

What's Happening – In Brief

A Note from Amanda Allen (CEO of Age UK North Worcs) – April 2026

- With all that is going on in the world, I am glad to be able to focus on some positive news! I am pleased to share that we have received the draft report from our recent **CQS 'Charity Quality Standard'** assessment and, in principle, we have passed (with just three minor areas of non-compliance to address)! The report needs to be reviewed by the national Age UK team before we get the final assessment but overall, this is a great result, and I thank you all for all your hard work and contribution. Well done too to Trudy and our Information & Advice team who have also successfully passed their assessment for QAS, the **Quality of Advice Standard**, which sets out a series of standards for good quality information and advice provision. This success is again testament to the hard work, dedication and commitment of the team
- In terms of team news, this month we say a '*Thank You*' and '*Farewell*' to I&A Advisor Helen Cook who is retiring from her I&A Advisor role. We also say a '*Welcome*' to Marie Kimberley (Finance Assistant), Sarah Diston (Head of Fundraising), Katie Baldwin (Home Worker) and Sarah Little (Home Worker) who have all joined us recently and '*Congratulations*' to Amy Bradley and Andy Roberts who have both been appointed as Charity Shop Assistant Managers after volunteering for our Retail team. *Congratulations* too to Emma Stenson who will be undertaking the new role of Projects Co-ordinator (Operations and Fundraising)! I wish everyone success and happiness in their next chapters!

Celebrating Sheelagh Keen (founder & former Chair of our Board of Trustees)

- Earlier this year we received the very sad news of the passing of **Sheelagh Keen**, a lady who was instrumental in establishing our charity and making it what it is today, and who did so much to support the local community
- During the 1980's, whilst working for the Citizens Advice Bureau, Sheelagh was approached about getting involved with setting up Age Concern Bromsgrove District. In the early 1990's, as the charity's CEO, Sheelagh secured Lottery funding to acquire 51 Windsor Street for the organisation - our current Head Office. Retiring from the charity in 2002, Sheelagh returned to the Board of Trustees for Age UK Bromsgrove & District. Playing a key role in the merger and formation of Age UK Bromsgrove, Redditch & Wyre Forest in 2016, Sheelagh became the first Chair of the new charity. Despite stepping down from the Board in 2018, Sheelagh's continued her support for older people by volunteering for our Befriending service!
- Earlier this month, Sheelagh's husband Ted, some of her family and friends and members of our team came together at Amphlett Hall to celebrate Sheelagh with the planting of a commemorative rose, in Sheelagh's favourite colour, yellow. ***Thanking and remembering you Sheelagh***



CEO Amanda with Ted

Congratulations Simon!

• Congratulations to Online Sales Manager **Simon Burford** for being awarded our **Employee of the Quarter!**



• Simon was nominated by a number of colleagues, who highlighted his motivational leadership style and the positive impact he has on his team. Simon was also recognised for taking on a challenging role and demonstrating real passion and commitment to his service!

Nominate Your Employee of the Quarter

To nominate a colleague who you believe has gone the extra mile for a client, gone out of their way to make a difference or always makes you smile, simply send a quick email to **Kate Ware** (kate.ware@ageuknorthworce.org.uk) with the name of the person you are nominating and the reason why you think they deserve this recognition. You can nominate as many colleagues as you like!

• This month marks 10 years since Bromsgrove Men In Sheds moved into their original unit in Stoke Prior. To commemorate, the Shedders are offering to make a **Celebratory Planter**. Nominations close 24/04/26

#10YearsOfTheBromsgroveShed

Celebratory Planter Nominations Open!

To celebrate **ten years** of Bromsgrove Men In Sheds the Bromsgrove Shedders are offering to make a planter for a member of the community/ a community group!

To submit a nomination, please scan the QR Code or visit <https://forms.office.com/e/bpgZHVkGwa> by Friday 24th April 2026 – Thank you!

North Worcestershire ageUK 01527 570490

For more information about Bromsgrove Men In Sheds, scan to submit!

www.ageuk.org.uk/northworce/activities-and-events/men-in-sheds/

Our I&A Team is recruiting!

• Our I&A team is currently recruiting for an **Advice Worker** (I&A Advisor). For more details please visit our [website](#) or call the office on 01527 570490. Closing date is **11/05/26**. Please help and share!

North Worcestershire ageUK Let's change how we age

Are you looking for a role where you can make a real difference for local older people?

We are recruiting for an Advice Worker (30 hours a week, job share considered)

If you have experience of working in an advice or guidance setting, scan the QR Code, visit our website or give us a call to find out how you can

#JoinOurTeam
01527 570490

North Worcestershire ageUK Let's change how we age

www.ageuk.org.uk/northworce/about-us/work-for-us/

Fatima running 10k for I&A!

North Worcestershire ageUK

Fatima is Running 10k for I&A

Information & Advice

On Sunday 3rd May 2026, Fatima Zahira is taking part in the Birmingham 10k Great Run to help raise funds for Age UK North Worcestershire's free Information & Advice service!

at the heart of everything that we do!

North Worcestershire ageUK Let's change how we age

Registered Charity No. 1146891

North Worcestershire ageUK Let's change how we age

Scan to donate or visit

www.justgiving.com/page/fatima-zahira-3

• Home Worker **Fatima Zahira** is taking on the Birmingham Great 10k Run on Sunday 3rd May to support our 10k for I&A campaign! To support Fatima please visit www.justgiving.com/page/fatima-zahira-3 To add a little competition amongst her supporters, Fatima is offering a bottle of bubbly to anyone who can correctly guess her finishing time!

Easter Monday Fundraising!



• A huge thank you to everyone that supported our fundraising event at the Sixways Stadium on Easter Monday with the derby match between Worcester City FC and Redditch United. A total of **£459.87** was collected on the day plus a Redditch United Fan donated a signed football shirt for us to auction!

