

Summer & Autumn Newsletter 2025

A local Charity Supporting Local People



Friends and Family Test

100% of our customers say they would recommend our services to their families and friends. (May 2025 figure)



Customer Feedback

"Friendly, helpful, reliable, knowledgeable and considerate staff from start to finish."



Our Mission

We improve the quality of life for local people aged 50 and over. We provide services to ensure people have the information they need to live their lives as they choose, can live safely in their own homes and combat loneliness and isolation. We make sure the voices of local people are heard and can influence improvement to local services.

Contact us - 01942 615880

www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk

Welcome

Welcome to our latest newsletter, we hope you are all keeping safe and well. This edition includes information and our latest achievements. If you, a family member or friend has access to the Age UK Wigan Borough website or social media, please keep checking for additional activities or events.

What have we been up to?

Celebrating our 30th Anniversary!

We recently marked our 30th anniversary with a fantastic community celebration, joined by local residents, partners, and special guests including the Mayor of Wigan Borough.

The event featured inspiring talks, performances, and a special video message from Martin Lewis, the Money Saving Expert, recognising our work in helping older people access the money they are entitled to like pension credit.

Since 1995, we estimated we have supported over 150,000 people across the borough—tackling loneliness, providing essential services, and helping people stay independent in their own homes. Thank you to everyone who has been part of our journey so far!



Chatty Bus Events Bring Community Together

We held two successful Chatty Bus events with Go North West—one on a bus route and one static in Wigan town centre. These events gave us the chance to chat with local residents, share information about our services, and offer support such as benefits checks.

The Chatty Bus initiative helps tackle loneliness by encouraging conversation, as one in three people use the bus for social interaction. We're already looking forward to the next one!

Thank You, Wigan Warriors!

A huge thank you to Wigan Warriors for inviting us to a match and to receive an incredibly generous £5,000 donation to our charity. This support will make a real difference in helping us tackle issues like financial hardship, loneliness, and isolation across the borough.

We're so grateful for their continued support in helping people aged 50 and over live well in their own homes and communities.





Celebrating Our Incredible Volunteers

We loved celebrating Volunteers' Week and showing our appreciation to our amazing team — the heart of our charity.

Want to get involved? Call us on **01942 615880** to learn about our volunteer opportunities!

Solicitors Afternoon

We teamed up with Jade and Sophie from Butcher & Barlow Solicitors to host an insightful session on wills and powers of attorney. It was a fantastic turnout, with attendees gaining valuable knowledge and getting their questions answered. A big thank you to Jade and Sophie for sharing their expertise and supporting our community!



Carers Week'

We marked Carers' Week and raised awareness of unpaid carers and the vital role they play in our communities.

To support the campaign, we hosted information stalls at Spinning Gate, Grand Arcade, and Atherton Health Centre, sharing details about the support available to carers locally.



Age Co

We offer Age Co products that are designed to support independent living in later life. From stairlifts and personal alarms to incontinence protection, these solutions provide comfort and peace of mind at home and beyond.

Age Co is the trading arm of Age UK, and all profits help us support older people in our local community.

Visit our website or call **01942 615880** to learn more.



SHARP

Thank you to Copies and Servicing Ltd

We'd like to extend our sincere thanks to Copies and Servicing Ltd for their long-standing partnership and support.

Upcoming Fundraising Opportunities

Upcoming Event: Wigan 10k

Challenge yourself to complete the Wigan 10k and raise sponsorship money for Age UK Wigan Borough in September 2025. This event is a fantastic opportunity to support our cause while staying active and engaged with the community. For more information and to register, visit the Wigan 10k website. Get in touch with us if you would like sponsorship forms and support - **01942 615880**



The Big Knit Campaign

Over 3,000 Hats—Thank You!

Thanks to your amazing support, we're thrilled to share that we made over 3,000 hats for this year's Big Knit! A huge thank you to everyone who got involved—whether you made hats or helped spread the word. Your support means the world to us and makes a real difference in the lives of people aged 50 and over in our community.

Keep an eye out for our little hats hitting the shelves in October 2025—we can't wait to see them!

If you enjoyed the challenge, we've got great news. Next year, we're doing it all again! Check out our website for patterns and how to get involved.



