

Christmas cheers

It feels a bit odd mentioning Christmas now, but we must thank the wonderful people and businesses that made Christmas 2019 so special.



Once again the **Asda Community Foundation** donated **£500** and **We Are All Making A Difference** charity donated **£1,000** to help pay

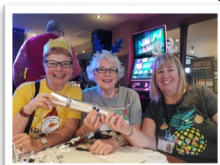
for Club TLC's (above left) and Club MG's

Christmas parties. **The Rotary Club of Knowle & Dorridge**

also kindly presented a cheque for **£260** to cover the costs of the Christmas party for our Wednesday Friends Lunch Club in Knowle (right).



Our clients thoroughly enjoyed the parties; they were treated to a 3-course meal, crackers, entertainment, and each received a gift that had



been donated by Birmingham Business Park. Thank you to our wonderful **volunteers** for helping the events run smoothly (left).

Several generous businesses donated fantastic prizes for our Christmas Raffle, including a Christmas turkey from **Adlington Farm**, a **National Express** voucher, Sunday lunch for two at **Hogarths Hotel**, and afternoon tea for two at **Hilton Birmingham Metropole** and also at **Crown Plaza Hotel** (more prizes pictured right). Thank you to everyone who



donated a prize or bought tickets, helping raise an impressive **£653** to help us support local older people.

Our chocolate bouquets (right) were a huge success, with 48 being raffled off at our clubs, shops and local businesses, raising **£1,267**.



Continuing on the chocolate theme, we were gifted some **Lindt advent calendars** from **McCann Erikson**, and boxes of **Green & Blacks chocolate** from **Cadbury**, which we gave to our clients at the Christmas parties.



Last but not least, a huge thank you to **National Grid**, who hosted a **Christmas lunch** for our clients (left). They were treated to a delicious meal, a raffle,

fabulous goodie bags and carols. **Waitrose** kindly donated much of the food and gifts for the event.

Many of the older people who came are befriending or home support clients, who couldn't get to the parties at our lunch clubs. They all had a wonderful time, and one commented that she'd been very anxious recently, but for the couple of hours she was at the party she was able to forget her worries.

One of our clients, Bob (right), had an extra special day, as it was also his 90th birthday!



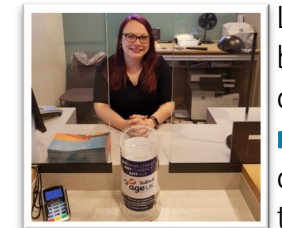
X-tra fundraising



their continued support.

The team at **Xoserve** has continued to fundraise for us. They raised an astonishing **£1,287** from their Christmas Raffle, a Halloween Bake Off, and their chocolate bouquet raffle. Thank you so much to Xoserve for

Cash4Coins



Look out for our cash tubes and boxes around Solihull, where we are collecting **foreign coins and notes** (current and out of date) and out of date Sterling currency, to be recycled through **Cash4Coins** and help us raise funds. The tubes are located in various locations including **John Lewis**, Solihull (located in the Bureau de Change), **Barclays**, Solihull, Shirley and Sheldon, and **Santander**, Solihull. If you would like one for your business or workplace, please let us know and we can deliver one to you.

Planning to renew your insurance?



If you mention Age UK Solihull when purchasing car, home or other insurance from **A-Plan Insurance's** Solihull branch on Poplar Road, they will make a **£25 donation** to Age UK Solihull to support our work with older people in our local community. Contact us for full details and T&Cs.

We are an independent and impartial local charity and we always advise people to get at least three quotes on any products or services they purchase.

