristians Traditional Family Restaurant, 21 Princess Parade, Bury, BL9 0QL. Friendly café scheme is available from 930am-330pm on Mondays, Tuesdays and Thursdays.

So go along and meet someone new, and tell anyone who may be interested.

For further information about the Friendly Bury Plan or the Friendly Café Scheme, please contact:

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