



Local Pharmacist Becomes Age UK Supporter

Over the past month we have been developing our 'Supporters of' network. Our aim is to have supporters across every township and locality; local people who will:

- Act as our eyes and ears keeping us informed of what's on in their neighbourhood
- Fly the flag for Age UK Wigan Borough services and projects by telling friends and neighbours
- Give us vital feedback on how we are doing
- We also hope that some of our supporters will help us raise funds through things like car boot sales, coffee mornings, pub collections and in other ways.

We would like to welcome our first Supporter, Mr Azim Butt (pictured) who has signed up to help promote and support Age UK Wigan Borough where he works. Already Mr Butt has agreed that our Outreach worker can have a presence in the Pharmacy once a month starting Weds 8th July where members of the community can find out more about Age UK Wigan Borough.

If you are interested and would like to join our 'Supporter of' network contact Carol Walmsley on 01942 615884 or carol.walmsley@ageukwiganborough.org.uk. If you would like to help out in one of our many volunteer roles based all across the Wigan Borough contact Jilly McKiernan on 01942 241972 or email her on JillyMcKiernan@ageukwiganborough.org.uk.



Pictured, Mr Azim Butt receiving his Supporters Certificate from Age UKWB Chair Matthew Hothersall.

Age UK Wigan Borough achieves quality mark

We are proud to have achieved the Organisational Quality Standards for local Age UKs in England, which recognise the high standard of our performance as an organisation. The standards are externally assessed and awarded to local Age UKs which have demonstrated that they are well-governed and effective organisations committed to the wellbeing of older people, its staff and volunteers and to working in partnership with others. The standards are endorsed by the Charity Commission and fit alongside our other quality standards to demonstrate the effectiveness of the work we do.



iNVOLVE is about YOU . . .

We're delighted to launch our new iNVOLVE project. Over the next few months, staff from Age UK Wigan Borough will be criss-crossing the borough to speak with and listen to older people. For too long, many older people have struggled to get their voices heard and opinions taken account of; we want that to end. We are going to work with local older people so that they are supported to make their views and opinions known to 'the powers that be'.

Have you strong opinions on what is happening locally? Feel fed up at not being listened to? Want to help make services better for you and other older people? Tell us, and together we can tell others.

Watch this newsletter and our website for further information. In the meantime, you can contact Carol Walmsley, Participation Worker or Harry Unsworth, Outreach Worker on 01942 615884.



Starting Point Plus Telephone Helpline

Starting Point Plus is a free, non-means tested prevention service. Our helpful friendly staff are here to advise and support people aged 50 and over, or under 50 with a disability, or their carer. We will help you access a wide range of services and organisations to enable you to live comfortably within your own home. The aim of the service is to enable you to maintain your independence and make your own decisions! We will respond to your enquiry the same day, and the organisations we have referred to, will respond within 7–10 working days.

For reliable information and advice please contact 01942 826079 between 10.00am and 4.00pm Monday-Friday. Answer machine facility available outside of these times.

Raising funds for Age UK Wigan Borough

The LGN Community Choir have selected Age UK Wigan Borough as their 'Charity of the Year 2015'.

Set up in 2008 with the aim of attracting singers in the Lowton, Golborne Newton and surrounding areas, the LGN Community choir now has around 90 members and perform a number of concerts each year in the local area. Age UK Wigan Borough is delighted to be working in partnership with the choir to raise much needed funds for older people in our borough.

Pictured are the LGN Community Choir singing to raise funds for our charity at the Daton Centre in Culcheth on 16th May 2015.

For further information about the choir visit their website at www.lgncommunitychoir.co.uk.



Age UK Wigan Borough Celebrate National Volunteers Week

June 1st 2015 saw the start of National Volunteers Week - a week that aims to celebrate the hard work volunteers do up and down the country.

At Age UK Wigan Borough, we celebrated the week with a special edition of our Volunteer Newsletter which was jam packed with thanks and kind wishes for our volunteers and also by producing an internal display that showcased the contribution that volunteers make to our organisation and its service users.