Age UK Solihull Services

Information & Advice/Community Advice Hubs

0121 709 7590

Benefits Visiting Service 0121 709 7592

Direct Payments Support Service 0121 709 7591

Home Support Service 0121 704 7848

Linking People Together (Befriending)

0121 704 7846

Postural Stability Exercise Service 0121 704 7845

Winter Warmth Helpline 0121 704 8080

Funds boosted by grants

We've recently received some generous grants from:

Masonic Charitable Foundation

Lillie Johnson Trust

Jarman Charitable Trust

W A Cadbury Trust

Edgar E Lawley Foundation

The George Henry Collins Charity

29th May 1961 Charitable Trust

The Grimmitt Trust

Asda Community Foundation

W G Edwards Charitable Trust

The Thousandth Man Charitable Trust

Roger and Douglas Turner

E Alec Coleman Charitable Fund

Baron Davenport's Charity

The Edward & Dorothy Cadbury Trust



We were awarded **£63,000** for our **Later Life Goals** project, which we've been working on closely with **Knowle Masonic Centre**

Sponsored by

SOLIHULL VILLAGE

The ExtraCare Charitable Trust

Age UK Solihull Newsletter Issue 16 · Spring 2020

newsletter

Solihull Village · Volunteers · Events · Local business support · Clubs news · Community Advice Hubs

Award winning volunteers!



The fantastic contribution of our wonderful volunteers was recently recognised with a **Solihull Civic Honours Award** (left)! The Mayor of Solihull, Cllr Stuart Davies, presented the Community Involvement Award, which was sponsored by **Hogarths Solihull**. We are so proud of our team of volunteers and believe this award was very much deserved. Together they helped over 3500 Solihull residents in 2018/19, and it's wonderful that their efforts were

recognised and celebrated.

In September we held our annual **Volunteers' Lunch** (right) to thank our volunteers and show our appreciation. The team met the Mayor again as he presented our longest standing volunteers with certificates.

We are extremely lucky to have around **300 volunteers** who dedicate their time to helping us support local older or vulnerable people.



Volunteer Spotlight: Club TLC



Our four **social clubs** help alleviate loneliness and isolation amongst older people living in Solihull. The clubs could not go ahead without our fantastic volunteers, who dedicate around four hours of their time each week to help the clubs run smoothly and create a friendly atmosphere. Our clubs are in Olton, Marston Green and Knowle.

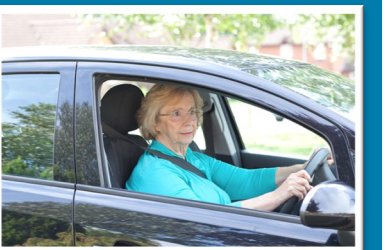
The **Taverners' Lunch Club**, (or 'Club TLC') has been running for eight years. It takes place every Monday and it moved from the Highwood Pub to the Olton Tavern four years ago. Thank you to our dedicated Club TLC volunteers (above left), Mo, Chris, Julie, Pete, and Rosemary, who received her 20 years service certificate at our Volunteers' Lunch (above right).



Goodbye to Ruth Bristoll, who is retiring after volunteering at our Wednesday Afternoon Club for 26 years. We wish her all the best.

Join our friendly team

We're looking to recruit some **Volunteer Drivers** to transport one or two of our clients to our **Wednesday Afternoon Club** at St Margaret's Church Hall in Olton, or our **gentle exercise classes** at the Family Renewal Centre off Lode Lane. This is a rewarding role as you can get to know the clients, socialise with them and see them benefit from our services. Contact our Volunteer Co-Ordinator on the details overleaf if you are interested.



Acknowledgments

Thanks to all our supporters including:

All the schools that took part in Flourishing Fivers and Slip Into Slippers	Asda	Barclays
Birmingham Business Park	Birmingham International Railway Station	Corporate Solutions (Logistics) Ltd
Crown Cars	Jaguar Land Rover	Knowle & Dorridge Rotary
Solihull College	National Grid	Resorts World
Sydney Mitchell Solicitors	Tesco	Xoserve

Volunteer with us. Call **0121 704 7843** for an informal chat.



Pass it on! If you have a printed version of this newsletter, don't throw it away after you've read it. Why not pass it to a friend to read or leave it somewhere in the community (but don't litter!) for someone else to find?

