



# Summer Newsletter 2023

A Local Charity  
Supporting Local People

## Our Friends and Family Test

**99.8% of our customers say they would recommend  
our services to their families and friends.**



**Contact us - 01942 615880**  
[www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk](http://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?

### Coronation Tea Party

We had a lovely afternoon in May celebrating the Coronation of King Charles III. We enjoyed cake, games and a performance from Hattie Bee. We truly enjoyed bringing the community together and had a fantastic time!



### Long Service Awards

We said a big thank you to Helen who has volunteered with us for 10 years and Irene who has volunteered with us for 15 years. They are both a vital part of our charity and we truly appreciate their dedication. Congratulations!



### Volunteers Week

Our volunteers are the back bone to our organisation so we can help thousands of households across Wigan Borough. This year we showed our appreciation with a volunteer newsletter, cup of tea on us, chocolates and a Thyme herb plant to 'thank them for their time!' We are truly grateful for their dedication and support for our Charity.



### Coronation Champion!

We are thrilled that our volunteer Gerry was crowned a Coronation Champion! Gerry is an inspirational volunteer who has encouraged an appreciation of George Formby and supported many people to play the ukulele, including our own Hindley Ukulele Group. He brings joy and happiness to his community. Well done Gerry on your achievement!



## Carers Week

We joined the Wigan Borough Carers Roadshow to celebrate Carers Week. We shared the support available for local people along side some amazing organisations such as Wigan and Leigh Carers Centre and Embrace.



## Random Acts of Kindness Day



We celebrated the Random Acts of Kindness day by handing out goodie bags in Wigan town centre with sweets kindly gifted by Uncle Joe's Mint Balls and information leaflets about our services to spread awareness and bring happiness to our local community.

## We Launched our Fundraising Pack!

We launched our new fundraising pack to gain vital support. Our pack includes the ways you could help us, from a one-off cake sale to longer term corporate sponsorships. No matter how little, your support is truly appreciated. To request your fundraising pack please give our office a call on **01942 615880** or visit our website - [www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk](http://www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk)



## Support from local organisations



We want to say a big thank you to Fairhurst Accountants who are based in Wigan for raising money for us with their 'Young at Heart' day! We truly appreciate their support to help people aged 50 and over across Wigan Brough. Everyone looks like they had a great day. If your organisation would be interested in raising money for Age UK Wigan Borough please give our office a call on **01942 615880** or contact us through our website - [www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk](http://www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk)

## CAF Donate

We are now using CAF Donate as our main donation platform. CAF donate allows single and monthly regular donations. Donations are quick, simple and easy to make for our supporters. If you would like to make a donation through CAF Donate you are able to through our website - [www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk](http://www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk)



## Easy Fundraising



We're now registered with easyfundraising, which means you can help us for FREE. Over 7,000 brands will donate to us when you use easyfundraising to shop with them – at no extra cost to yourself! All you need to do is sign up and remember to use easyfundraising whenever you shop online. Please sign up to support Age Concern Wigan Borough.



# Campaigns

## Commissioner for Older People and Ageing

We joined over 2000 people to support the need for an Older People's Commissioner. We want to raise awareness of the issues that older people and our ageing society face with the aim to bring together government departments to resolve and deliver solutions to these issues, to benefit us all as we age.



## Have your Say!

Our 'Have your say' project gives people aged 50 and over in Wigan a voice that will be heard and make an impact to improve services. If you have a couple minutes to complete a survey or your available to attend a focus group we would like you to be involved. Please get in touch for more information.

## Our Services

### Support at Home

Our paid for Home Help and Handyperson services specialises in everyday tasks, assisting people to live solely and independently in their homes.

### Handyperson

In the 12 months from April 2022, we completed over 2,300 handyperson jobs in people's homes! This year we got a third van to meet the increase in demand. Our Handyperson service gets excellent feedback. A client says - 'I don't think you can improve the service. I felt completely safe with the worker. I couldn't have got jobs done for the price. (that's if someone will come out too small jobs) Glad to know there is someone we can turn to. Keep up the good work.'



### Home Help



As above, we provided over 16,000 hours of help through our Home Help Service! 100% of our Home Help clients would rate our service excellent or very good. A clients daughter says 'Mum looks forward to Laura calling, as well as the cleaning they have time for a drink and a chat and usually a game of Bingo.'

### Support At Home Recipe Booklets

One of our valued volunteers put together a recipe booklet for our clients. This booklet includes some fresh meal ideas, information about the work we do, and features organisations based in Wigan such as The Brick and Wigan and Leigh Carers Centre. If you would like to view our Support at Home Recipe booklet please visit our website.



To find out more about our Support At Home Service give us a call on 01942 615880 or visit our website - [www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk](http://www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk)



## Information & Advice

Our free service provides information and advice on a wide range of topics such as pension credit and attendance allowance or practical guidance like filling out applications for a blue badge.



