

# Winter & Spring Newsletter 2024

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?

### Christmas Celebrations



This year we had lots of Christmas Celebrations from multiple Silver Choir Concerts to parties! We had fun enjoying music and performances from local bands and carol singing by St Bernadettes Primary School in Shevington.



We had Christmas Jumper Day and local organisations also got involved. Thank you to St Clements Court for supporting our charity.



We had a special delivery of gift boxes from the Shoebox Fairies and Groundwork. We gladly handed the gift boxes out to isolated members of our community who live on their own to ensure they got a Christmas present.

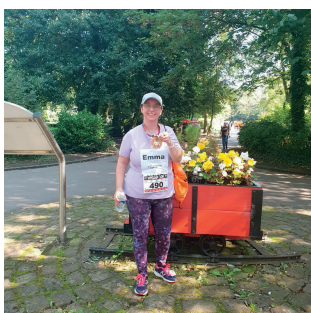


We had a stall at the Standish Christmas Markets! Our team worked hard in their spare time to make handmade items such as Christmas Decorations. We had a fantastic festive time, spreading awareness of our services and raising funds.



### Fundraising

Our team fundraised to support our group activities that tackle loneliness across Wigan Borough. We had team members take part in the Wigan 10K and a Sponsored Dog Walk!



We would really appreciate if you could spare some time to organise a fundraising activity for us. We have a free fundraising pack and can offer support such as publicity to raise more awareness of your activity.



Give us a call if you would like to get involved -  
**01942 615880**

## International Day of Older People

We jointly celebrated the International Day of Older People with Wigan Council's 'Our Place' event at St Jude's Social Club. We enjoyed learning about Wigan's History with the BETA Education Charity, a fantastic performance from our Hindley Ukulele Group, followed by a George Formby presentation by the group leader.



## Winter Get Togethers

We hosted community Winter Get Togethers so people could meet new friends and enjoy a cup of tea and soup over the colder months. Thank you to Heinz who donated tins of soup to help support our groups.

## Raising Pension Credit Awareness



In Wigan, it is estimated that around £8.8 million is currently unclaimed in pension credit each year and that around 4,464 people who are eligible are not claiming. We teamed up with Wigan Council's Welfare team and Citizens Advice to have multiple pop up stalls across the borough to provide information on pension credit and support available.

If you would like a free guide or more information on pension credit please give us a call - **01942 615880**

# Campaigns

## Cost of Living

We are seeing a significant demand for our Information and Advice service due to the cost of living crisis. We are thrilled to have been awarded funding from the Community Organisations Cost of Living Fund delivered by The National Lottery Community Fund. This fund will help us with an increase in phone calls and support more people during the Cost of Living Crisis.

We have been promoting our Information and Advice Service so people are aware of the support available by taking part in Live Streams with Wigan Council, Press Releases and Community Events.



**Funded by  
UK Government**

Delivered by  
**THE NATIONAL LOTTERY  
COMMUNITY FUND**

## Loneliness

In England more than a million older people say they go a month without speaking to a friend, neighbour or family member. We are spreading awareness by distributing leaflets about how we tackle this issue by having group activities across the Borough. We have included our activity programme in this newsletter so please join us to be connected in your community, meet new friends and combat loneliness.



## 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. This year, we focused on the Wigan Council's 'Planning for Future 2040'. Our group shared their thoughts on the council's long-term priorities which they fed back to their Board. We now have 31 members and we look forward to growing and getting more voices heard this year.

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 - **01942 615880**

## Our Services

### Support at Home

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

### Handyperson

Between April 2022 - April 2023, we completed 2595 handyperson jobs in people's homes!

Our Handyperson service gets excellent feedback. One client said '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 to small jobs). Glad to know there is someone we can turn to. Keep up the good work. Many thanks.'

Thank you to SkullHouse Wraps and Graphics who branded our vans free of charge, we really appreciate your support!



### Home Help



Between April 2022 - April 2023, We provided over 17, 471 hours of help through our Home Help Service! 100% of our Home Help clients rated our service as excellent or very good.

We have now expanded to a team of 35 Home Helpers. Laura (Pictured) says 'I have been a Home Helper for Jean for over a year now and visit her once a week. Jean is very independent and does most of her house work herself however I assist with the trickier jobs such as cleaning the top of the fridge, windows, sorting out the recycling, and we change the bed sheets together (that's a two person job)! Jean and myself have formed a lovely friendship so once the jobs are finished we have a coffee together and a chat!'

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 helped people claim over £2.5 million in additional benefit from April to December 2023! We are proud we have helped so many people during the cost of living crisis. In 2023, we started holding outreach sessions in the community to help clients face to face to get the benefits they are entitled too.

One of our clients said “ With Georgina's help filling in the forms. I am not worrying about the cost of living. I am feeling a lot better mentally and I have Georgina to thank for that.”

**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 see the next page of this newsletter for our latest activity programme.

One of our clients says ‘The groups have reduced my anxiety by participating in activities’

We are really happy to have expanded our Bright Days Activities this year. We now have Table Games, Swim and Chat, Sing that Song and Atherton Lunch Club!



**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**

## **Bright Days Programme**

### **January - March 2024**

#### **Monday**

- 10.30am Walking Football\* Howe Bridge Leisure Centre, M46 0PJ
- 11 am-12.30 pm Soup and Sandwich, Shevington (Enquire to find out more)

#### **Tuesday**

- 10 am - 12 pm Swim & Chat, Wigan Life Centre, WN1 1NU.
- 1 pm Telephone Quiz Group.
- 6.30 pm Walking Football\* Newbridge High School, Platt Bridge, WN2 3TL.

#### **Wednesday**

- 10.15 am Silver Choir Argyle St Methodist Church, Hindley, WN2 3PN (Term time only)
- 1 pm- 3 pm Jamming Session (Popular Music) The Old Courts, Crawford Street, Wigan Bring along your musical instrument, WN1 1NA.
- 2.30 pm - 4:30 pm Table Games. Armed Forces HQ, Molyneux House, School Lane, Wigan, WN1 3SE.

#### **Thursday**

- 10 am Hindley Ukulele Group, Argyle Street Methodist Church, Hindley, WN2 3PN.
- 7 pm- 8 pm Women's Walking Football\* Atherton High School, M46 0AY.

#### **Friday**

- 10 am - 12 pm Sing that Song, Grosvenor Court, Orrell Road, Wigan, WN5 8HD.
- 10.30 am -11.30 am Walking Football\* Howe Bridge Leisure Centre, M46 0PJ.
- 1 pm Bingo Hesketh Manor, Bullough St, Atherton, M46 0DL.
- 2 pm - 4 pm Beginners Dancing (Dance & Chat). St Josephs Hall (Mather Room) , Mather Lane, Leigh WN7 2PR.

\*In partnership with Be Well at Wigan Council



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# 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 824888** 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 scan the QR code to visit our website - [www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk](http://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 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.