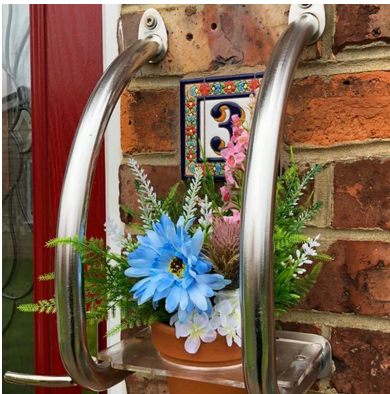
Our Services

Support at Home



Our paid-for Home Help and Handyperson services are designed to support everyday tasks, helping people live safely and independently in their own homes.

Between April 2024 and April 2025, our Handyperson team completed an impressive 3,655 jobs in people's homes! A big part of our work is fitting minor adaptations—small but impactful changes that make a big difference. These include fitting grab rails, bannisters, and other safety features that blend seamlessly into the home. We've recently introduced more discreet and stylish options, like the elegant plant pot holder rail shown in the photo. These adaptations offer not only safety and comfort but also a touch of personal style, helping people feel proud of their living space while staying secure.



This year also marked a special moment for our team—Ray, a beloved member of our Handyperson service, retired after nearly fourteen years. We celebrated his incredible contribution with a heartfelt send-off. We're thrilled that Ray will continue to support us as a volunteer.

From April 2024 to April 2025, our Home Help team delivered over 20,216 hours of support to local residents. The service continues to receive glowing feedback.

One client shared: "I look forward to seeing Gail—she is a great help, very willing and friendly. A very good friend."

We're proud of the difference these services make every day.



Information & Advice

Our free Information and Advice service is here to help with a wide range of topics, such as tackling poverty by helping people understand benefits like Pension Credit and Attendance Allowance to practical support such as completing applications.

In total, last year we supported clients to secure £2.18 million in additional income.

One grateful client shared “I would like to thank Age UK for helping me to have a better life with contentment and to sleep better at night without worry.”

We also want to take a moment to celebrate Sheila, one of our incredible advisors, who retired after fourteen years of dedicated service. Sheila has made a lasting impact on the lives of those she supported, and we wish her a joyful and well-deserved retirement.

If you or someone you know could benefit from a free benefits check, please call us on **01942 615880**.

We've also been proud to support Age UK's Winter Fuel Payment campaign. With changes to eligibility coming this winter, we hope the recent announcement brings peace of mind and confidence to older people, helping them stay warm and well through the colder months.



Steps to Success

Our free Steps to Success programme engages individuals aged 50 and over in local activities and hobbies, providing opportunities to forge new friendships and strengthen community ties. Our team works closely with individuals, helping them over a six-week journey to help them feel more positive, confident, and active as well as reducing social isolation and loneliness. Our service improves the experience of getting older and supports the way people age across the Wigan Borough.



Event

We celebrated the one-year anniversary of our Steps to Success service, delivered in partnership with Groundwork CLM. The event brought together local professionals for an afternoon of networking, presentations, and interactive activities.

A highlight was a powerful video produced by Yellow Jigsaw where our fantastic volunteer Kath F became a reporter and interviewed one of our Steps to Success clients to showcase the real-life impact of the service.

Bright Days Activities

Our activities bring people together to reduce loneliness and build community. You can find the latest programme on our website or at the bottom of this page.

Through our Bright Days Activities, we support Age UK's Act Now, Age Better campaign—encouraging people to stay active and connected as they age.

Highlights this year include our choir performing at Manchester's iconic Bridgewater Hall and a joyful 30th anniversary celebrations, where local school children sang for our Soup & Sandwich group.



Bright Days Programme

Monday

- 10:30am - 11:30am Walking Football* Howe Bridge Leisure Centre, M46 0PJ
- 11 am- 12:30 pm Soup and Sandwich, Shevington Methodist Church, WN6 8EA
- 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Music in Mind (Supporting people with dementia and their carers), Turnpike Gallery, WN7 1EB

Tuesday

- 10 am - 12 pm Bright Days Social Morning, Grosvenor Court, Orrell Road, Wigan, WN5 8HD.
- 10:30 am - 2:30 pm Monthly Atherton Lunch Club (Starting on the 9th of September - ring for more details)
- 1 pm - 2 pm Telephone Quiz Group.
- 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Walking Football* Newbridge High School, Platt Bridge, WN2 3TL.

