

CHATTY NEWS

June and July's Chatty Brews

In June, we trialled a new location for our Chatty Brew at Highfield Care Home. This collaboration began when we learned that a client had recently moved into the home, prompting discussions with the management. They graciously offered to host the event and cover the costs of teas and cakes, allowing the opportunity for their residents to join in. The highlight of the event was having our client participate, reinforcing the core value of Chatty Brews: inclusivity and connection.

Additionally, we were thrilled to give our Geraniums to the residents, thanks to the Operation Geranium project organised by Stephen Double. More information can be found on page 3.

In July, we ventured to The Minster, a venue that has become a favourite due to its close proximity to our offices. Since we are unable to host events at the Age UK Isle of Wight office, we cherish the opportunity to gather just across the road. The

beautiful setting of The Minster always makes for a lovely afternoon for everyone involved.

For pictures of the events, please see page 6.

We are proud to highlight that all our Chatty Brews now incorporate a dementia-friendly element, thanks to the support of the Masonic Charitable Foundation. This funding is instrumental in furthering dementia support across the Island, making each event not only enjoyable but also accessible for all participants.

Thank you to everyone who has joined us.



WHERE NEXT?

AUG: WIGHT HERITAGE MUSEUM, SEPT: BUS AND COACH MUSEUM

Page 3 For More Information

CHATTY NEWS

Continued Partnership with the Hospital Supporting Patient Discharge and Safe Transitions Back Home



We are pleased to announce our continued partnership with the hospital as we support patient discharge and safe transitions back home under our new name; Home First Co-ordinators.

Run by Age UK Isle of Wight, the Home First Co-ordinators offer essential, free, low-level short-term support for patients aged 50 and above, particularly benefitting those without a support network or older couples caring for one another. Our dedicated team assists individuals in settling safely into their homes following discharge and provides community support aimed at preventing unnecessary hospital admissions.

Our support includes; Collecting prescriptions, assisting with shopping, providing welfare visits

and phone calls, checking home safety and heating and gathering personal belongings for those moving into care settings

The primary goal is to help individuals maintain their independence while ensuring that a safety net is in place.

Referrals can be made on your behalf by other health professionals. If you're a health professional and would like to know more, get in touch by contacting 01983 525282.

We look forward to continuing to support our community and ensuring that everyone can return home safely.

CHATTY NEWS

Geraniums Giving Joy

Five years ago, when the COVID-19 emergency hit us like an uninvited guest, it brought unprecedented challenges to our community. In those dark days, Operation Geranium emerged to combat isolation and loneliness among older residents. Our dedicated team of 40+ staff and volunteers delivered 600 pots of geraniums to clients, nurturing a symbol of friendship and good health.

This project champions the rights of adults with learning and support needs who grow the geraniums and deliveries are made by a carbon-neutral pedal bike company, Keert U.K.

In 2025, Operation Geranium continues with Stephen Double continuing its amazing work. In addition, a Folk Music U.K. tour, commissioned by Pete Townshend of The Who, highlighted the journey of legendary folk artist Woody Guthrie, whose inspiring voice influenced talents like Bob Dylan.

All proceeds from the concert at The Apollo Theatre and community talks about Operation Geranium support Age U.K. I.W.'s community work. We were grateful to accept an over £1000.00 raised by Stephen and the Operation Geranium project this year.

Next Events

AUGUST'S CHATTY BREW

In August, we will be at a new venue. If you like history, you will love our Chatty Brew at The Wight Military & Heritage Museum. Refreshments are available to purchase from Churchill's Tearoom at the venue.

**The Wight Military & Heritage Museum,
Northwood Camp, 490 Newport Road, Cowes
PO31 8QU | 13th August 1.30PM - 3.30PM**



SEPTEMBER'S CHATTY BREW

September's Chatty Brew will be hosted at one of our regular locations, The Isle of Wight Bus and Coach Museum in Ryde. Refreshments will be available to purchase from the venue.

