

Newsletter

Registered charity number 1105384

Inform

Despite the wild swings in weather, from snow to bright sunshine, we've started April with a renewed sense of optimism about the future. We know that things may take a while to unlock and we must move forward cautiously, but every small step we take is one towards some sense of normality.

To that end, we have been working through our plans to rebuild our face-to-face services. We will be keeping a close eye on local infection rates and government guidance but we are hopeful that we will be able to phase our services back in from mid-May onwards.

To begin with, we plan to start small, ensuring that our services are well run, high impact and most of all, safe. From then on, we intend to build up the programme of activities that we can offer you.

At the same time, we are likely to phase out some of our remote support, including this newsletter in its current form. Instead we plan to send you out our revamped What's On guide, to keep you up-to-date with the range of activities and services we are offering each quarter.

Please bear with us as we rebuild these services, whilst the pubs might be open, we will not be taking any undue risks with the health and wellbeing of our staff, volunteers or clients. We have come too far. Rest assured we will be taking the opportunity to revitalise our programme of activities and services to provide you with a range of things to keep you engaged and entertained!

Watch this space over the next few weeks for more information.

Until then, stay safe.

Rob Clarke, Chief Executive



USEFUL CONTACTS

Age UK Merton

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

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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

In our very first newsletter, we published a poem from our very own Pauline. We thought it fitting to share her reflections on the last year.

“Little did I know when I wrote that poem that we’d be in lockdown for so long. I didn’t know then how much speaking to you all on the phone would help me through the various lockdowns.”

Pauline has talked about how regular contact with our clients has inspired her to work harder, to think outside the box and to keep going despite the difficult world around us.

We know from speaking to staff and volunteers across the organisation just how motivated they have been throughout the last year to think creatively and go the extra mile for our clients.

When this all began, we quoted William James, which feels a meaningful reflection at this point too.

“It is our attitude at the beginning of a difficult task which, more than anything else, will affect its successful outcome.”

We must all maintain that ‘attitude’ throughout the next phase of this pandemic to ensure a positive outcome. We hope this gives you as much continued strength and conviction as it does us.

Do

As part of our new service offer, we are running regular, local walks for our clients. These take in the array of parks, green spaces and areas of historic interest on your doorstep. As we look to rebuild our programme, we plan to offer even more variety. Why not get in touch to find out where we are off to next?

Ask

We’d love to hear about what you’re most looking forward to doing as Covid-19 restrictions ease. Perhaps it’s the kind of thing we could build into our new programme. We want to be as creative as we can, so let us know what you’re planning, you might just give us some inspiration!