

What's Happening – In Brief

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

- With the current issues in the Middle East, these are worrying and uncertain times. Whilst moments like these can feel overwhelming, they do serve as a reminder of the importance of compassion and hope. This month members of our team attended Worcestershire County Council's event to mark World Social Work Day – the theme for this year was 'Co-Building Hope and Harmony' and what is possible when we come together. Whilst there may be things that are out of our control, I remain incredibly proud of what we do as a team, and the hope and support that we bring to members of the North Worcestershire community. We are also part of a wider network and, as the recent Age UK Influencing Conference demonstrated, by coming together as the Age UK Family, with shared compassion and hope we can make even more of a difference!

Our At Home Gardening Service - a few words from Stuart Baddams

- With its team of Home Workers, Handypersons and Gardeners, the strapline for our **At Home** service is '**Little things, big difference**'. The service is all about enabling people to stay safe and independent at home, with practical help being reliably delivered by a trusted, friendly face and a caring and supportive back-office team
- A well-kept garden can be a source of joy, pride, and calm but, as we age, keeping on top of outdoor tasks can become difficult. By helping older people to take care of their gardens, our dedicated Gardeners are helping older people to feel more supported and secure, enabling them to have a place that they can enjoy relaxing in or looking out onto. But the service is more than about gardening it is also about *connection*, with regular visits from someone who takes the time to chat as well as help. Our At Home service currently has 8 Gardeners, but there is a need for more support across North Worcestershire. Thank you to **Gardener Stuart Baddams** for sharing these words to help raise awareness of the role:

"Having found myself in the fortunate position of being semi retired, I took time to evaluate what I really wanted from my next role. I decided that it should incorporate my love of the outdoors, and after helping my own elderly relatives in their gardens, the opportunity to work for Age UK as a gardener seemed like the perfect fit. The ability to control my own workload and manage my clients is a real plus, but it's also great to have the full support of an excellent 'At Home' team who are always there for me should I need anything at all. I enjoy the flexibility that the role provides, allowing me to spend time with friends and family and also to enjoy my own hobbies.

I've taken the time to get to know all of my clients and understand their needs and requirements. I take great pride and care in the work that I do and get a sense of satisfaction from a job well done. My clients are always appreciative and it's a pleasure to be able to help and make someone smile. I know that by visiting, I'm able to make a small positive difference to someone's life which is a real motivator for me"

- If you know somebody that might be interested in joining our At Home team please get in touch with **Sam Jones** or visit our [website](#)



Are you looking for a role where you can make a real difference for local older people?
 We are recruiting for **Gardeners** across North Worcestershire
 If you would like to help older people to continue to enjoy their gardens, scan the QR Code, visit our website or give us a call to find out how you can
 #JoinOurTeam
 01527 570490
 www.ageuk.org.uk/northworcestershire

Can you help on Easter Monday?

- Thanks to the support of **SJL Insurance**, we have been chosen as the matchday charity for **Worcester City FC vs Redditch United** on Monday 6th April (Easter Monday – kick-off 3pm)!
- In addition to Bucket



#JustOneThing! Support our local work by bringing an item to our special **Donation Station** at Sixways Stadium on Monday 6th April 2026. Thank you!

Congratulations Jill!

- Congratulations to **Jill Parkes** who has completed her Key Volunteer Training at Mason Road! Jill has really enjoyed her training and is keen to develop her support for the shop!



Digital Drop In – 01/04/26

- Our next **Digital Drop-In** session, in partnership with AbilityNet, on 01/04/26 will focus on **Staying Safe online**. Please can you share with anyone that might find this session helpful

North Worcestershire ageUK Let's change how we age

As part of its monthly Digital Drop-In sessions, Age UK North Worcestershire is working in partnership with AbilityNet.

Staying Safe online - Simple steps for everyday confidence

Join us for a relaxed, friendly session where we will provide clear, simple guidance about **digital safety**, to help you to protect your devices and personal details with confidence

Free session - donations are welcome

- No need to book
- Bring your own phone or tablet
- Wednesday 1st April, 1.30-3.30pm
- Amphlett Hall, Crown Close, Bromsgrove, B61 8DW

*Please note that Car Parking is limited. Non-car Public Car Parks are available nearby (near Redditch Road and Redditch City Centre)

Working in partnership with AbilityNet and BT Group

North Worcestershire ageUK Contact: 01527 570490 enquiries@ageuknorthworce.org.uk

Collections, both Clubs will be encouraging their supporters to bring along **#JustOneThing** to the special **Donation Station** that we will be setting up at the **Sixways Stadium (WR3 8ZE)** ground

• To support the event, **we need volunteers** to help with Bucket Collections and the Donation Station. If you can spare a few hours to help, please contact **Emma Stenson** (Emma.Stenson@ageuknorthworce.org.uk)

WCC – Workplace Wellbeing

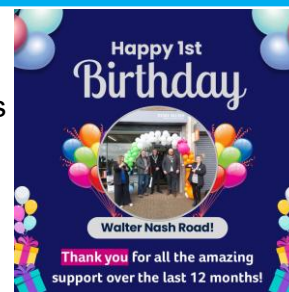
- The charity has been successful in its application to Worcestershire County Council's new **Workplace Wellbeing** scheme, which aims to support local organisations to create healthier, more inclusive workplaces that actively promote wellbeing! More details of proposed initiatives will be shared in the coming weeks, but if you have any wellbeing suggestions or concerns, please contact **Kate Ware**

Staff Handbook Updates & Changes to SSP

- Due to recent legislative changes, the **Staff Handbook** and related policies will be updated week commencing 6th April 2026. You can access the up-to-date versions on the **Age UK NW Central SharePoint**
- From 6 April 2026, the rules for **Statutory Sick Pay (SSP)** are changing: SSP will be paid from day 1 of sickness, instead of day 4 and the lower earnings limit is being removed. Please note all other eligibility rules remain the same. You must still report sickness within the timescales set out in your contract and the Sickness Absence Policy and provide a Fit Note for any sickness lasting more than 7 consecutive days

News from our Shops

- Our **Walter Nash Shop** celebrated its 1st Birthday this month! To mark the occasion the team are raffling an Easter Egg Hamper"
- Please help to spread the word that people can make even more of a difference when donating to our shops if they sign up to **Gift Aid**. It only takes a couple of minutes – just speak to a member of the team!



North Worcestershire ageUK Let's change how we age

Choose Gift Aid and make your donations go 25% further

If you are a UK taxpayer, please speak to a member of our team about Gift Aid - it only takes a few minutes but it will make a big difference to our local work!