

# Newsletter

Registered charity number 1105384



## Inform

This will be my last message of 2020. Without repeating the stock phrases that we've heard time and time again over the last nine months, it has been a year that will live long in the memory. For many, these memories will highlight the very worst and best of human existence.

We have seen an extraordinary series of events bringing much pain and suffering to so many people. Conversely, we have experienced an enormous surge in community spirit and togetherness.

I hope you will join with us by taking a moment to remember those that we have lost and those that have suffered as a result of the pandemic, either directly or indirectly.

I also invite you to reflect upon who and what matters to you. From my own perspective, the pandemic has encouraged me to invest more in relationships with family and friends. This has brought me great comfort and strengthened bonds with the people I love.

If you celebrate Christmas, this time of year is normally a time for people and communities to connect, share food and drink together and celebrate. This year it feels all the more pertinent that we cherish these moments. **However, with London moving into Tier 3, I urge you to take steps to celebrate safely.**

As a local charity, we have received a lot of help from local people making donations this year. We are so grateful for this support as it helps us to support Merton's most vulnerable older people. I know that Christmas can represent a time of giving for many people, so if you have the means to donate, we'd be grateful for any support you can offer. You can give via our website or sending a cheque payable to 'Age UK Merton'. As a local charity, all donations go towards supporting older adults in Merton.

Take care, stay safe, and here's to a happy New Year, I think we've earned it!

**Rob Clarke**, Chief Executive



### USEFUL CONTACTS

#### Age UK Merton

Mon, Tues, Thurs and Fri  
9am—4pm. Weds 9am—2pm

Elmwood Centre,  
277 London Road,  
Mitcham, CR4 3NT

[info@ageukmerton.org.uk](mailto:info@ageukmerton.org.uk)

020 8648 5792 or  
07542 284 914

**Merton COVID-19  
Community Response Hub**  
020 8685 2272

**If you're feeling unwell  
and need help call 111**

**If you need a COVID-19  
test call 119**

# Inspire

Continuing with the positive theme, we wanted to celebrate the vast range of activities we've delivered this year. We have transformed our programme, created new initiatives and worked round the clock to adapt to emerging needs.

It has been a privilege for us to support Merton's older adults this year, our aim has been to stay true to our mission of making Merton a great place to grow old. Here's a flavour:



We brought sunshine into the lives of over 400 older people with our Sunflower project

# 3300+

Over 3,300 older people accessed our support

32% more than 2019

22% more clients from BAME communities

# 25000

We've been in touch with clients over 25,000 times

69% more than 2019

We have sent our new regular newsletter to over 450 people



We have recruited, trained and mobilised over 250 volunteers in the Covid-19 response effort



We worked in partnership with other local charities to run the Merton Covid-19 Community Response Hub responding to 3,500 calls for help from local residents

