



A local charity supporting local people

## Age UK Wigan Borough charity shop opens

On the 7<sup>th</sup> January Age UK Wigan Borough proudly opened our new charity shop. To mark the event the Mayor of Wigan, Cllr Susan Loudon cut the ribbon and was presented with a bouquet by our longstanding volunteer Pat Cassedy (pictured).

We are always looking to welcome new customers, accept any donations or volunteers willing to help out. If you feel you can help please call 01942 825170.

If you would like to see what we have instore, why not pop along and grab yourself a bargain or two? We are positioned at the bottom of Standishgate and look forward to welcoming you.



## February is LGBT History Month

LGBT History Month celebrates the lives and achievements of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans communities. The overall aim of LGBT History month is to promote equality and diversity for the benefit of the public. It does this by

- Increasing the visibility of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (“LGBT”) people, their history, lives and their experiences in the curriculum and culture of educational and other institutions, and the wider community;
- Raising awareness and advancing education regarding the LGBT community;
- Working to make educational and other institutions safe spaces for all LGBT communities; and
- Promoting the welfare of LGBT people, by ensuring that the education system recognises and enables LGBT people to achieve their full potential, so they contribute fully to society and lead fulfilled lives, thus benefiting society as a whole.

LGBT History Month first took place in 2005 in the wake of the abolition of section 28, a law which set out to ban the ‘promotion’ of homosexuality by local authorities. The month’s theme for 2016 is ‘Religion, Belief and Philosophy’ and anyone can get involved, regardless of their sexuality or gender identity.

Further information is available from [www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk](http://www.lgbthistorymonth.org.uk).

## **Consultation on the new 'Attendance Allowance'**

We have received notification that the Government will be launching a consultation on transferring more responsibility to councils in England and to Wales, to support older people with care needs including those who would currently receive Attendance Allowance.

Instead of individuals being able to apply to the DWP for Attendance Allowance, funding could go to councils to deliver support. The Government has said existing claimants will be protected so there will be no cash losers.

However, it is worth bearing in mind that when similar devolved powers (e.g. community care grants and crisis loans) were passed to the Local Authority within two years the government had effectively cut the funding with the result that many local authorities have closed their scheme altogether.

Attendance Allowance plays a vital role in helping older people to maintain their independence and a recent case study from our Information and Advice service shows that one of our clients was able use the money to heat her home, use her car to visit her husband in a care home and for practical help.

Attendance Allowance is a non means tested universal benefit and Age UK national have issued a private letter to George Osborne to register their concerns. The organisation will be considering the implications of any changes and closely examining the Government's proposals once the consultation is published.

## **Starting Point Plus event - Come and join the fun!**

Starting Point Plus at AUKWB are holding an information day event on 23<sup>rd</sup> March at Leigh Masonic Hall from 10 am – 2 pm.

The free event is an opportunity to find out about the wide range of services available to older people within the Wigan Borough. Over 30 Organisations will be present providing information and advice on a wide range of services from benefit advice, health and wellbeing issues, free food taster sessions and much, much more. There will be entertainment, free raffle and free refreshments throughout the day, and lots of freebies.

Please feel free to come along and join in the fun and explore the wide range of services available.

**For more information phone Kathy Cooper 01942 826079.**

## **AGM marks the impact of Age UK Wigan Borough**

Age UK Wigan Borough recently held its AGM at the Turnpike Centre in Leigh. Marking the achievements of the past year, the AGM also featured a presentation by Alex Whinnom, Director of Greater Manchester Council for Voluntary Organisations (GMCVO). The event was well attended, and everyone had an enjoyable and informative time learning about the wealth of services we offer.

## Cansfield High School and Age UK Wigan Borough join to brighten Christmas

In the run up to Christmas, Age UK Wigan Borough and Cansfield High School once again joined forces to provide some of our service users with a little extra Christmas cheer. Staff and pupils at the school kindly donated and packed a selection of Christmas-themed items and these were delivered to 20 service users in the weeks before Christmas. Along with the hampers, service users also received a 'Winter Warm Pack' - designed to help people stay healthy and warm over the Winter.



We would like to thank all at Cansfield High School for their continued support and generosity in collecting and distributing the hampers.

## Age UK Wigan Borough proudly sponsor Wigan Walkers

Age UK Wigan Borough are the new sponsors of 'Wigan Walkers', a local walking football team. Playable both in and out of doors, walking football is a variant of regular football aimed at keeping people who have limited mobility, active.



Pictured presenting the new strip are Age UK Wigan Borough Chair of the Board Matthew Hothersall (**left**), Chief Officer John McArdle, Vice Chair Bryan Shepherd, and Wigan Walker player Alan Bartley (**right**). This new deal marks our commitment to helping people stay active in later life. If you would like to get involved with Wigan Walkers contact Alan Bartley on 07815 928060.

## Thanking Age UK Wigan Borough volunteers

We have around 100 volunteers helping us to deliver our services to older people across the borough. We could not manage without their dedication and commitment and are very grateful for the time they give to us.

Pictured are some of our volunteers who attended a 'thank you' lunch at the Mercure Wigan Oak Hotel on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2016.





## AUKWB and Wigan Council bring Christmas Cheer

Age UK Wigan Borough recently joined forces with Wigan Council to bring a little bit of Christmas cheer to a number of our service users. 41 hampers and gift bags filled with essentials and gifts were kindly donated by council staff based at Makerfield Way depot in Ince. Age UK Wigan Borough gratefully received and distributed all of the wonderful gifts to service users within our borough. The service users who received the donated gift bags were overwhelmed with the generosity of the people within the borough, and lovely comments were made on receiving them.



## Local Osteoporosis Support



Ashton, Leigh and Wigan Osteoporosis Support Group meet four times per year at the Bethel Hindley Green Church, Atherton Road, Wigan. The support group is linked to the National Osteoporosis Society and provides a friendly and welcoming venue for people with osteoporosis, their carers, or anyone who would like to know more about the condition. All are welcome and there is no need to book. The meetings are held 2 pm – 3.30 pm and the next meeting is Wednesday March 16<sup>th</sup> with a presentation by Kathy Cooper from Starting Point Plus at Age UK Wigan Borough. For more information contact Pat on 0161 799 4476 ([patandjohn@ymail.com](mailto:patandjohn@ymail.com)) or Kate on 01942 222545 ([kmfussell@gmail.com](mailto:kmfussell@gmail.com)).

## Silver Choir at RNCM

Age UK Wigan Borough's Bright Days Silver Choir in conjunction with Wigan Music Society are proud to announce their participation in **GENERATIONS** - a celebration of community music-making. Tickets for the event to be held at the Royal College of Music in Manchester on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June are available from the RNCM box office from 1<sup>st</sup> March (£6, £5 concs). The concert begins at 7.30pm and the Silver Choir will be performing alone as well as joining in with a mass performance of Benedictus from Karl Jenkins' The Armed Man.

## Beat the rising cost of funerals

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