

What's Happening - In Brief

A Note from Amanda Allen (CEO of Age UK BRWF) - April 2024

- Ahead of the General Election, this month the national team have launched '[Age UK's blueprint for improving the lives of older people](#)'. The report has been produced following engagement with thousands of older people across the country, with keeping the Triple Lock and a reliable NHS being key priorities that older people said that they want from the next Government. Another key priority was listening to older people when making decisions about things that directly affect them. We were recently approached by the **Bromsgrove Forum for Older People** about their concerns that not enough people are aware of the digitalisation of the UK's Phone Network and how it affects those landline users that don't have access to broadband and/ or who may have additional vulnerabilities. In partnership with the Forum, our **High Street (Bromsgrove) Shop** will be hosting **BT** for an **Information/ Q&A event** on **Wednesday 15th May (12-2pm) - please help to spread the word!**

Digital Voice is coming to a town near you



Come and speak to us about our new home phone service, Digital Voice

Landlines in the UK are going digital.

Although the landline isn't going away, we know that you might have questions or would like to know more about this industry-wide change.

We'll be heading to Bromsgrove where we'll have a team on hand who can tell you what Digital Voice is, why the change is necessary and what it means for you.

You don't have to pre-book, just turn up.

Where and when:

Digital Switchover Information and Q&A Event.

(Supported locally by the Bromsgrove Forum of Older People & Age UK Bromsgrove, Redditch & Wyre Forest)

Date & Time 15th of May 12.00-14.00 at

Age UK BRWF's High Street Charity Shop, 113 High Street, Bromsgrove, B61 8EZ

For more information, visit www.ageuk.org.uk/digitalvoice



Meet the Team - Julia Enright – At Home Coordinator

- Julia, who lives in Stourport, has been involved with the charity for over 10 years. Having spent most of her working life in education (focusing upon supporting those with additional needs) Julia left her Teaching Assistant role at Stourport High School in 2013 to care for her Mum and Dad. Wanting to do something else for a few hours a week, Julia started volunteering in the kitchen at the Tulip Tree Centre. With the experience of supporting her own parents, Julia wanted to do more to support others in the community so 12-15 months later Julia started working as a Home Worker for the charity. In 2019 Julia became an At Home Coordinator, supporting the coordination and administrative side of the At Home service
- Chargeable but non-profit making, the At Home Service focuses on supporting people to remain independent in their own homes, with a team of Home Workers, Gardeners and Handypersons. From her own parents' experiences and from speaking with clients, Julia knows how much it means to so many people to be able remain 'at home'
- When asked to describe a 'typical day', Julia commented that it is always 'varied'! Her day involves dealing with service referrals received from the hospital discharge service, adult services etc. in addition to those that have self-referred, engaging with clients (and also their families) and Home Workers, whilst supporting the overall administration of the service (including home assessments, the booking of appointments and processing time sheets)
- When asked about what she enjoys about the role, Julia commented upon how rewarding it is to hear about the difference the service is making to clients, but also to their *families* '*our service is very often an extra-pair-of-eyes-and-ears which can be so reassuring those family members that aren't able to get to Mum or Dad as often as they would like to*'. Julia also commented upon the support and the camaraderie of the team '*We are obviously all very busy and have a lot to do, but it is also important to have that banter to help put things into perspective...I like to try and ensure that I always come out of work with a smile on my face*'
- Outside of work, Julia enjoys anything to do with history (something she attributes to having an inspirational teacher at school) and has traced her family tree. She also loves gardening as well as spending time catching up with friends and just doing 'normal things'



Julia Enright



SPG-Group's Golf Series Support

- A massive 'Thank You' to **Krys Stanton** and everyone at **SPG-Group** for nominating Age UK BRWF as their Golf Series Charity for 2024
- The SPG-Group Golf Networking Series (held at venues across the country) connects senior leaders in the built environment, in a way that benefits their mental and physical health, as well as taking their business to the next level
- When asked '**Why Age UK BRWF?**', Krys said 'Age UK BRWF has come to my attention through my Mum volunteering at one of their shops. They are a guiding light for many... those struggling to cope, needing someone to talk to, or just requiring some comfort around what options are out there. They do wonders for the local community and as a self-funding charity, I'm passionate about helping them out'



Celebrating Tina

- At the beginning of the month we received the very sad news of the passing of Retail Volunteer, Tina Hunt.



- Tina was an incredible supporter and advocate of the charity - if you have visited our Church Street, Catshill and High Street Charity Shops over the years then you will probably have met Tina! Back in 2019, to help raise awareness of volunteering for the charity, Tina was the focus on an article in which she shared her experiences of volunteering, saying '**feeling useful is the best pill in the world**'
- Despite all her health challenges, Tina always tried to find the positives and always made everyone feel so very welcome when visiting our shops.

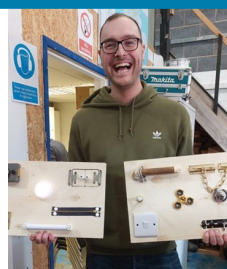
The Creative Talents of our Groups

- If you want to see some of the latest creative work from both our **Bromsgrove** and **Redditch Art Groups** then just visit the [Activities & Events section](#) of our website. On that same page you can also visit the online version of **Amphlett Hall Computer Clubs' 2024 Photo Exhibition**, with a chance to vote for your favourite! The photos will also be on display at Amphlett Hall



Volunteers Needed

- To help support the smooth running of our Windsor Street (Bromsgrove) office we are recruiting for [Reception & Admin Volunteers](#) to provide a welcoming reception service to visitors and callers (Monday-Thursday, 10am-1pm). Please can you share with anyone that might be interested
- In terms of **Retail**, then our **Rubery (New Road) Shop** is particularly in need of additional volunteer support
- For anybody interested in becoming a [Retail Volunteer](#) then we have a new video, [#MeetDave](#) (Dave volunteers at Mason Road) on the [Volunteer Page](#) on our website



#TwiddleBoardDay Appeal

- As part of Dementia Action Week 2024 (13-19 May), members of the **Ormerod Rutter** team will once again be visiting **Bromsgrove Men In Sheds** to make **Twiddle Boards**, which will be given to help support local people living with dementia. If you have any locks, latches, spring door stops, door chains, switches, zips etc. that you can donate that can then be attached to the wooden boards please contact **Jo Hughes**