

Well 2016 ended with a flurry of events and it's looking to be an even busier 2017. This is the first, of what we hope will be monthly updates on news and activities, keeping you and your network connected with Age UK Teesside. We want to keep you informed about project news, campaign updates and let you know how you can be involved in any upcoming events or help us fundraise to support our work in Teesside. Feel free to call us on 01642 805500 for further information about our work and events, also please share our news with your wider network too.

## AGM 2016

Featuring a host of familiar faces...



This year's AGM was an enormous success. We had a great turn-out with informative presentations and lots of fun which our guests all appreciated and enjoyed. We were lucky to have Police and Crime Commissioner Barry Coppinger as our Keynote speaker and a wonderful Zumba Gold demonstration courtesy of Glyn Stinchcombe that had everyone up on their feet too!

## Rural Communities

Anne Sykes CEO Age UK Teesside was a guest speaker at the recent Wynyard Rural Forum and was able to launch the Age UK Teesside winter campaign 'No one should have no one at Christmas'.

The wider issues discussed during the event was the Police and Crime Plan



Anne Sykes & PCC Barry Coppinger speaking at the Wynyard Rural Forum

delivered by Barry Coppinger, PCC for Cleveland and PCSO Paul Payne, Tees Valley Village Halls network, a presentation sharing best practice for developing community cohesion around the use of village halls. There was also a health update around cancer from Kate Bannister, Macmillan Health Awareness and Early Diagnosis Facilitator.

Janice McColm from Tees Valley Rural Community Council shared plans for a new village hall, working alongside the Wynyard Parish Council; the new hall would hopefully work towards reducing the loneliness and isolation of the community's older residents.

## Christmas Campaign 'No one should have no one' ...

The launch of the Christmas campaign saw a surge of generosity from the community, with the text-2-donate service encouraging people via social media to help us fight loneliness and isolation this festive season. Several staff members worked on creating social content to advertise the campaign and its importance via different mediums, including a poster containing a poignant reminder of how something as simple as a phone call can lift the spirits of a lonely older person:



**"I am still here, I do not matter  
In other homes the voices chatter  
This Christmas is just another lonely day  
No one here to listen to what I say.  
The silence echoes from room to room,  
This loneliness feels more like a tomb.  
I am still here, help make me matter  
Could you call and have a natter?"  
Call us –to find out about being a  
Befriender on 01642 805500**



Over the holiday period we held a number of get-togethers and celebrations for our clients, as well as two publicised events that were open to the public. The 2016 Annual Carol Service was held at All Saints Church on Linthorpe Road with the Children of Abingdon Primary School (above) singing the classic Christmas Carols. We were also blessed with a solo performance of Silent Night by the lovely Emily Bullock (right), 18-year-old soprano. Truly outstanding performance. Refreshments were kindly donated by Morrisons, Berwick Hills.



Our Festive Lunch was held in Newcomen Methodist Church, Redcar and proved to be a great success. Everyone had a fun time, enjoying food kindly



Friends, old and new enjoying the festive activities at Newcomen Hall.

donated by local businesses, Fatsos, Dominos, Morrisons and Tesco. Guests and staff enjoyed a sing-along with



Donna from Kiddleydivey, some dancing and a host of festive



activities. We're going to do it all over again in 2017 so watch this space to see how you can be involved too!

### Fundraising

Thanks to the tireless efforts of our business development team, we received sponsorship from the Linthorpe Road branch of Starbucks, who nominated us as their 'Red Cup of Cheer Charity' of 2016. Working with Neighbourly and Starbucks we raised £500.00 in vital funds to support our community outreach projects. We were also selected by Fat Face Clothing Store in Yarm as their nominated charity for 'Black Friday 2016!'. Pat Chambers, our Grants and Fundraising Co-ordinator received the Northstar Award which was voted for by tenants and were presented with a cheque for £600 to support our befriending services.

Pat Chambers accepting the Northstar Award



### 'Santa Stress Balls'

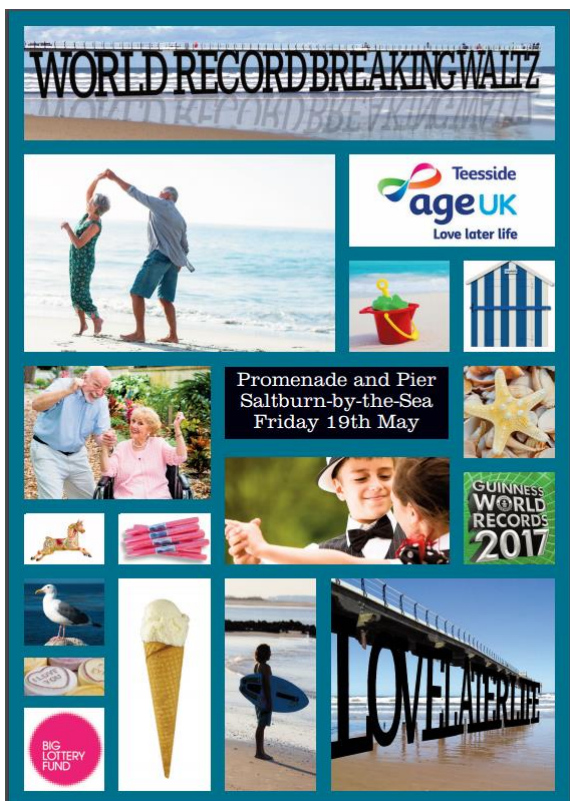


Amongst the festive ideas to raise funds over the holiday seasons was these stress-busting Santas! Stocking fillers were available from all branches this year and are already ordered ready for 2017!

January 2017 is set to be the beginning of another incredible year for our organisation!

We have a new Fundraising team and they are organising a huge event to look forward to in May, where we will be taking part in the Full of Life Fair and attempting to break the World-Record for Most Couples Dancing the Waltz in a Single Location...

Tickets available online with EventBrite – Go to [Facebook.com/AgeUKTside](https://www.facebook.com/AgeUKTside) for more information.



Age UK Teesside Limited

[www.ageukteesside.org.uk](http://www.ageukteesside.org.uk) Tel: 01642 805500

190 Borough Road Middlesbrough TS1 2EH