

SPRING
2023



Welcome to the AgeUK Isle of Wight SPRING NEWSLETTER

This is a special year. Not only are we celebrating the the Coronation of Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla but as a charity we are also marking our 50th anniversary.

This is an incredible achievement but also a sobering reminder that we are still very much needed in the community.

It's only with help from our supporters, like you, that we are able to continue to provide our vital services to the older residents of the Island and for that we are very grateful.

We intend to make this a joyous year and already have had events such as celebrating the success of the Age Friendly Island initiative, which you can read more about in this new-look newsletter, and recently a number of our clients enjoyed a delicious tea and cake afternoon at the Busy Bee Garden Centre. With arrangements for the annual Skydive and Abseil events well under way too – not to mention the delightful weekend at the Wolverton Manor Garden Fair in September, we intend to make this a year to remember!

Geoff – Chair of Trustees

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Geoff'. The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.



King Charles III Coronation

AgeUK Isle of Wight would like to send congratulations to Their Majesties on this great celebration.

We wish King Charles III good health and happiness for a long and glorious reign.

Call: 01983 525282

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

50th Anniversary

Celebrating our 50th year provides a good opportunity to take stock of what we are doing; to remind ourselves of our aims and values and what we, as a charity, are trying to do every day, in every community on the Island.

It also gives us the chance to freshen up our look – and we hope you like the new-look newsletter!

We are an independent charity working to provide vital services to older residents aged 50+, their families and carers. Our support is themed around isolation, inclusion, poverty relief, independence at home and trusted impartial information and advice.

Whilst an associated brand partner of the national Age UK charity, we have independent governance and our own responsibility for income generation. Every penny we receive stays on the Island and is used solely for the benefit of our local residents.

Your fundraising help will enable us to help many more older Island residents improve their quality of life, whatever their situation. We would like to thank you in advance for any fundraising you are able to do on our behalf and be assured that whatever you decide to do, our dedicated and experienced fundraising team will support you every step of the way. Every single penny raised will make a real difference.

This year, more than ever, we want to remind everyone that we are here and that we intend to be here, for everyone who needs us, for another 50 years. Your help will make that happen.



Make a difference...

You can help positively change an older person's life

£50

Help us to provide vital support and friendship ...

£50 covers the cost of recruiting, vetting and training a new befriending volunteer

£100

Help us to be there for those who have no one to turn to ...

£100 covers the weekly cost of our welfare calls to our clients and volunteers

£150

Helps us to offer a listening ear to those in need ...

£150 covers the cost of our triage telephone lines for one day

Our Age-Friendly Island project is a blueprint for the UK

On Thursday 23rd March delegates from a range of public, private and voluntary sector organisations came together at the Quay Arts to reflect on, and celebrate, the outstanding results that our Age Friendly Island project has achieved.

This National Lottery Community-funded, eight-year project within the Ageing Better Programme, has led to changes in policy and strategy that have benefited and enhanced the lives of older Island residents and challenged cultural attitudes.

Collaboration with Island organisations and businesses, such as the IW Council, Southern Vectis and Island Roads, that have worked hard to embed age-friendly best practices within their daily function, has been key to the success of our project so far and will be for its continuing

AgeUK IW – Digital Support Workshops

Our digital support workshops are another example. Offering informal and friendly community-based drop-in sessions for IT help, the sessions can support you to access the internet, to stay connected and access vital services.

contribution to the lives of older Island residents.

The Lottery funding the charity has received so far unfortunately ends next year but our work will continue says Maria Bunce, our Chief Operating Officer. 'We need to retain and expand connections with Island businesses. At some point we will all need more time or help with day-to-day life. This is about all of us, right now and in the future. This is the legacy we want: to be a truly age-friendly Island when future generations need it to be. Collaboration is key and AgeUK IW is reaching out to more organisations to help us achieve this goal.'



Southern Vectis – Stay in your seat

Examples of the impact of how this great work is being felt in the community include the engagement with Southern Vectis. All its bus drivers are now age-friendly trained, using practices such as allowing more time at stops for passengers to get on and off safely.

Our Services

AgeUK 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**



Our Dementia Care Navigators Service is leading the UK

AgeUK Isle of Wight's Hospital & Dementia Care Navigator Team Leader, Kim Williams, was invited to speak at the Government's national Dementia Care Conference on Tuesday 25th April. Having led the way in collaborative working, we were asked to showcase how we have developed our service to act as a point of access to community-based support.

