

# What's Happening – In Brief

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

- In addition to **Volunteers' Week** (see below and overleaf) June is also a month for several important awareness campaigns, including **Carers Week**. Over 2 million carers in the UK are aged 65+. As part of Carers Week, supporting charities, including Age UK, have published a blueprint for building 'Carer Friendly Communities' where unpaid carers are recognised, understood and valued
- With the publication of official NHS figures (which revealed that nearly 3,000 patients a day were being treated in inappropriate settings) this month has seen renewed attention to the issue of **Corridor Care**, with Paul Farmer, Chief Executive of Age UK, speaking on BBC Breakfast about the impact this hidden crisis can have on older people

## Meet the Team – Amy Bradley (Assistant Manager, Walter Nash Road)

- If you follow the charity on social media you may have seen that as part of Volunteers' Week, we shared Amy's story—a journey about rebuilding confidence, improving mental health, and finding your way back when life knocks you off track
- Amy first came to us after seeing an advert for an Assistant Manager role at our Walter Nash Shop in Kidderminster. She didn't get the job at the time—but instead of leaving, Amy decided to stay and volunteer. Looking back, she knows that was exactly what she needed.
- "When I first came here, I hadn't worked in a while because I'd been caring for my dad. My confidence had really taken a hit and I was struggling with anxiety after everything that had been going on. I thought I was ready to go straight back into work, but looking back, I don't think I was - not really. "After a difficult period caring for her dad, Amy needed time, space and support—and volunteering gave her exactly that. "Volunteering brought me back into the real world again. That might sound silly, but it really did. There wasn't that pressure you get with a full-time job—you can just come in, do a few hours and it's enough. You feel like you've achieved something without it being overwhelming."
- Slowly, things began to change. The simple things—chatting, laughing, feeling part of a team - started to make a big difference. "It's like a little community here. You come in, have a laugh, talk to people and you feel like you're making a difference and it helps you come out of yourself."
- "When you're not working, you can start to feel like you're not contributing, like you've lost your place a bit. Volunteering gives that back to you—you feel useful again, like you're part of something. "With time, Amy's confidence grew—and so did her belief in herself. "I wasn't ready when I first applied for the job, but those extra months volunteering made all the difference. I felt stronger, more confident and more like myself again." So when the opportunity came round again, Amy stepped into the Assistant Manager role—this time ready.
- Now, she encourages anyone who might be feeling the way she once did to take that first step: "If you're struggling with your confidence or your mental health, I'd absolutely recommend volunteering. Start small, just a couple of hours. It gets you out, gets you talking and helps you feel like you again. It really can change things." Amy's story is a powerful reminder that volunteering isn't just about giving your time—it's about rebuilding confidence, improving your mental wellbeing, and finding your way forward



# Celebrating our amazing Volunteers!



- A huge 'Thank You' to everyone that shared their story and for all the support for **Volunteers' Week** at the start of June! The week began with a [message from Cllr Kane, recorded during her time as Mayor of Redditch](#), to thank our incredible volunteers and ended with a [heartfelt letter from our CEO Amanda!](#)
- As part of celebrating our amazing volunteers, nominations are now open for our **2026 Volunteer of the Year**. Launched in 2020 in memory of Sue Davidson (who, as a Trustee and Volunteer symbolised all that we are about as a local charity) this award helps to ensure Sue's contribution to the charity is a lasting one, whilst helping to inspire and recognise others!
- You can make your nomination(s) via the [Volunteering section](#) of our website or by requesting a Nomination Form from our Windsor Street Office
- The closing date for nominations is **Monday 7th September 2026**. Members of Sue's Family will be involved in the review of the nominations, and the winner will be announced in December



## Opportunities to #JoinOurTeam

- In addition to ongoing opportunities within our **At Home** team, we are currently recruiting for a **HR Officer** (21 hrs), a **Clerk** to support our **Board of Trustees** (approx. 6 hrs per month) and **Sunday Assistant Managers** for our High Street & Walter Nash Shops. Visit the [Work for Us](#) section of our website or call **01527 570490** for details

# Can you help?



**Can you spare 2 hours to make a difference?**

- We have been offered opportunities to have an awareness stand at **Tesco in Stourport** and we're looking for 6 volunteers per date with 2 hours spare?

**Tuesday 22<sup>nd</sup> July**

**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> December**

- **What you'll be doing** Engaging with shoppers, raising awareness of our amazing work and how rewarding it is to volunteer for Age UK North Worcestershire. We're waiting for confirmation that we can also have collection tins for donations. Full guidance will be given, and a member of staff will be there to set up and put down.
- **We are also looking at other** similar opportunities. To help with planning, if you can give just two hours of your time, please contact:  
**Sarah Diston** – sarah.diston@ageuknorthworcestershire.org.uk  
**Emma Stenson** – emma.stenson@ageuknorthworcestershire.org.uk  
 Your support will make a real difference!

## Thank You Cummins!

- A huge thank you to the team at **Cummins** (Redditch) for their generous donations to our charity shops, which were collected from their office. Redditch is a regional hub for Cummins' multinational operations, and the team are also keen to explore other ways they can support our local work, including volunteering opportunities
- If you have a connection with a local business that might like to support our charity, please contact **Sarah Diston** (our Head of Fundraising)

