

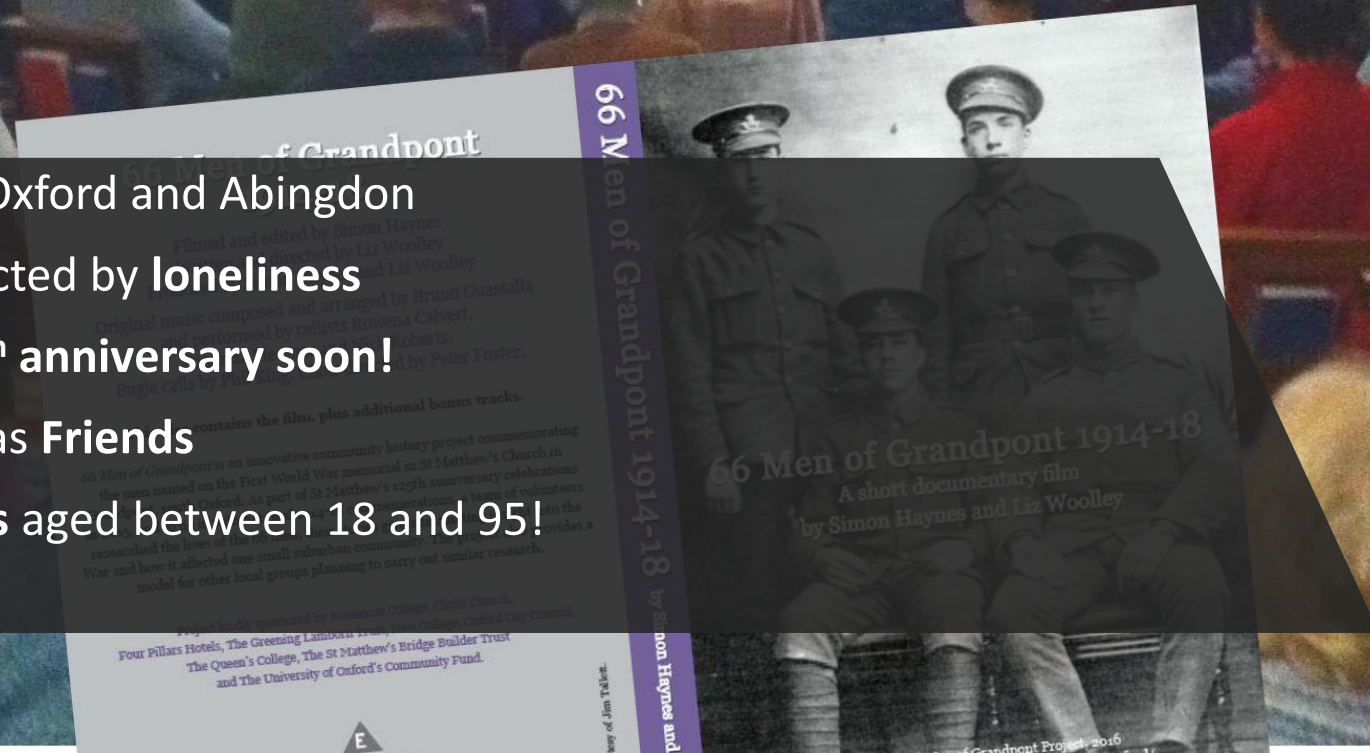


Brand the Bus competition entry

2021

Key information

- Archway is a **local charity** based in Oxford and Abingdon
- They provide support for those affected by **loneliness**
- Archway was founded in 1982 – **40th anniversary soon!**
- Archway's service users are known as **Friends**
- There are more than **100 volunteers** aged between 18 and 95!



Some examples of what Archway does:

- Telephone Support (fortnightly welfare and emotional support calls)
- Individual Support through regular one-to-one, face-to-face meet ups and visits
- Supportive social contact within a group setting
- Signposting and support to access other forms for help
- Volunteering opportunities



Our Friends' Stories – The Archway Foundation

A group of people, mostly older adults, are seated in a room, possibly a church or community center. They are facing a screen at the front of the room. The room has dark wood paneling and a large window. The people are dressed in casual attire. A speech bubble is overlaid on the image, containing the text "Stories from Archway Friends".

**Stories from
Archway Friends**

Adapting to Covid 19

- Like all charities, Archway has had to adapt to Covid 19 restrictions. The mission of supporting those affected by loneliness became more difficult but also more important!
- As social events were no longer possible, volunteers were mobilised to provide telephone support to over 180 Friends, The Bright Side newsletter is being distributed to 280 people every month, the team does welfare checks and have done doorstep deliveries at Christmas and Easter, they have continued to train volunteers and they have worked with other agencies and charities to provide support to Friends.





Challenges for the future:

- Reassessing the needs of the community
- Reassessing the format for support post-covid
- A potential increase in referral numbers
- Recruiting new volunteers

Why should Archway be on the bus?

- To get the message out that loneliness should not be a stigma
- To show people that support is out there
- To help Archway recruit volunteers and provide further support
- Or simply to prompt people to reach out to members of their family or local community that may not have access to the same social contact that they do

