

What's Happening – In Brief

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

- With the **refresh of our New Road** (Rubery) Charity Shop (see overleaf) and our '**Burst-Of-Colour**' campaign (see below) we are getting 2026 off to a positive start!
- As part of it's campaign to **End Corridor Care**, this month the national Age UK team have been encouraging people to invite their MP to an event that they are hosting in Westminster to put pressure on the Government to take urgent action. The team have also released new research, reporting that older people going into A&E face a considerable risk of waiting over 12 hours for a hospital bed, with data showing that over 100,000 older people had to wait between one and three days for a bed. For more details about the campaign follow this link to the Age UK website <https://bit.ly/4hxFjYy>
- Next month (23rd & 24th) we have our assessment visit as part of the **Age UK Charity Quality Standard (CQS)**. The aim of CQS is to ensure that we are a legal, safe and effective organisation that provides a positive experience for older people. Whilst the focus of the two days will be upon how we meet with the requirements of the standard's 13 Quality Areas, it is what you all do **each and every day** that helps to make a difference for older people North Worcestershire, and I know what a dedicated and a committed team we have!

Meet the Team Banishing Blue Monday with a #BurstOfColour!

- The third Monday of January is often referred to as '**Blue Monday**', with the Christmas and New Year Break over, resolutions broken and the cold, grey January weather. Rather than being negative, we decided to banish the January Blues with **#BurstOfColourDay** and an opportunity to also raise funds to support our **£10k for I&A** campaign!
- Members of our Groups & Activities, along with the residents at Care UK's Brook Court (Kidderminster) joined us with making 19th January a day of colour, joy and positivity, raising the profile of older people, to ensure that they remain visible, valued and involved!



New Look for our Rubery Charity Shop!

- After being closed for a refit at the start of the year, on Thursday 15th January our New Road (Rubery) Charity Shop re-opened with a **new look!**
- If you haven't had chance to visit Chris, Charmaine, Liam and the team yet, you can see a few photos via this link
<https://youtube.com/shorts/TBT3CBCmCvs?feature=share>



Current Opportunities

- Do you know anybody that is interested in joining our **Information & Advice team**? For full details of the role please visit the **Work For Us** section of our website or call 01527 570490



Congratulations – Retail Key Volunteers

- Our Retail team are pleased to announce the introduction of the **Key Volunteer Programme**, designed to help volunteers develop new skills and build confidence in their roles
- Launched in November last year, the programme has already seen 10 volunteers, from across our shops, take part. The training is fully flexible, allowing volunteers to learn at their own pace with no set time limits.
- Volunteer feedback so far has been extremely positive, including:
 - Enjoying the opportunity to learn new skills
 - Feeling more confident in their roles
 - Being able to contribute more proactively to the charity
- Looking ahead, it is hoped that volunteers who complete the programme will be able to use their new skills to apply for roles within the charity or carry them forward into their future career paths. For more information about the programme, please contact Angie Bassett (Retail Coordinator)



Congratulations to Andy Roberts (Matchborough), Tracey Hart (Winyates) and Stacey Johnson (Mason Road) for completing the Key Volunteer Programme!

Information & Advice Officer

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 we can [#JoinOurTeam](#) 01527 570490 www.ageuk.org.uk/northworcestershire/about-us/work-for-us/

- Expressions of interest are also currently being sought for:
 - **Finance Assistant** – please contact Hilary Farmiloe for details
 - **Foot Care Assistant (cover)** – please contact Sam Jones for details

Opportunities to raise Funds!

- By using **easyfundraising** when you shop online, you can raise funds to help support our local work for FREE! In 2025, our supporters raised £96.99!

 [easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ageuknorthworcestershire/](https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ageuknorthworcestershire/)

A look at 2025

Jo's cause: Age UK North Worcestershire...

...raised £96.99 in donations this year

...recruited 5 new supporters

...received donations from 10 supporters

- **Can you help us raise more in 2026?**
Here is the link
<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/ageuknorthworcestershire/> if you haven't signed up yet!!!