**Isle of Wight Bus and Coach Museum, The Bus
Depot, Park Road, Ryde, PO33 2BE | 18th
September 2025 2PM - 4PM**



CHATTY NEWS

Funding Secured for The Gift of Friendship Befriending and Goal Setting Service



These goals can range from something simple, like leaving the house for the first time in years, to rekindling friendships by writing and posting letters to old friends, or even decluttering areas in their homes to create a more positive living environment. Many of these things our volunteers are already doing, but the GoF structures the approach, making progress trackable.

We are pleased to share positive news; we have successfully won a bid to deliver a new service worth £101,000 over 21 months, with funding generously provided by the Julia Rausing Trust.

This programme, titled The Gift of Friendship (GoF), aligns closely with the values of our Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS) but is designed to enhance our offerings rather than replace them. Our proven track record in operating befriending services made us one of just 20 local Age UKs to be awarded this grant.

The GoF programme operates as a befriending service, yet it distinguishes itself from GNS by incorporating a strong emphasis on goal setting and short-term focused intervention. Both

In addition to benefiting our volunteers, our current clients from various services - including home help, dementia support, and the GNS - will also reap the rewards of this short-term funded programme. However, it's important to note that there is a criteria for clients to benefit from this free service.

The project funding will allow us to allocate more resources toward marketing efforts, enabling us to reach new older individuals in need across the Island. Isolated, alone, or offline individuals are often the hardest to reach, and this funding will help us address that challenge.

Continued...

CHATTY NEWS

Funding Secured for The Gift of Friendship Befriending and Goal Setting Service

As many of you may know, the GNS operates solely on donations, making it our most underfunded service. Despite this, we remain committed to reducing isolation, as it is at the heart of our mission. While this new funding enables us to extend our reach and support to alleviate social isolation and loneliness, it remains distinct from the GNS. We will continue to rely on donations to sustain this vital service, so your support is still greatly needed and appreciated.

If this service sounds of interest, please call us at 01983 525282 for more information. Furthermore, we need to increase our volunteer numbers to reach 165 clients with this service, as outlined by the grant. If you are a current volunteer or potential volunteer interested in supporting The GoF while enhancing your skills in a role similar to that of the GNS, we encourage you to get in touch.



The GoF Commitment

This service is committed to promoting independence and support social connections among older individuals. We aim to empower our clients by celebrating their achievements and stepping down support as short-term goals are met.

However, if continued support is necessary, we will continue to support you and facilitate a longer-term relationship with our dedicated volunteers, ensuring ongoing companionship and social contact.



CHATTY NEWS

Photos of June and July's Chatty Brews

June at Highfield Care Home, Ryde



July at The Minster Church, Newport



If you take photos at our events and would like us to share them, please email them to:

communications@ageukiw.org.uk

CHATTY NEWS

Let's Knit for the Big Twit

Age UK Isle of Wight would like to extend our gratitude to everyone who participated in this year's Big Knit campaign. Aiming to knit 12,500 hats, we surpassed expectations with an amazing total of 18,794 hats by the campaign's end, exceeding our original target by more than half.

The campaign engaged the local community and grew our army of knitters. We are amazed by the support received this year. Special thanks were given to our volunteers for their hard work in counting each hat.

How the little hats make a BIG difference

The Big Knit is a fundraising campaign in collaboration with innocent smoothies, donating 30p for each knitted hat received. Local independent Age UKs like Age UK Isle of Wight benefit directly from funds raised, allowing contributions to stay on the Island. Expect to see the hats on innocent smoothie bottles in stores this October.



So, what will we do with all the extra hats?

Local business Gordy's Wood has generously committed to ensuring that all the extra hats won't go to waste. Already, over 3,000 hats have found their way to Gordy's Wood, where they are being sold alongside handmade wooden snowies. The rest will be arriving there soon. For every snowy sold with a knitted hat, £1 will be donated back to Age UK Isle of Wight. Gordy's Wood can be found at Arreton Barns with snowies on sale all year around. Each snowy costs £5 and can be personalised with a name in store. £1 for every sale is donated to local Isle of Wight charities. Each charity supported by Gordy will have its own selection of hats to choose from, so you can choose where you would like your contribution to support.



LATEST NEWS, BREWS & UPDATES

CHATTY NEWS

What's Up with Our New Wooden Friend?

What... why... when... how? Just some of the questions we have been getting recently.