## Information and Advice Impact

We saw a 69% increase in demand for our Information and Advice service over 2022. We helped people get over £2.14 million in additional benefit payments from as above. We feel the cost of living crisis impacted our demand significantly and we are proud we have helped so many people during a difficult time. One of our clients says 'Thank you so much I am so grateful for the help you have given me. Its made me feel more confident in myself. I feel this money will help me so much. Thank you'.

**To find out more about our free Information and Advice Service give us a call on 01942 615880 or visit our website - [www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk](http://www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk)**

## Bright Days Activities

Our activities help reduce isolation and get our community together. Please visit our website or the next page of this newsletter for our latest activity programme.

## Dementia Action Week



We supported Dementia Action Week at the Central Day Centre, Wigan. Steve (Bright Days Activities Officer) said, 'it was an absolute pleasure to support Dementia Action Week. We invited our Bright Days, Hindley Ukulele Group to perform for the residents of Central Day Centre, Wigan. Everyone had a wonderful time, singing along.' We would like to say a big thank you to Hindley Ukulele group for performing. If you would like to join in our groups please see the next page for more details.

## Telephone Quiz

We have a weekly free telephone quiz on a Tuesday at 1pm. We have lots of fun and would love you to join in from the comfort of your own home!



## Coming Soon

Dancing, table tennis and many more!

**We want to know what activities you want in the Wigan Borough.  
Please contact us to make your suggestions.**

**To find out more about our Bright Days Activities give us a call on 01942 615880 or visit our website - [www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk](http://www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk)**

**Visit Next Page  
for Activity  
programme**



# Wigan Borough ageUK

## Bright Days Programme

July - December 2023

### Monday

- 10.30 am - Walking Football\* Howe Bridge Leisure Centre.
- 11 am - Soup and Sandwich, Shevington. (Enquire to find out more)

### Tuesday

- 1 pm - Telephone Quiz Group.
- 6.30 pm - Walking Football\* Newbridge High School, Platt Bridge.

### Wednesday

- 10.15 am - Silver Choir Argyle St Methodist Church, Hindley. (Term time only - starting back from 13th of September 2023.)
- 1 pm - Jamming Session (Popular Music) The Old Courts, Crawford Street, Wigan. Bring along your musical instrument.

### Thursday

- 10 am - Hindley Ukulele Group, Argyle Street Methodist Church, Hindley. (Beginners Welcome)
- 1 pm - Telephone & Online Games (via Teams) Bingo followed by games such as Blankety Blank, Catchphrase, etc.
- 7 pm - Women's Walking Football\* Atherton High School.

### Friday

- 10.30 am -11.30 am Women's Walking Football\* Howe Bridge Leisure Centre.
- 1 pm - Bingo Hesketh Manor, Bullough St, Atherton.

\*In partnership with Be Well at Wigan Council

Wigan  
Council

**Contact us - 01942 615880**  
[www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk](http://www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk)



# Local Groups & Organisations near you!

## Wigan and Leigh Carers Centre



Wigan and Leigh Carers know caring can be a very demanding and often isolating role, so they are here to make life a little easier by tailoring the help, support and advice to each person's unique situation. They will work with you, alongside other support services, to find the support that's right for you and the person you care for. They provide services around Wigan Borough including community venues and recreational areas, as well as from their Carers Centre hub at 3–5 Frederick Street, Hindley.

To find out more about the Wigan and Leigh Carers centre give them a call on **01942 697885** or visit their website [www.wlcarers.com](http://www.wlcarers.com)

## The Brick

The Brick is an anti-poverty charity offering services to people who are at risk of or transitioning through homelessness, financial hardship, or crisis. The Brick is Queen's Hall Action on Poverty: Social action is at the heart of their mission. The Brick provides a safe, solid building block for people who are experiencing complex issues that cause financial hardship to make positive changes - for good. They tackle the root causes of poverty and encourage aspiration.



To find out more about the Brick give them a call on **01942 236953** or visit their website [www.thebrick.org.uk](http://www.thebrick.org.uk)

## Think Ahead Stroke



Think Ahead Stroke is a support, advice and information charity. They are dedicated to improving the lives of stroke survivors, their carers and families by rebuilding health, hope and confidence through support, advice and friendship. The charity regularly evaluates the types of support available to stroke survivors locally, and considering how best it can change and improve lives.

To find out more about Think Ahead Stroke please give them a call on **01942 824880** or visit their website [www.think-ahead.org.uk](http://www.think-ahead.org.uk)

## Daisy Chain Stitchers

We would like to say a huge thank you to the Daisy Chain Stitchers who donated lots of homemade blankets and prayer shawls (as seen in photo) to help us raise funds at the Wigan Community Day.

The Daisy Chain Stitchers 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! For more information please ring **01942 234880**.





# 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, it is greatly appreciated. You are able to make a donation by giving our office a call on 01942 615880 or visit our website -

[www.ageukwiganbrough.org.uk](http://www.ageukwiganbrough.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 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.ageukwiganbrough.org.uk](http://www.ageukwiganbrough.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.