

# The Volunteer

## Winter 2024/25

## A message from Kirti

*Volunteer Leader Kirti Mistry*



Hello volunteers. I hope you are all keeping warm and well as we head into Spring! I'm Kirti and I am the new Volunteer Team Leader replacing Tara who left us in the Summer. I have been in post since September and have been trying to visit all the various groups and activities to introduce myself and meet you all. Since I started the role, I've taken part in chair based exercises, tai chi and even learnt how to play dominoes. I'm amazed at the variety of activities we offer and can't believe that I've lived in Bolton for over 18 years and didn't know that we have so many things to do for older people. Apologies if I haven't managed to get around to meet you yet as I've been busy auditing our volunteer records. I've been visiting and telephoning groups to check that all your details are up to date so I look forward to meeting you if I haven't met you yet.



## Hello from the Chief Executive

*Chief Executive Lauren McKechnie*

Hello volunteers, I hope this finds you well.

As we step into another exciting year, I want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible commitment and support you show to Age UK Bolton. Every hour you give and every act of kindness makes a real difference in the lives of older people across the borough. Your dedication is at the heart of everything we do, and we couldn't be prouder to have you as part of our team.

Across the organisation, we're working hard to put plans in place for 2025–26, and there's plenty to be excited about. From building Age UK Bolton's profile in our communities to carving out our place in the local fundraising market and strengthening partnerships with local businesses, we're diversifying our income streams to continue support over 10,000 of Bolton's most vulnerable residents each year—work that simply wouldn't be possible without you.

We're delighted to welcome Kirti, our new Volunteering Team Leader, who is already bringing fresh ideas to enhance the volunteering experience. We'd love to hear your thoughts on what's working well and where we can do better. Both Kirti and I are happy to catch up over a brew—just let us know when! Thank you again for everything you do. You're an incredible team, and your contributions inspire us all to keep pushing forward. Together, we're building a stronger community for current and future generations of older people across Bolton.

# Annual General Meeting 2023-24

*Thank you to everyone who joined us in December!*

Thank you to everyone who joined us for our Annual General Meeting (AGM) in December - it was lovely to see you all in person.

Much more than just a meeting, the AGM is a chance for us to celebrate what we have achieved as a charity in the past year. Trustees, volunteers, staff and partners all came together to recognise the impact we have had on the lives of older people in Bolton.

We also presented our Annual Report 2023-24, which tells the story of what we achieved in the past year - none of which we could have done without our 244 active volunteers! You can browse a digital version of the report [here](#). If you would like a physical copy of the report, please give us a call on 01204 382411 and we will send you one in the post.



# Age UK Influencing Conference

*Help to influence decision makers on issues facing older people*

The Age UK Influencing Conference brings together the network of local Age UKs to discuss how we work together to influence decision makers both at the local and national level, to share ideas and celebrate our successes.

This year's Influencing Conference will take place online on Wednesday 19 February 10am - 1:30pm. It's our opportunity to come together as a network and explore how we can work with the new Government.

Join us for a range of interesting discussions on how we can influence decision makers, including to reduce poverty in older age, improve access to health and care, and tackle ageing. The conference is open to all staff, volunteers and trustees from across the Age UK Network.

Find out more and book your place [here](#). If you have any queries, please contact Luke Pilot at [luke.pilot@ageuk.org.uk](mailto:luke.pilot@ageuk.org.uk)

*Please note this is an online event. If you would like to join but need some help getting online, please let us know and we will be happy to help.*

## News from clubs and groups

*What's been going on in Age UK's volunteer-led clubs and groups*

### ☀️ Harwood Knit & Natter donates £135 to Bolton Hospice

Harwood Knit & Natter donated an amazing £135 from sales of their knitted items to Bolton Hospice at Christmas. The group is now knitting mini chicks that can hold small chocolate eggs in preparation for Easter, with all donations going to local charity Fortalice.

### ☀️ Westhoughton Lunch Club receives 5 star hygiene rating

Westhoughton Lunch Club was inspected by Bolton Council's food hygiene team in December and received a 5 star rating. Congratulations to the Westhoughton Lunch Club volunteers - great work!

*If you have any news from your volunteer club or group that you'd like to share, please let Kirti know on 07377709499 or [volunteering@ageukbolton.org.uk](mailto:volunteering@ageukbolton.org.uk)*



# Are your contact details up to date?

*Let us know if your details have changed*

To do:  
Call Age UK  
Bolton to update  
contact details

It is really important that we have up-to-date contact information for all our volunteers. This is not only in case of an emergency, but also to make sure you receive communications from us to help you stay in the know (like this newsletter)!

Please make sure to notify us of any changes to your address, phone number or email address, including next of kin contact details. If you aren't sure what contact details we currently hold for you, please call Kirti on 07377709499 and we will check.

## Save the date...

*Volunteer celebration, 12th June 2025*

We are holding an event on Thursday 12th June to celebrate our volunteers as part of Volunteers Week (2nd - 8th June 2025). More details to follow in the next newsletter.



*Volunteers Week 2024*