

What's Happening - In Brief

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

- Just a reminder to everyone that the **Age UK BRWF AGM** is taking place on **Thursday 30th September at 11am**. The meeting is being held at Amphlett Hall, plus online access will be available. If anybody is interested in attending then please contact **Su Edwards** (hradmin@ageukbrwf.org.uk)
- This month has seen a lot of activity from the national Age UK team. On behalf of the network, the team responded to the Prime Minister's announcement regarding **Social Care Reform** (a link to the response is [here](#)), and we understand that further campaign activity is planned in the coming weeks. After publishing updated research in July, the national team have launched further research **on the impact of the pandemic**, and want to hear from older people, but also from friends and family who want to share their loved ones experiences on their behalf. To access the survey please visit <https://bit.ly/3E4zNsk>. The team have also published [research this week](#) reporting that 1-in-5 female pensioners are now living in poverty - with many older people not being aware of the benefits that they are entitled to, it is so important that local people are aware of **our local I&A service**



Annual General Meeting

You are invited!

Age UK Bromsgrove, Redditch & Wyre Forest would like to invite you to attend its 2021 Annual General Meeting on:

- Thursday 30th September 2021
- 11am-12pm at Amphlett Hall
Crown Close, Bromsgrove, B61 8DW

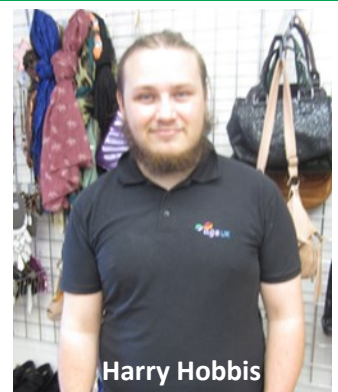
Online access to the meeting can also be provided

If you are interested in attending (and/or would like further information) please contact
hradmin@ageukbrwf.org.uk
Call 01527 570490

We hope that you will be able to join us!

Meet the Team - Harry Hobbis (Kickstart Placement, Church Street)

- For this month's 'Meet the Team' we get to meet **Harry Hobbis** who is currently on placement as a Charity Shop Assistant at Age UK BRWF's Church Street Shop (Bromsgrove), as part of the Government's Kickstart scheme
- Originally from Redditch, but now living in Bromsgrove, Harry studied ICT (Information & Communications Technology) at College and was working in hospitality when the pandemic broke. Unfortunately Harry lost his job – his Work Coach suggested that the Kickstart scheme might be a way for Harry to gain additional skills and experience
- Although Harry knew a little bit about Age UK (as his brother had previously volunteered for the charity) Harry admits to feeling 'terrified' at the interview. Three months into his placement, Harry says that that the experience has '*gone beyond expectations...there is so much to learn. Visitors to the shop don't get to see all that is 'happening-in-the-back' (from the sorting and pricing donations, managing stock and organising displays and planning the rotas) to ensure the safe and efficient running of the shop and that sales targets are being met to help raise much-needed funds for the charity*'. Harry also commented on the '*fantastic things*' that are donated to the shop and the attention that is given to ensuring that people can expect '*quality items*' when visiting an Age UK BRWF shop – Harry himself has bought a sofa from the shop!
- When asked to describe Church Street, Harry used the words '*happy, enlightening and peaceful, in the sense that it is a place where people can come for a chat, and not feel under any pressure*'. Although he has only been with Church Street for three months, Harry also described the shop as '*a family*'.
- As well as opening-up new opportunities, Harry is also hoping that this placement will help him to save. One of Harry's immediate goals is to be able to learn to drive but he is also wanting to save so that he can return to college to pursue his longer-term aim of developing a career in Voice Acting, but for now Harry is focusing his talents on '*making the customers smile*'



Free Home Energy Checks

- Age UK BRWF will again be offering **Free Home Energy Checks** this Autumn/ Winter as part of the Warm Homes scheme, funded by energy suppliers as part of Ofgem's Industry Initiative Scheme to help older people in or at risk of fuel poverty



Stay ahead of the chill this Winter

Ensuring your home is energy efficient can help you stay warm in winter.

Age UK Bromsgrove, Redditch and Wyre Forest are offering **FREE** home energy checks for older people who are finding it difficult to keep their homes warm in winter.