Wednesday

- 10:15 am - 12 pm Silver Choir, Independent Methodist Church, Hindley, WN2 3PN (Term time only)
- 1 pm - 3 pm Jamming Session (Popular Music) Wigan Stars, Hallgate House, Frank Street, Wigan, WN1 1HP
- 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Ping Pong Parkinson (Starting soon, ring for more information)

Thursday

- 10 am - 11:30 am Hindley Ukulele Group, Independent Methodist Church, Hindley, WN2 3PN.
- 2:30 pm - 3:30 pm Music Dementia Café, Shevington Methodist Church, WN6 8HA (Starting 17th of July)
- 7 pm- 8 pm Women's Walking Football* Atherton High School, M46 0AY.

Friday

- 10:30 am -11:30 am Walking Football* Howe Bridge Leisure Centre, M46 0PJ.
- 1 pm - 2 pm Bingo Hesketh Manor, Bullough St, Atherton, M46 0DL.

*In partnership with Be Well at Wigan Council



Wigan
Council

Spotlight on Local Groups & Support!

Daisy Chain Stitchers

The Daisy Chain Stitchers are a lovely and welcoming group that meet every Tuesday between 1 pm and 3 pm at the Clifton Street Community Centre, Poolstock Lane, Worsley Mesnes, Wigan, WN3 5HN. You are welcome to join for a knit and natter!



Find out more by calling **01942 234880**

Wigan and Leigh Carers Centre

Wigan and Leigh Carers Centre understand how challenging caring can be. They offer tailored advice, support, and services to help make life easier for you and the person you care for. Support is available across Wigan Borough, including at their Carers Centre.



Find out more at www.wlcccarers.com or call **01942 697885**

mytime

mytime connects carers who could benefit from a break from their demanding caring roles, with businesses and organisation who kindly offer complimentary opportunities to enable the carer to have that vital break.



Find out more at www.mytime4carers.co.uk or call **0151 705 2327**

Driven

Driven is a charitable door to door transport scheme supporting vulnerable and isolated people in the Wigan Borough. Driven helps to provide essential transport solutions for passengers who don't have access to a car and are unable to travel on public transport.



Find out more at <https://www.wearedriven.co.uk/> or call **01942 409602**

Pensioners Link

Pensioners Link supports people aged 50+ across Wigan and Leigh with services that promote wellbeing, independence, and connection. From counselling and telephone befriending to help with shopping, hospital discharge support, and book deliveries, their dedicated team and volunteers are here to make life easier and less lonely.



Find out more at www.pensionerslink.org.uk or call **01942 261753**

Here to Help Z-Cards

Here to Help Z-cards are pocket-sized fold-out cards that are packed with useful information to support mental wellbeing in our local communities. Each card includes discreet QR codes that link to local resources—from the Mental Wellbeing Padlet to the Council's welfare support pages.



To request hard copies email: jo.norton@wigan.gov.uk

Get Involved

Fundraise for us

Whether you want to walk, run, bake, or even jump out of a plane, we have lots of fundraising ideas and events for people who want to help us make a difference. We can provide support through our fundraising pack that includes ideas, posters and sponsorship forms. Contact us to request your fundraising pack.



Volunteer for us

Our amazing volunteers support us to help thousands of households across Wigan Borough. We have lots of volunteering opportunities such as on our enquires desk, fundraising or helping our Bright Days Activities. All of our roles are extremely rewarding and a fantastic way to give back to your community.

Donate to us

We rely on your support to keep helping households across Wigan Borough. Any donation, no matter how little is greatly appreciated. You are able to make a donation by giving our office a call on 01942 615880 or scan the QR code to visit our website - www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk.



Leave a Legacy

Leaving a legacy to us will go a long way to help us help others. We do have a legacy pack to provide support and guidance on legacy giving and steps to take if you wish to leave a gift to us in your Will. Contact us to request your Legacy Pack.

To get involved please contact us -

Contact us - 01942 615880

www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk



Thank you for reading our Newsletter!

Age UK Wigan Borough is a trading name of Age Concern Wigan Borough which is a registered charity (1103022) and a company limited by guarantee, registered in England and Wales (5004789). Registered Office: 78-80 Hallgate, Wigan WN1 1HP. Age UK Wigan Borough Enterprises Limited is a trading company and subsidiary of Age Concern Wigan Borough and limited company registered in England and Wales number 3315916.