



# What's Happening - In Brief

## A Note from Amanda Allen (CEO of Age UK BRWF) - December 2021

- 2021 has, once again, been a year of 'challenges' (!) but it has also been a year of great pride to witness how you, our staff and volunteers, have responded to each of these challenges and have ensured that we have continued to provide much-needed support and services to our local communities. Whilst additional restrictions may follow in the coming weeks, I believe that 2022 will be a positive year for the charity, as we build on what has been achieved this year and focus on taking the charity forward
- I am also very pleased to announce Jo Hughes' appointment to the role of Deputy Chief Executive - I hope you join me in wishing Jo much success in her new position
- I would like to end this year by reiterating my sincere thanks to you all for your dedication and hard work and to wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year!



## Celebrating our Volunteers - Meet our 2021 Volunteer of the Year

- Back in June, nominations opened for our **2021 Volunteer of the Year**, the award that was set up in 2020 in memory of Sue Davidson to help celebrate Age UK BRWF's amazing volunteers who selflessly give their time and support to the charity
- After much deliberation the panel (which included Sue's daughters) decided that the 2021 Award should be given to Computer Club Tutor, **Kevin Foster** for everything that he has done to help keep the Computer Club members 'connected' during these challenging times (including producing a weekly newsletter which started as a 'temporary thing' when we first went into 'lockdown' but went on to run for almost 18 months(!), organising monthly Zoom sessions and providing 1-2-1 support for members via telephone and Zoom), along with all his efforts with helping to get the clubs 'safely' re-started as restrictions eased. Although continuing concerns regarding Covid-19 meant that, once again, we were unable to organise a special event to celebrate all those that were nominated, Age UK BRWF's Chair, Roger Custance, and CEO, Amanda Allen were able to present Kevin with his award at a recent Computer Club session!
- We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate and thank all of this year's nominees; **Christa Birtwistle** (Stourport Hub), **Jackie Turpin** (Retail), **Louise Hodgkins** (Retail), **Tina Hunt** (Retail), **Suzie Fitzpatrick** (Retail), **Sandra Kelly** (Retail), **Chris Hall** (Tulip Tree Friendship Group), **John Webb** (Befriending), **Fred Tebbs** (Befriending), **Michelle Ellis** (Befriending), **Lorraine Eggleton** (Befriending) and **Judith McCrossan** (Befriending). All of the nominees received a certificate, especially designed by one of Sue Davidson's daughters (photos of some of the nominees receiving their certificates are below)



Kevin Foster (centre) receiving his award from Roger Custance & Amanda Allen



Sandra Kelly (left)



Suzie Fitzpatrick



Louise Hodgkins (right)



Christa Birtwistle (right)

## #CostOfCold Campaign

- As energy prices continue to surge and the cold weather sets in, many older people will be making the choice between heating and eating. This is a choice no one should ever have to make, which is why the national Age UK team are calling for the Government to intervene to help older people this winter with their #CostOfCold campaign. To find out more about the campaign and how you can help please visit <https://bit.ly/3nNZ7wL>



**Do you know anybody that might benefit from a FREE Home Energy Check?**

Call us on  
**01527 570490**



- If you know somebody that is worried about staying warm this winter, then please encourage them to or call our team **01527 570490** (Monday – Friday, 9am-4pm) as they could be entitled to extra money to help with their bills
- We also still have appointments available for our **Free Home Energy Checks**. If you know anybody that would like more information and/ or to book and appointment please contact **Sam Jones** on **01527 570490**

## New Year, New Opportunities

- If you know somebody that is looking for a rewarding role where you can really make a difference, then why not encourage them to take a look at the opportunities within our **At Home** team? Due to the growing nature of the service the team are currently recruiting for **Home Workers, Handypersons and Gardeners** across all areas
- To find out more about the roles please visit the [Work for Us](#) section of our website or contact **Sam Jones** on **01527 570490**

*"It's such a rewarding job, I feel useful and I am making a difference to someone's life. The difference to me, I'm happier, I know my clients appreciate me and that is a lovely feeling. How do I know? They always thank me for everything I do!"*

Age UK BRWF Home Worker



## Community Support

- Thank you to **Tesco Café Redditch** for hosting a 'Get Together' of some our Befriending service users and their volunteers at the beginning of the month. This is something that we are hoping to continue and grow in the new year to help local people with maintaining and developing those all-important connections
- Students at **Waseley Hills Sixth Form** wrote over 65 Christmas Cards for us to send to local older people to help bring some much needed festive cheer this Christmas
- Jukes Insurance Brokers** raised £116.53 with their raffle of a Reindeer made by Bromsgrove Men In Sheds!
- Festive Cones made by the Shedders are being distributed by the **Bromsgrove Youth Hub** as part of their intergenerational project to help support local older people this Christmas



## Opening Hours

Age UK Bromsgrove, Redditch & Wyre Forest wish everybody a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

- Please note that our team will be working the following days during the Christmas and New Year Period (our normal working hours are 9am-4pm)

Christmas & New Year Opening Hours	
Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> December	Open - Call 01527 570490
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> December	Closed
Tuesday 28 <sup>th</sup> December	Closed
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> December	Open - Call 01527 570490
Thursday 30 <sup>th</sup> December	Open - Call 01527 570490
Friday 31 <sup>st</sup> December	Open - Call 01527 570490
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Closed
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> January	Open - Call 01527 570490

- If, whilst our offices are closed, you are seeking urgent information the national Age UK team operate a free advice line on **0800 678 1602** (lines are open 8am-7pm, 365 days a year)

- Please note that our **Charity Shops** will all close at 4.30pm on 23<sup>rd</sup> December, will re-open 29<sup>th</sup> - 31<sup>st</sup> December, will be closed 1<sup>st</sup> - 3<sup>rd</sup> January and will return to normal opening hours from Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022

For more information, please contact us on:

**01527 570490** Email: [enquiries@ageukbrwf.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@ageukbrwf.org.uk)  
Visit: [ageuk.org.uk/brwf/](http://ageuk.org.uk/brwf/)

Age UK National Helpline 0800 678 1602  
Lines are open 8am-7pm, 365 days a year

Any News? Please contact Jo Hughes on [Jo.Hughes@ageukbrwf.org.uk](mailto:Jo.Hughes@ageukbrwf.org.uk)/ 01527 868855