Without our hardworking volunteers (of whom we have over 90 at the minute!) we wouldn't be able to offer such a broad range of services. Over the last year our volunteers have given over 12,600 hours of their time. Our volunteers provide support to vulnerable older people and help our staff to make our organization as great as it is.

In a message to our volunteers, Chief Officer John McArdle said:

"I'd like to take the opportunity afforded by National Volunteers Week to thank all our volunteers for your efforts on behalf of older people across the borough. In volunteering with us, you are making a real difference to the lives of older people; whatever your role, whether reception, admin or delivering an activity, the organisation relies on you and appreciates what you do.

Volunteers all have a personal tale to tell us as to why they volunteer, but I hope that in volunteering with Age UK Wigan Borough, you find not just a welcome but an appreciation. So much of what we do wouldn't exist without the combined efforts of our volunteers. So thank you and well done!"

'Dad planned ahead so we didn't have to worry'

The Age UK Guaranteed Funeral Plan helps save loved ones worry and money

- ✓ Beat rising funeral costs by paying at today's prices
- ✓ Support loved ones at a difficult time
- ✓ Take care of things now

Pick up your free guide or chat to us here about Age UK Guaranteed Funeral Plans

You can also phone us or go online

01942 369257

Please quote reference AMT046AC

www.ageuk.org.uk/fp



**EVERYONE
KNOWS A
BILL OR A
MARGARET...**



In fact the chances are we all know someone over the age of 60 who could be a little more active. And we can all do our bit to help them too. To find out more about our programmes that support people with health conditions, dementia or to improve strength and balance, call WLCT Active Living on 01942 488 481 or visit <http://www.getactivewiganandleigh.co.uk/2015/04/everyone-knows-a-bill-or-a-margaret/> We can help them to improve confidence, stay independent and generally get the most out of life.

New arrival at Bright Days Team

A new team member has been appointed to the successful Bright Days team. Debra will be working in partnership with Wigan and Leigh Homes to put on exciting new activities across the borough. The activities will be based in the newly renovated lounges of sheltered accommodation. Debra is working hard to work alongside the revamped image of sheltered accommodation to put on activities everyone can join in with. All activities are FREE to residents and to the community. All are welcome. A number of activities are now up and running and will feature in the Summer Bright Days brochure. For details call 01942 826079.

- Games Afternoon at Leonard Court, Strange Street, Leigh, WN7 4XQ 14.30-16.00. A fun filled afternoon of board games, table tennis, dominoes and more.
- Social Morning at Cherry Tree Grove, Atherton Thursday, 10.30-12.30. Each week is different at Cherry Tree. It could be teacakes and crumpets or Debra will order and collect you a chippy lunch. Followed by games, quizzes or maybe even an impromptu sing song.
- Craft Group 'Cards with Christine' at Alexandra House, Balcarres Avenue, Wigan, WN1 3UY. Thursday 14.00-16.00

Christine has had her own craft group for years and has collected a vast knowledge of crafts. Christine has kindly agreed to share her skills and is running a Bright Days 'Cards with Christine session'. Our first session was well attended and in the coming weeks we shall be making delightful pop up cards from scratch. Come along and give it a try. No experience necessary.



Teacakes, Crumpets and Toast are available at our Coffee Morning at Withington Grange, Withington Lane, Wigan, WN2 1JS 10.30-12.00.

In future we will be looking at exercise including tai chi and dancercise, arts and crafts including lace making & watercolours and computer skills. Watch this space.

Age UK Wigan Borough Celebrate Our 'Stars'

Age UK Wigan Borough are proud to mark the achievements of two of our volunteers at the recent 'Our Stars' event. Chris Jeffery and Jon Morgan were both shortlisted for the 'Impact on Disability: Recognition of outstanding contribution and recognition to increase opportunities for disabled people' and attended a red carpet event at the DW stadium.



Pictured left to right Jon Morgan and Chris Jefferys.

