



A local charity supporting local people

## Age UK Wigan Borough Charity Shop to open late 2015

Here at Age UK Wigan Borough, we're delighted that our efforts to find suitable premises for a charity shop have resulted in us signing a lease on a shop in Standishgate, Wigan. At a busy junction, the shop is currently being refitted before we open later in the year.

The shop will help us to continue helping older people across the borough; every penny raised will do good work and help older people enjoy a good quality of life. In order to do this, the shop will need volunteers to help make it a success, and, of course, lots of donated items. We are appealing for both!

To volunteer, please contact Jilly at our Market Street office on 01942 241972. Donated goods can also be handed in at the office.

## Ambition for Ageing

Ambition for Ageing is a new programme funded by the Big Lottery which will work across Greater Manchester, led by Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisation. Age UK Wigan Borough will lead the programme in three wards in Wigan Borough – Atherton, Leigh West and Pemberton.



The aim of the programme will be to work with local older people to develop ways of reducing social isolation and making their areas more 'Age-Friendly'. As the programme develops, we will be talking to groups of older people in the wards, working with them to map the assets in the area and to develop ways of improving

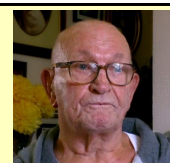
their areas. To support the work, there will be an Investment Fund that can be used to help put ideas from older people into action. The programme will last for four years until March 2020. For more information, contact Sarah Shannon, Central Services



**LOTTERY FUNDED** Manager on 01942 615881.

## Housing and Care Options – Making the Difference

Three people who have used the Housing & Care Options service have spoken about the support they have been given to improve their difficult situations. To watch this inspiring new DVD go to <https://vimeo.com/140071786>.



## Twiddle-muffs—aiding people with Dementia

Starting Point Plus at Age UK Wigan Borough are now able to provide twiddle muffs, blankets, bags and scarves of different colours, free for older people and people with Dementia.



The twiddle muffs (pictured right) are particularly beneficial for people who have Dementia due to the sensory implements attached, (buttons, bells etc.).



If you become aware of someone who would like a twiddle muff, bag, blanket or scarf, please refer to Starting Point Plus on 01942 826079.

Starting Point Plus will then contact the service user and we will order, and arrange for the garment to be delivered.

## Outcomes Stars

We monitor the services that work with older people over a period of a few months to see what the effect of our services has upon their lives. We do this by using a tool called an Outcomes Star. This measures different aspects of people's lives before and after our involvement.

Currently three of our services are using Outcomes Stars: Together for Health, Housing and Care Options and Support at Home. Between them, 83 have now completed stars at the start of our involvement and either after six months or the end of our involvement. People get a star rating of between 1 (which means the situation is very poor) and 5 (which means it is as good as it can be). Even small increases can mean a person's situation has changed substantially. For the 83 people involved, the average improvement is as follows:

- Staying as well as you can – improvement by 0.74;
- Keeping in touch – improvement by 0.63;
- Feeling positive – improvement by 0.98;
- Being treated with dignity – improvement by 0.74;
- Looking after yourself – improvement by 0.52;
- Feeling safe – improvement by 0.88;
- Managing money – improvement by 0.59.

Of course these averages hide huge variation. Some people improve by several points; others get worse because of outside factors but it is good to know that our services help older people's lives get better in many ways.

## Do you have a few spare hours?

Age UK Wigan Borough currently has volunteers undertaking a wide range of activities in our offices and in the community. Volunteering for Age UK Wigan Borough offers a variety of opportunities and training is provided to enable our volunteers to carry out their role.

Currently we have opportunities within the following services.

- Our new Charity shop (Opening on Standishgate)
- Reception
- Starting Point Plus Telephone Officers
- Befriending
- Bright Days (Events, lunch clubs, music classes and more)

Once you begin volunteering with us, there are opportunities to move around the different areas to gain wider experience. Each service requires a different amount of hours, but many can be worked around you and your plans!

Volunteering can be fun and the experience you gain will benefit you throughout your life as well as assisting us to extend our services and allowing more people to access them.

We hold information sessions every Thursday, where you can meet new volunteers, get to know all about our opportunities and ask any questions you may have.

If you would like to join our team, please contact our Volunteer Co-ordinator Jilly McKiernan on 01942 241972 or email [JillyMckiernan@ageukwiganborough.org.uk](mailto:JillyMckiernan@ageukwiganborough.org.uk).



Bright Days

## BRIGHT DAYS UPDATE - Year 2

The Bright Days Project is funded for 5 years by the Big Lottery. On the 30 September 2015, we completed Year 2, and submitted our annual report to them. We have just had word to say that they are happy with the report and have no issues or questions. This is fantastic news for everyone at Bright Days, and it is encouraging to know that we are developing the project successfully throughout the borough. The impact the service has had on peoples lives has been reflected in the numerous statistics that you have supplied to us. Some notable Year 2 statistics are as follows: There are 728 members. 24 new additional weekly events, 1 new additional monthly event, 7 one-off events and 9 partnership activities. All of these new activities and some of our established activities have generated throughout year 2, 28,416 attendances by service users, and 2,256 attendances by volunteers. A VERY BIG THANK YOU TO ALL .The service has exceeded it's targets with 69.4% reporting an improvement in positivity, 75% say that their physical health has improved, 75.3% reported an increase in social activity and now feel less isolated, and 68.5% say that they have increased in confidence. We are confident that this is a good foundation for a successful Year 3.

# Guardian Angels-giving Dementia sufferers their life back

A local charity has devised a revolutionary new way to aid those living with dementia as well as the people who care for them. The Dementia Buddy team have launched the 'Guardian angels' programme with the aim of helping people with dementia live their own life.



There are four devices available and everyone in Wigan who suffers from Dementia is entitled to two free. The devices are worn and help identify the individual and contact loved ones if the person becomes lost or disorientated.

If someone wearing one of the Guardian Angels is found looking lost or confused:

- Hold the back of your NFC-enabled phone flat over the device and the person's first name & emergency contact number will be displayed.
- Click on the telephone number to speak to their loved one to get them home safe and sound.

If you would like further information or to register with the scheme please contact 01942 826079 or 01942 888990, alternatively visit <http://dementiabuddy.co.uk/guardian-angel.php>.



WRISTBAND



PIN BADGE



KEYRING



ZIP/BAG TAG



TAP ME WITH NFC

Do you need help with your cleaning?  
Do you know someone who does?



Please contact our

**HOME HELP SERVICE**

**01942 241972**

and ask for **Julie**

## Age UK Wigan Borough AGM

The Age UK Wigan Borough AGM takes place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November at the Turnpike Centre, Leigh. We'll kick off with a buffet at midday and commence the meeting at 12.45 pm; the speaker is Alex Whinnom, Director of Greater Manchester Council for Voluntary Organisations (GMCVO), who will speak about the implications of the devolution agenda for Wigan.



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