Local charity | Local services | Local people

Registered Charity Number: 1055887

Our partnership with the Park flourishes



Our partnership with **Birmingham Business Park** is now well into its second year and continues to flourish. The Business Park invited us and our clients to a **festive wreath-making workshop** (pictured) and a **Christmas Carol event**, they collected **Christmas gifts** and **food donations** to be given to our clients, and they sponsored our recent **Smartphone Quiz**. Upcoming events at the Business Park include three **bike races** and a **St George's Day Walk**. Please let us know if you're interested in joining us at any events.

We've had a ball with Sydney Mitchell

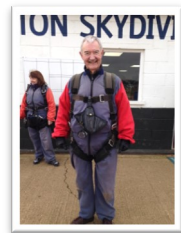


Local solicitors, **Sydney Mitchell**, presented us with a generous cheque for **£6,000** at their recent 'Movers and Shakers' networking event. This was our share of the funds raised through a number of events since October 2018, including a **Charity Ball**, which alone raised an incredible **£10,000**. They also hosted a **Smartphone Quiz** (pictured), and a **Golf Day**. The funds raised from all the events have been split between us and Sydney Mitchell's other chosen charity.

A recipe for great support



Bill Farnsworth is a highly valued supporter of ours. He travels to various community groups to deliver talks about his time as a Chef at the Savoy Hotel. He receives donations for his talks, which he passes on to us. In 2019 he raised an incredible **£914**, and he has more talks booked for this year. Bill also took on a tandem skydive in 2017, raising **£1,765** for us. We are so grateful for all of Bill's support.



We're here to help



We are the lead partner in the delivery of the **Solihull Community Advice Hubs**, based in Solihull and Chelmsley Wood Libraries. The Hubs are for everyone and are the first port of call for free and independent **information, advice and support** for **all Solihull residents** aged 18+, and their **carers**.

Our highly-trained Advisors will support you to **find solutions** to your needs. We can also support you to **self-help** with assistance from trained volunteers, or we can refer to **specialist partner organisations** that provide the services to meet your individual needs.

Specialist support services include: **all age benefits, debt, Direct Payments information and advice and managed accounts, lifestyles including support to stop smoking, carers' support, sight and hearing loss support, and dementia support.**

[Solihullcommunityhub.org.uk](http://www.solihullcommunityhub.org.uk)

Visit www.easyfundraising.org.uk to raise money for us each time you shop online.

General information and advice is available without appointment. If you require a service that needs to be referred to a **specialist caseworker or partner organisation** you are advised to telephone or email for an appointment.

On **Wednesdays** we have the most Advisors and Volunteers on hand, so although it may look busier, you are likely to be seen more quickly than on other days.

Hubs' opening hours

South Solihull Solihull Library	North Solihull Chelmsley Wood Library
Mon 10am - 4pm	Mon 10am - 2pm
Tue 10am - 2pm	Tue 10am - 4pm
Wed 10am - 2pm	Wed 10am - 2pm
Thu 10am - 4pm	Thu 10am - 2pm
Fri 10am - 2pm	Fri 10am - 4pm

Telephone: 0121 709 7590 Mon - Fri 10am - 12pm and 2pm - 4pm (close at 12pm on Weds)

Recent Events 2019/20

Slip Into Slippers

We asked schools and businesses to wear their slippers for the day and donate £1 for **International Day of Older Persons**. Fundraising Officer Becky Jacob promoted the campaign on **Solihull Radio**, and 8 schools and 6 businesses took part, raising **£1,474**.



Great Birmingham Run

Thank you to our five runners who braved the wet weather and ran 11 miles through Birmingham. They all made excellent time and raised over **£1,414** to help us provide our services.



Birmingham International Railway Station Collection Day

Volunteers collected change from visitors to the Spring Fair at the NEC. **£118** was collected in total.



Tesco Collection Day

Volunteers held buckets at Tesco Extra, Stratford Road. They collected a total of **£227** from shoppers.



Smartphone Quiz

Our 6th Smartphone Quiz, took place at **Resorts World's** Highline Lake Lounge on 10 March 2020. At the time of going to print, ticket sales and generous sponsorship from Resorts World and **Birmingham Business Park**, plus matched funding from **Barclays**, have meant that over **£1,390** has been raised.