As part of the Energy Check:

- One of Age UK's Bromsgrove, Redditch & Wyre Forest's handypersons will visit your home at a time that is convenient for you
- During the **free assessment** they will check the temperature inside your home and whether there are any draughts. They will inspect your heating system and any insulation measures you have
- Depending on the outcome of the assessment the handyperson will fit appropriate energy saving equipment, such as energy saving lightbulbs, reflective panels behind the radiator, socket timers and night lights **free of charge**
- The handyperson will also offer you some practical tips on how you can save energy and keep your fuel bills down without compromising on the warmth of your house. They may also inform you of other Age UK services available in North Worcestershire

The check will take between 60 and 90 minutes

Please note that although this service is **FREE**, availability is **LIMITED**. To avoid disappointment and to book an appointment, please call:

Sam Jones on 01527 570490

- For more information and/ or to book and appointment, please contact **Sam Jones**

Wyre Forest Showcase

- The **Wyre Forest Showcase of Services for Older People** is returning to Kidderminster Town Hall as a face-to-face event this year, supported by ourselves
- As part of the event we will be offering **Free Electric Blanket Testing**. Appointments need to be pre-booked by calling the main Age UK BRWF number, **01527 570490**

FREE ENTRANCE

Showcase of Services for Older People

Thursday 7th October 2021
10.00am-1.30pm
Kidderminster Town Hall

FREE information and advice on healthy living, finances, benefits and local services...

Electric Blanket Testing available here
Make an appointment to get your blanket tested (whilst at the event)
Limited availability, pre-booking is required - Contact Age UK BRWF for an appointment on 01527 570490

For further information contact
e: elaine.halford-bishop@wyreforestdc.gov.uk
t: 01562 732572
www.wyreforestdc.gov.uk

Logos for Age UK, Wyre Forest District Council, and other partners.

MIS Fundraiser & Open Day

Bromsgrove, Redditch & Wyre Forest
ageUK

Sunday 3rd October 2021

Bromsgrove Men In Sheds
invite you to their
FUNDRAISING & OPEN DAY

#GoAbi

Virtual London Marathon
around Stoke Prior

Shed Open Day
9am-3pm

Shedder Challenge!

Ping-Pong-a-Thon

- On Sunday 3rd October 2021, **Abi Swarbrick** will be taking part in the **Virtual London Marathon** (with a route in and around Stoke Prior, Bromsgrove) in aid of **Bromsgrove Men In Sheds**
- To cheer Abi on and to help raise awareness of the Shed, the Bromsgrove Sheddors will be holding an **'Open Day'**, inviting members of the community along to find out more about the Shed and what Abi is running for!
- Whilst Abi is running, the Sheddors will also be taking on their own challenge with their **'Ping-Pong-a-Thon'**, playing continuous table tennis from the time Abi starts and only stopping when she crosses her finishing line at the Shed!

COME ALONG & JOIN THE SHEDDERS SUNDAY 3RD OCTOBER AT THE SHED

Unit 1, Metal Ores Industrial Estate 138 Hanbury Road Stoke Prior Bromsgrove B60 4JZ

To sponsor Abi with her 'marathon effort' for the Shed, please visit:

<https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AbigailSwarbrick>

For more information please contact Jo Hughes (01527 868855/ Jo.Hughes@ageukbrwf.org.uk)

- Bromsgrove Men In Sheds** are inviting everyone along to their Fundraising & Open Day, at The Shed, on Sunday 3rd October (9am-3pm)
- As part of the event the daughter-in-law of one of the Sheddors will be taking part in the Virtual London Marathon, running 26.2 miles in and around Stoke Prior, to raise funds for the Shed which she describes as a 'lifeline' for her father-in-law. To read more, please visit the [News Section](#) of our website
- To sponsor Abi please visit <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/AbigailSwarbrick>

Can you Help?

- Do you know any **local businesses** that might be interested in setting up **Collection Points** to help support **donations** to our shops? Please contact **Jo Hughes**
- Our **Retail Team** is seeking additional volunteers. To support re-opening on Sundays Providence Road, Matchborough & New Road are seeking **Sunday Volunteers**, whilst Mason Road, Golden Cross Lane & both Stourport shops need **general support** throughout the week

Calling Local Businesses

Can you help by setting up an Age UK BRWF Donation Collection Point in your office/ workplace?

To find out more, please contact
Jo.Hughes@ageukbrwf.org.uk #thankyou!

www.ageuk.org.uk/brwfshop

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