

SUMMER
2023



Welcome to the Age UK Isle of Wight SUMMER NEWSLETTER

Well, doesn't time fly?! It seems like the blink of an eye since we were marking the Coronation and setting out plans for our own 50th anniversary celebrations. But here we are with the summer in full swing – and we've all certainly been busy!

The weather has been very kind and events, such as our tea party at Haseley Manor and The County Show, were all the more enjoyable for seeing the sun. You can read more about these events inside – look out for some familiar faces!

And right now, we're busy planning for the annual Wolverton Manor Garden Fair which takes place on the 2nd & 3rd of September. As in previous years, advance tickets are available to purchase from selected locations so keep an eye out for updates in the press or visit the Garden Fair's website: www.wolvertongardenfair.co.uk

We are always grateful for the support we get whether that's in the form of donations, volunteering or taking part in one of our daredevil fundraisers, like the people who will be abseiling or skydiving next month are doing! There will be more news on these in the next issue.

Thank you once again for your continued support – we really could not do it without you!

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Maria Bence'.

Maria - Chief Operating Officer

Happy Birthday Peter - 90 years young

Congratulations to our lovely client Peter on his 90th birthday!

We were delighted to take his Good Neighbour Scheme volunteer Dawn, who usually phones Peter as she is visually impaired, to visit him in person to surprise him with a card and birthday cupcake complete with candle. From their smiles and laughter there was no doubt that Peter and Dawn have become good friends!



Call:
01983 525282

Email: info@ageukiw.org.uk | Visit: www.ageukiw.org.uk

Our Services

Age UK Isle of Wight offers lots of services designed to work directly with older residents, or enable their family, friends, or carers to promote independence and support health and wellbeing.

Information & Advice

Free, impartial information and advice for older people, carers, and family members.

Welfare Benefits Advice

A free and confidential service for anyone aged 50+ who requires help with their benefits.

The Hospital Project

Crisis and Community Support working within St Mary's Hospital to provide support to older Island residents.

Dementia Care Navigation

Support to help you navigate the health and social care system and memory services.

Daily Respite Service

Offering a little bit of time out for those caring for another. If you are a carer and want the opportunity to pop out to shop, run errands or socialise, we can help.

Good Neighbour Scheme

Vital assistance, friendship and reliable support for local older people who have no one else to turn to.

Help Around the Home

Our friendly and trustworthy personal assistants from the 'Just About You' (JAY) service, can support with a range of domestic tasks to help you live well at home.

Digital Inclusion

Offering workshops and drop-in sessions to support with all your technology needs.

To find out more about any of the above services:

Call: **01983 525282**

Email: **info@ageukiw.org.uk**

Visit: **www.ageukiw.org.uk**



Volunteering for Age UK Isle of Wight's Good Neighbour Scheme changes lives – and could change yours too

Why I volunteer

Liz Tuckwell, who is registered blind, lives in Newport and (along with her trusty guide dog!), has been a telephone befriender for Age UK IW for ten years.

‘Essentially, I like talking to people! I know a lot of lonely people that don’t have anyone to talk to or can’t get out and about. I think it’s important to support them. Phone calls can be anything from five minutes to forty minutes – it depends on how they’re feeling and whether they’re up for a chat at that time.

I’ve been chatting to people on the phone for a number of years now and over that time some have become good friends. Age UK IW is a wonderful charity that I’m very happy to support.’

Liz



“I’ve certainly made good friends over the time I’ve been visiting, and I definitely feel I have gained so much myself through volunteering. I would recommend it to anyone – it really enriches your life!”



I volunteer for Age UK IW because...

Sylvia Wright lives in Ryde and has been a face-to-face befriender visiting and providing support to her clients since 2021.

‘It’s so rewarding! It’s such a pleasure to visit my ladies – they have such history and stories to tell. Sometimes I’ll just drop in to help with errands, other times I’ll spend over an hour just chatting. I sometimes take my little dogs on visits, and I even have my own mug at Jean’s house; I get given the cream from the top of the milk – very spoilt!

Sylvia

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Would you, or someone you know, like to make a difference by volunteering for Age UK Isle of Wight?

Contact the Good Neighbour Scheme

Call: **01983 525282**

Email: gns@ageukiw.org.uk

Visit: www.ageukiw.org.uk

Summer

We've been out and about... The Royal Isle of Wight County Show

This year The County Show took place over the weekend of 8th and 9th July, and it really was a weekend of two halves! But although it rained more than we'd have liked on the Saturday it certainly

didn't dull the enthusiasm of our volunteers or those show visitors we met.

We all very much enjoyed our time at the show over the whole weekend and met some amazing people who

were interested in learning more about what Age UK IW can offer, made wonderful donations, and generously offered help! All in all, a successful weekend for Age UK Isle of Wight!



10 people requested more information on knitting hats for 'The Big Knit' fundraising campaign, which runs in partnership with Innocent smoothies.

Over 70 people entered the competition to 'guess the number of knitted hats in the jar'. Our lucky winner takes away a signed book by Anthony Horowitz kindly donated by Medina bookshop in Cowes.

7 people asked for more information on volunteering opportunities.



13 people signed up to receive our newsletter.