An app-solute success



Local taxi firm, **Crown Cars**, pledged to donate £1 for every person that downloaded their app during December 2019, and they reached their target donation of **£250**! Crown Cars Director, Akhtar Ali, presented a cheque to our Fundraising Manager, Lorraine Hart, at **Together Marketing's** January networking event at **Four Ashes Golf Centre**.

Go to www.ageuksolihull.org.uk for information on our services.

Forthcoming Events 2020



St George's Day Walk

Celebrate England's patron Saint and help local older people by walking the 2 mile route around **Birmingham Business Park's** beautiful lake. Registration **£5**. Flags and water provided, and certificate presented upon completion. Free pizza, burgers and hot dogs available while stocks last! Event kindly sponsored by **Corporate Solutions (Logistics) Ltd**. Registration from 12:30pm.



Easter Raffle

Volunteers needed to help sell tickets for **Knowle & Dorridge Lions** Easter Raffle at the Black Boy pub in Knowle. Last year **£670.06** was raised for us. **Call us for details.**



WEAAD

Wear purple for the day and donate **£1** to mark **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day**, and help end elder abuse.



Birmingham International Collection Day

Volunteers needed to hold a bucket and collect change from visitors to BBC Gardener's World Live at the NEC. **Two-hourly slots available between 9:00am - 5:00pm.**



Wimbledon Event

Join us to watch the men's singles final on a big screen at **Hogarths Hotel**. Tickets **£30**, which includes a two-course lunch and a welcome drink. **Starts at 12:00pm. Call us for more details.**

If you would like more information on any of our events or would like to book, call us on **0121 704 7842** or email events@ageuksolihull.org.uk. For information about volunteering, call our **Volunteer Co-ordinator** on **0121 704 7843** or email volunteering@ageuksolihull.org.uk

SOLIHULL VILLAGE

The ExtraCare Charitable Trust



Choose a

better quality

of retirement

Exclusively for over 55s, these beautifully-finished spacious apartments benefit from leisure activities and facilities including:

- Café bar and bistro
- Art and crafts room
- Village hall
- Hairdressers
- Hobby room
- Games room
- Wellbeing suite
- Guest suite
- Greenhouse
- Library
- Gym

Show homes open Monday to Friday 10.00am-4.00pm

Haslucks Green Road, Shirley B90 2EL

Call **0121 809 3437** or visit www.solihullvillage.co.uk

*Shared ownership
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A paw-fect friendship



Peggy has lived alone for ten years since her partner, George, passed away. She used to be surrounded by family and pets, and have an active social life, but she is no longer able to go out due to deteriorating sight.

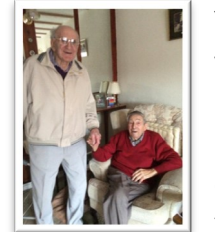
Peggy says, "I'd never really been on my own before. It's just since George passed away. He was the real love of my life...We used to go all over the world together. I miss all that. Sometimes I sit and cry because I can't go anywhere."

Alessia got in touch with Age UK Solihull to find out about becoming a **Volunteer Befriender** after losing her own grandparents, who played a big

part in her upbringing. She was matched with Peggy, and when she found out that Peggy loved animals, she offered to bring her dog, **Eddie**, along to Peggy's house.

Peggy had always had pets but is no longer able to have one due to her sight loss and being unstable on her feet. She looks forward to Alessia and Eddie's visit each week, saying "I'd rather have them than anyone else". Peggy no longer feels alone while they are there, and Alessia and Eddie love Peggy's company too. They have formed a real friendship.

Alessia says, "I get as much out of Befriending as Peggy does. I live alone too so I know that feeling."



You don't have to be young to volunteer for us. **93-year-old Jeff** has recently started volunteering as a **Befriender**, visiting **Cliff, 99**, every week. After being matched by our Befriending team, they discovered that they went to the same school! They've already hit it off and they're enjoying reminiscing together about their school days. They were also both in the forces, and they've discovered that Jeff's wife was Cliff's neighbour, so they have plenty to talk about!

Donate unwanted items to our charity shops in **Hobs Moat & Castle Bromwich**