

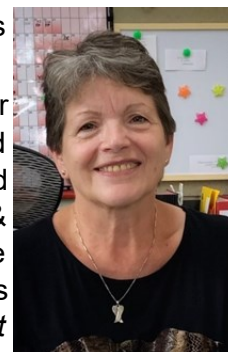
# What's Happening - In Brief

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

- On 19th July we entered Step 4 of the Government's roadmap for easing lockdown restrictions. Whilst the easing is welcomed by some, we know that there are lots of people within our communities that might be anxious and worried about restrictions easing. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the steps and the measures that you are taking to help ensure people 'feel safe' when they are accessing one of our services, groups or visiting one of our shops
- Progress is being made too with the restarting of some of our groups/ activities and with resuming face-to-face support - I thank everyone for all that they are doing and their hard work to make this happen!
- Whilst we adapt to this latest phase of the pandemic, we are also looking at ways in which we can develop our service offering. In terms of **Later Life Planning**, we are currently working in partnership with Age UK Birmingham on an initial pilot whereby Age UK Birmingham staff will offer a Will Writing and Lasting Power of Attorney (LPA) service to Age UK BRWF clients from our Windsor Street office. We are also working in partnership with the Sandycroft Centre (Redditch) to deliver a **support group** to women over 50 years of age from diverse backgrounds - we hope to be able to share more information about both of these projects next month

## Meet the Team - Su Edwards (HR Coordinator & Clerk to the Board of Trustees)

- For this month's 'Meet the Team' we get to meet **Su Edwards**, who is the charity's HR Coordinator, as well as being Clerk to Age UK BRWF's Board of Trustees!
- Su originally joined the charity as an I&A Volunteer in 2019, after retiring from her role as a Contracts Manager at Acorn's Children's Hospice. Su has always worked in care, originally training as an Adult Nurse, before moving into School Nursing and then Children's Nursing, before becoming the Commissioning Officer for Women's & Children's services at Sandwell CCG. Having spent most of her working life focusing on younger people, being able to help and support older people was something that really interested Su *'My time with I&A gave me a really good insight into the charity and to the help and support that is available to older people...I really enjoyed being able to talk to people and to help them with their problems.'*
- With her experience, Su is also very aware of all the essential work that takes place in-the-background to help fund and deliver services, and to ensure the effective operation of a charity, which was why, when an opportunity arose, she agreed to take on the HR Coordinator role, *'Contracts and HR policies and procedures are there to support both the employer and the employee, and I would like to feel that any Age UK BRWF employee knows that if they have a problem or a question they can come to me for help'*
- When asked what she most enjoys about both her roles Su admits that she enjoys ensuring that there is 'structure' and *getting-things-organised*. She also enjoys *'being part of the Age UK BRWF 'family'... there is always support there and someone to bounce things off, so you never feel alone in the job'*.
- Su currently describes herself as 'semi-retired' with 'two grown up children, four grandchildren and another along the way!'. During lockdown, Su and her partner Nigel got a new Springer Spaniel puppy which she says is keeping them both active! When she does have some time to herself, Su enjoys gardening (having completed a course in Garden Design at Kew Gardens when she retired from Acorns - although the puppy is doing most of the 'gardening' now) and she also enjoys her crafts (from painting, to calligraphy, to pottery and has even made her own oak coffee table), but most of all she enjoys making the most of the time that she gets to spend with her grandchildren!



Su Edwards



## Upcycling Retail Superhero Challenge - Have you voted?

- Some of you may have seen our article in the local newspapers at the beginning of the month (or on our website and social media) about the launch of our **Upcycling Retail Superhero Challenge** to help raise the profile of our Shops by promoting the 'sustainability' message (for a copy of the article please see the News section of our website or select this [link](#))
- Our thanks to the amazing volunteers who have taken part in the competition! We have had some fantastic entries, however, we now need to find a winner from **Team Providence Road**, **Team New Road**, **Team Matchborough** and **Team Church Street**!
- Below are some pictures of the entries, but for more details about the transformations, please visit the following page on our website <https://www.ageuk.org.uk/brwf/shops/upcycling-challenge/> (or follow the link from our Home age) from where you can also cast your vote!



- You have until **Sunday 1st August** to vote. The winning Superhero will be announced on **Monday 2nd August**, with the winner receiving a prize that includes a voucher from the Brenda Killigrew Sewing Studio, a voucher from Nature's Intention and an 'Afternoon Tea for Two' at Victoria Plums Kitchen (Redditch)

### Would you like to Help?

- As we continue with our recovery following the pandemic and enter a new strategy period for the charity, we are looking at the opportunity of setting up a new volunteer **'Age UK BRWF Engagement Group'** to help us to support the charity with moving forward
- We would like to involve volunteers from all aspects of the charity and from all districts. The focus of the group will vary according to priorities, but could include supporting local and national campaigning, organising events, to helping to ensure that the development and delivery of our services and projects reflect the communities that we support.
- If this is something that you might be interested in getting involved with then please contact **Jo Hughes**

### A couple of Reminders

- Just a reminder that from September 2021, payroll date will be changing to the **22nd of each month**. If anybody has any issues or concerns then please speak to you manager or contact [HRAdmin@ageukbrwf.org.uk](mailto:HRAdmin@ageukbrwf.org.uk)
- The closing date for nominations for our **2021 Volunteer of the Year** is **Wednesday 1st September**. Details on how to vote are on our [website](#) (where you can also make an online nomination or download a nomination form), but please contact **Jo Hughes** if you would like more information

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