And... a big Thank You!
to all the volunteers who helped out over the weekend!

's Here!

We've been celebrating... Volunteers 50th Anniversary Tea Party

On Thursday 6th July, we held a tea party at Haseley Manor, Arreton, to honour our fabulous volunteers and celebrate our 50th anniversary! The anniversary has particular resonance for our volunteers as back in 1973 the charity was started by a group of people who decided to give up their spare time to help older Island residents. Without them, and the continuing support we receive from everyone involved with the charity, not only would we not be here but we would not be looking forward to the next 50 years with such enthusiasm and hope.

Alongside the current IW High Sheriff, Dawn Haig-Thomas, the event was attended by a large group of Age UK IW's volunteers as well as a number of Island business people known for their support of local charities and community groups.



Three photos courtesy of IW Observer

Everyone enjoyed a sunny afternoon in the beautiful grounds of Haseley Manor, with grateful thanks to owners, Anthony and Vivian Roberts, and to Rouse Limited who sponsored the event.

A gift in your Will can help us continue to be here for everyone who needs us



by Claudia Roberts

This can be a confusing topic for many, so if you're considering leaving a gift in your Will to Age UK Isle of Wight, we have put together some key points, with the help of Claudia Roberts from Newport Solicitors, Glanvilles Damant Legal Services.

1. Make a Will

It sounds obvious but it really is important to have a Will, even if you think you don't have much to leave. Most of us have more on death than we think (e.g. a life policy pays off your mortgage or there is a death in service pay out). But Wills are also important for appointing guardians for minors, if necessary, and to ensure anything you do have actually goes to the people for whom it's intended.

2. Could I write my own Will?

Yes you could, but Will writing is complex and there are many pitfalls so DIY is high risk. Some Will writers may be good but the issues are: anyone can call themselves a Will writer without need for any qualification, they are not regulated, they do not usually carry insurance and, although they lure you in with a low fee, the final fee is generally considerably higher than would have been paid to a solicitor (who is trained, insured and regulated).

3. The common law myth

Many people are under the misapprehension that, if they have been with a partner for a number of years, everything they have will automatically go to their partner. This is not the case. Note also that dying intestate (without a Will) can complicate things, even if you are married or in a civil partnership. If children are involved, there is even more reason to have a Will that is kept up to date as your circumstances change.

4. Leaving a gift in your Will

It is your choice as to whom you leave gifts in your Will but it's important to be specific about to whom you're leaving the legacy. For example, leaving a legacy, or a percentage of a legacy, to Age UK will mean that your money will go to the national Age UK charity with whom we are a 'Brand Partner' – not a problem if you're happy for that to happen. If, however, your intention was to leave a gift specifically to Age UK Isle of Wight then, as an independent registered charity, we would have to apply to Age UK for a percentage of that legacy.

Specifying in your Will that your gift should go only to Age UK Isle of Wight would mean all of it stays on the Island and will go towards helping Island residents.

For more information, visit our website and follow the donate link to gifts-in-wills or call us on **01983 525282** to speak to one of our friendly and helpful team.



Registered charity
number 1118711

At home with our **'Just About You' (JAY) service**

Our JAY Home Help is made up of trained, DBS checked, friendly Support Workers whose primary focus is to support someone to maintain independence and live well at home, whether they have a regular carer or not.



One of our Good Neighbour Scheme clients, Thelma, looks forward to seeing her JAY support worker Caroline each week. Not only does Caroline help Thelma with some general housework, but Thelma also likes Caroline to put a little bit of time aside to have a chat with her over a cup of tea – and to make a fuss of Boss the cat! (Something all three love!)

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Whether it's hands-on help as an older resident (Just About You service), a break from caring for a family member or friend (Daily Respite Service), or guidance in any aspect of navigating life as the years pass, contact our friendly team.

Call: 01983 301470

Email: JAY@ageukiw.org.uk

Your donations make all the difference

It's down to the donations we receive – which come in all shapes and sizes – that we can continue to positively change an older person's life, and as an Independent Island charity, every penny we raise stays on the Island to help Island residents.

Our free, impartial, and confidential 'Information & Advice' service for older people, their families, and carers, relies on the funding we receive from generous benefactors. Like any professional help though, the service comes at a cost to the Charity. Our friendly team of advisors are trained to offer information & advice on a wide range of topics affecting older people and ongoing training ensures that they keep up to date with the ever-changing world of welfare payments and benefits.

"It has made a huge difference to me, with the knowledge and information Age UK Isle of Wight has at its fingertips. The people who helped me have been very patient and understanding."



Thank you!

With your support we can continue to be here for everyone who needs us – for another 50 years!

To make a donation online, go to our website: www.ageukiw.org.uk and click 'Please donate' or scan the QR code.

You can also email: fundraising@ageukiw.org.uk or call us on: **01983 525282** to find out about more ways to give.



£1.8 MILLION
OF WELFARE BENEFITS CLAIMED

13,503
WELFARE CALLS MADE

1,501
PEOPLE SUPPORTED THROUGH OUR INFORMATION & ADVICE SERVICE

1,500+
LIVING WELL REFERRALS ANSWERED



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