Kim said: 'Being given the opportunity to share our DCN service best practice has not only allowed us to deliver guidance to other service providers but also enabled us as a team to gain insights on other local initiatives that will help us to continue to improve our own practices.'

As part of our service, the Dementia Care Navigators (DCN) team visits people in their own homes and provides support to clients who are awaiting a diagnosis or starting to struggle with their memory. For many this makes the service more accessible and enables people to access support as early as possible, helping to enhance their quality of life.

We have three Dementia Navigators who are based in the community and work alongside a Memory Service Navigator, who is based

in St Mary's Hospital. Together they act as a point of contact for people living with the effects of dementia or who are awaiting a dementia assessment. They, their families and carers, can access expert advice, bespoke resources and referrals to both NHS and partner services.

The DCN service was launched by, and is funded through, the NHS, and is delivered in partnership with AgeUK IW and the Isle of Wight Council's Adult Social Care service.

If you, or anyone you know, needs support, please contact our DCN team. We are here to help.





Volunteer for Age UK Isle of Wight

Change lives – change your own

Volunteering is a great way to meet new people and enrich your sense of purpose in life.

Could you provide support and companionship by:

TELEPHONE BEFRIENDING – calling regular residents to either have a catch up or to check they are doing okay.

FACE-TO-FACE BEFRIENDING – visiting those who feel lonely or isolated for a chat or a trip out.

WELFARE BENEFITS – supporting individuals with the completion of benefit application forms.

DIGITAL SUPPORT – help build digital confidence by delivering IT help drop-in sessions, visiting clients on a one-to-one basis or assisting our digitally led workshops.



“I wanted to volunteer to help people connect with the community. If I can make someone’s day a little brighter then that makes me feel good too!”

Interested? Contact the Good Neighbour Scheme
Call: **01983 525282**

Email: gns@ageukiw.org.uk

Visit: www.ageukiw.org.uk

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As part of the celebrations for His Majesty The King’s Coronation, The Big Help Out campaign, launched on the 8th May, encourages people to try volunteering and see how they can impact their local areas.



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



Good Neighbours become good friends over a cream tea at Busy Bee!

On Thursday 27th April, some of the wonderful volunteers from our Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS) were delighted to treat an excited group of clients to a fabulous, home-made, fresh cream tea at the ever popular Busy Bee garden centre cafe in Ryde, which also provided an opportunity to meet and chat to new friends.

Proving that everybody needs Good Neighbours, our GNS volunteers provided the

transport for their guests and ensured the afternoon was as enjoyable as possible – despite the rain on the day! Guests were also able to enjoy a good look around the Busy Bee shop and garden centre, which, as most people know, is an event in itself!

The outing was only made possible by the generosity of our amazing volunteers and a special mention goes to volunteer amateur photographer, Allan, who

took some fantastic photos on the day!

Our award-winning Good Neighbour Scheme (GNS) is a cornerstone of the charity's services. It provides vital assistance, friendship and reliable support to older Island residents with no one else to turn to. 'No one should have no one' and we are planning for this event to be just one of many to come – particularly as we celebrate our 50th anniversary year.



We would like to extend particular thanks to the event's generous sponsors: Martin at IW Design & Print, Newport, Rick at iFix Local, Newport, and one other who preferred to remain anonymous. Their support made the event possible.

A gift in your Will can help change the future

When you leave a gift in your Will to AgeUK Isle of Wight, you will be supporting our effort to make life better for older people on the Island.

Every penny we receive stays on the Island and is used solely for the benefit of local residents. Your legacy will help our legacy: a truly age friendly Island when future generations need it to be.



“It was a great comfort to me to know that someone was keeping an eye on my brother for us. I’m delighted he chose to leave a gift to such a worthy cause.”

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.

Every gift will make a difference

13,503

WELFARE
CALLS MADE

6,500+

HOURS OF SUPPORT
PROVIDED FROM OUR
HOSPITAL PROJECT

22,620

HOURS OF HOME
HELP PROVIDED

**£1.8
MILLION**

OF WELFARE
BENEFITS CLAIMED



Registered charity
number 1118711