No, we have not completely flipped our mission and decided to support snowmen - well, the wooden kind, at least! So, what is the deal with this little wooden snowman sporting a cosy knitted hat?

You may have heard about Gordy in the accompanying article - he is busy fundraising for us! But let's rewind a bit. Archibald, our little snowman, started as just an example of these charming fundraising wooden figures. However, once we met him, we thought, "Why not have our own adorable, knitted-hat-wearing mascot to help spread the word about Age UK Isle of Wight?"

Since joining our team, Archibald has been quite the adventurer! He's explored so many beautiful spots on the Island, and we've been sharing his journeys on our social media. He seems to have a particular fondness for sunsets and community events.

Now, we get it - snowmen and older people might seem like an odd pairing. But why not

bring some fun into the mix? Let's share the brighter side of life! We're thrilled to have Archibald with us, and we hope you love him as much as we do.

If you've snagged your own snowy from Gordy's Wood, we encourage you to share it in your favourite Island locations, just as we have been doing. Don't forget to tag your posts with the hashtag #BigTwit - let's spread the joy together!



MEET ARCHIBALD

DOB: 18th June 2025

Birthplace: Gordy's Wood, Arreton Barns, Main Road, Arreton, Isle of Wight, PO30 3AA

Fashion Choice: Always wrapped up in locally made garments ONLY.

Favourite Things: Sunsets and supporting older people to live well, independently.

CHATTY NEWS

Volunteering Feature *What's Been Going On*

I am 6 months in, and finally I think I'm starting to remember the names of all our 109 volunteers (but please don't test me on that – yet!).

It's been great getting to meet so many of you at our specific volunteer appreciation event, as well as the Correo Lounge afternoon tea, and the monthly Chatty Brews. Hearing your stories about why you volunteer for Age UK Isle of Wight, and how rewarding it is, really gives me an insight into how important our volunteers are, and at the heart of this charity.

Not only do we have some new volunteering roles coming up within the organisation; supporting with hospital discharges and becoming a new befriender through the "Gift of Friendship" initiative, but I am also attempting to create optional training opportunities for our current volunteers.

*Article by Michaela, Volunteer Recruitment Co-ordinator
volunteering@ageukiw.org.uk*

BEREAVMENT TRAINING SESSION

Last week, I joined some of you at Mountbatten for a session about supporting bereaved adults. I'm aware that for so many in the room it was a very emotive topic to sit and discuss, but I do hope you found it helpful and a beneficial use of your time.

As requested by many of you, I will continue to seek out new training opportunities. Invites and information on this will always be emailed to you (unless other communication methods are in place).

LOOKING AHEAD

This Autumn, I will be out in the community more, at local community events around the Island. I will advise you of all the days and timings once confirmed, but you are welcome to come and meet up with me at any of these locations for a chat (and a cuppa if available!) about anything regarding your volunteering experience with us at Age UK IW, or just simply to say hello!



Volunteering

Email: volunteering@ageukiw.org.uk Phone: 01983 525282

CHATTY NEWS

Independent Living Show: 5th July 2025

On 5th July 2025, we proudly supported the Independent Living Show, an event designed to promote independence for individuals. Cally, Michaela, and Sharon - along with our wonderful volunteers Dee and Brenda - were all on hand to greet attendees.

The day began early for Cally, who helped set up the venue for over fifty exhibitors, all of which keen to share their services. The event officially opened at 11am, with eager attendees started arriving early, resulting in over eighty visitors before the doors even opened. By the end of the day, the event welcomed over five hundred attendees.

The event provided a fantastic opportunity to connect with other local organisations, all dedicated to supporting individuals in leading independent lives. Engaging conversations led to valuable insights about the resources available on the Island, which is unbelievably valuable for Sharon who provides our Information and Signposting service. We were thrilled to meet so many individuals, take referrals, and discuss volunteering opportunities.



*Smiling faces at the Age UK Isle of Wight stand at the show.
L-R: Dee, Michaela, Sharon.*



*The obligatory 'selfie frame' photo.
L-R: Michaela, Cally, Sharon*



Meal Preparation



Shopping



General Housework



Outings & Transport



Companionship



Admin & Paperwork

