

What's Happening - In Brief

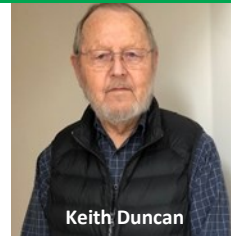
A Note from Amanda Allen (CEO of Age UK BRWF) - March 2024

- In wishing you all a 'Happy Easter' I also want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support for the charity and for all that you do!
- This month we received the disappointing news that 113 High Street, Bromsgrove (the location of our High Street Charity Shop) will go to auction on 27/3/24. Given the nature of the lease agreement, we always knew that this was a possibility hence, as part of our Retail Strategy, our Head of Retail, Sue Bailey, has been actively seeking locations for a permanent furniture shop. With the Board this month approving the Charity's Business Plan & Budget (and its commitment to investing in, and developing, the charity), once we know the outcome of the auction we can then determine our next steps

happy
Easter

Meet the Team - Amphlett Hall Computer Clubs & Tutor Keith Duncan

- This month's 'Meet the Team' focuses on one of Age UK BRWF's longest running groups, our **Amphlett Hall Computer Clubs**, with an insight from **Tutor Keith Duncan**, who has been involved with the Clubs since they started (some 16+ years ago!)
- Having spent 43 years working in the motor industry (which he says 'was enough for anyone!'), Keith retired at the end of 2003. *'I was in charge of a large department, with a team who were all quite capable with computers, apart from their boss! I could do the basics and use the company systems, but we regularly had visitors from Ford's Senior Management team from the States and, seeing the presentations that my team produced, I wanted to be able to produce what they produced, but I just didn't have the time to attend the training courses...so when I retired I bought myself a computer and was determined to learn. I started teaching myself and then I heard about the one-to-one computer sessions that Kevin (Foster) was running for Age UK at Windsor Street. Spending time with Kevin, it was obvious that there were a lot of people wanting to learn a lot more, which is where the idea of setting up a 'Computer Club' came from.'*
- Although originally coming to the charity as a client, Keith offered his support with the setting up of the Amphlett Hall Computer Club on a Tuesday morning. It soon became evident that people were requiring different levels of support, so the Tuesday morning club became a 'Beginners Group' (focusing on providing 1-2-1 support within a group environment) and an 'Improvers Club' was set up on a Tuesday afternoon. A second 'Beginners Group' soon followed on a Wednesday afternoon
- All these years later, Keith is still supporting the Tuesday Morning Beginners Group. When asked about what makes the Clubs so popular Keith said *'We have had some very happy times over the years. Many people enjoy the social side as much as the learning aspects. It is a very relaxed atmosphere, with absolutely no pressure. As tutors we are quite prepared to go over things as many times as it takes to help people to gain confidence. It is also about focusing on the people and their interests and then showing them how technology can help, rather than it being the other way round. For example, we had a lady who had relations living in America and was regularly writing to them to keep in touch, so I said to her you-know-that-you-can-speak-to-them-and-see-them...I showed her how to use Zoom and she loved it – she then got the confidence to start using it at home and she would come in every week to tell us all about her latest chats with her American relatives!'*
- When asked what he would say to someone that is worried about using technology and getting online, Keith said *'I would encourage them to come along to the Clubs and give them a try, not just once, come a few times so you can really get into it'*



For more information about the Amphlett Hall Computer Clubs visit the [Activities & Events](#) section of our website

Easter Opening Hours

- Our **office** will be closed (and there will be no Age UK BRWF Groups or Activities) on **Good Friday and Easter Bank Holiday Monday**
- Our **Charity Shops** will be open 10am-4pm on Good Friday, but will be closed on Easter Sunday and the Bank Holiday Monday
- If people require urgent support whilst our office is closed then the Age UK national team operate a free advice line on **0800 678 1602** (lines are open 8am-7pm, 365 days a year)

Our At Home Team is Recruiting

- Earlier this month we attended the Bromsgrove Spring Job Fair. Our At Home team is recruiting for **Home Workers and Gardeners** across all three districts, so if you know anybody that is looking for a flexible role, where they can really make a difference for local people, then please encourage them to visit the **Work for us** section our [website](#) or to get in touch with **At Home Manager, Sam Jones** (sam.jones@ageukbrwf.org.uk)



Chairman's Support

- On **Friday 1st March** Cllr Sam Ammar hosted a **Charity Comedy Night** at Bromsgrove Golf Club in aid of Age UK BRWF - the evening was really well attended and thank you for all the support!



- Cllr Ammar's final event to support us as her Charity of the Year will be a **Charity Golf Tournament & Dinner** on **Friday 10th May**. Anybody interested should contact Sharon Chaplin at Bromsgrove District Council

Team Events - #SaveTheDate

- Everyone is invited to come along to the **Age UK BRWF Spring Walk** on **Saturday 27th April 2024!** Distance and route are currently being finalised, but anybody interested should contact **Kate Ware** (01527 868841/ kate.ware@ageukbrwf.org.uk)
- We are looking to arrange a **Summer Get Together** on **Saturday 22nd June 2024** for all Age UK BRWF Staff & Volunteers. Anybody interested in helping to plan the event, please contact **Kate Ware** or **Sam Jones**



The Chairman of Bromsgrove District Council's

Charity Golf Tournament & Dinner

The Chairman of Bromsgrove District Council, Councillor Sam Ammar cordially invites you to her Chairman's Charity Golf Tournament & Dinner on

Friday 10th May 2024
at Bromsgrove Golf Centre
Old Stratford Road, Bromsgrove, B60 1LD

Timetable

12pm:	Welcome & Registration
1pm:	Tee off
6pm:	Dinner

Submit teams of four if possible, ticket prices:

Whole day:	£54 per person
Dinner only:	£23 per person

RSVP by 12th April to Sharon Chaplin:
s.chaplin@bromsgroveandredditch.gov.uk

In aid of the Chairman's Charity:

Older People's Commissioner

- The **national Age UK team** is working with other organisations to persuade the Government and all political parties to legislate for a **Commissioner for Older People** in England to ensure that issues such as social care and accessing banking services are addressed with the interests of older people at the heart of them. For more information and to sign the Open Letter, please visit the [national Age UK website](#)

Any Unwanted Currency?

- As part of our involvement with the **Cash4Coins** initiative our High Street & Lickhill Charity Shops have collection tubes for unwanted foreign currency/ old coins. High Street's tube is full but Lickhill's needs a bit more support. Please contact **Jo Hughes** or pop along to Lickhill if you can help!

Any News? Please contact Jo Hughes on Jo.Hughes@ageukbrwf.org.uk/ 01527 868855