



Winter 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.ageuk.org.uk/wiganborough



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?

Annual General Meeting

In November we reflected on our 2021-22 year at our Annual General Meeting held at the Wigan Cricket Club. We enjoyed lunch, accompanied by Hindley Ukulele Group and Cllr Keith Cunliffe joined us to give a talk on the Council's activities. We welcomed our new Chair, Robert Armstrong, who has been active in Wigan for a number of years, not only as a previous Chair of the WWL Hospital Trust but also Belong who support older people with their housing. We said a big thank you to Bryan Shepherd, who stepped down from being Chair after six years and congratulated him on doing a great job supporting the charity through some of the most difficult times in its history.

We said goodbye to one of our original Trustees, Jim Maloney, who set the charity up back in 1995. Jim served as our chair for more than 10 years and stepped down to focus on his dream of completing his PhD. His inspiring story was featured in The Independent in a series focusing on How To Stay Connected.





Christmas Jumper Day

This year local organisations hosted a Christmas Jumper Day and raised money for us. We are extremely grateful for the support! We will make Christmas Jumper Day a festive tradition so your organisation can join in next year.

Amazon Smile

We are now active on Amazon Smile! When you shop through Amazon Smile you can now select 'Age Concern Wigan Borough' (our legal name). This is fantastic way to support us as as 0.5% of the purchase price will be donated to our charity with no cost to yourself.



Campaigns



International Day of Older People

We teamed up with Wigan Council and Wigan Athletic to celebrate the International Day of Older People. We hosted an event at Little Lane Extra Care with relevant organisations to share what support is available in the Wigan Borough for older people.

Cost of Living

We supported our national charity, Age UK, in calling for more targeted support for older people on lower incomes so they can get through the winter. Wigan Today included an article to raise awareness that the triple lock was at risk and how this could effect people in the Wigan Borough. We are relieved that the triple lock is now secure so pension payments are guaranteed to keep pace with inflation.

Wigan charity helping older people backs calls for more financial support

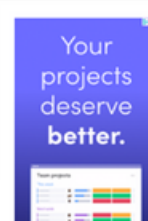
A Wigan charity is backing calls for more targeted support for older people on lower incomes to help them get through the winter.

By Gaynor Clarke

10th Dec 2022, 10:00am - 10:00am



Age UK Wigan is supporting national charity Age UK after a study found 2.8m older households will be in fuel poverty this winter – despite the Government freezing the energy price cap.



Have your Say!

Our 'Have your say' project gives people over the age of 50 in Wigan a voice that will be heard and make an impact to improve service. If you have a couple minutes to complete a survey or 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 assist people to live solely and independently in their homes. We specialise in everyday tasks and small practical jobs.

Handyperson

Our Handyperson team were in festive spirits putting up Christmas Decorations making it easier for people to enjoy the Christmas period. They also made fabulous decorations out of re-cycled wood. This was a creative way to raise funds to support our charity.



Home Help

Our fantastic Home Helpers have been working hard to make it easier for people to live in their own homes comfortably. Louise, a Home Helper visits a gentleman 3 times a week cleaning and shopping and offering general support. Over the past 2 years Louise has developed a relationship with her customer resulting in chats about everyday topics.

He recently bought a mobility scooter but due to lack of confidence he was reluctant go out on his own therefore Louise suggested he goes on his scooter and Louise will walk/run beside him on his first trip out.

This is a fantastic story that shows how Home Helpers can make a big impact on service users across the Wigan Borough. If you would like to know about our services or become a Home Helper please visit our website or contact our office on 01942 615880.



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

Our demand for our Information and Advice has significantly risen due to the cost of living crisis. A recent survey shows that 74% of our information and advice customers would not know where to go if our services were not available. Since April 2022 we have helped households claim in total over £2 million that would have otherwise been unclaimed benefits. A service user says "My husband would not have applied for attendance allowance and received it. I have now been able to apply for discount on our council tax and carer's allowance. Very positive impact of your service – thank you."

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.

Coming Soon

We will be hosting a new Indoor Carpet Bowls group. Please follow our socials or ring 01942 615880 for more information.



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!

Warm Spaces

We have warm spaces that are free safe places you can visit to stay warm and see a friendly face without judgement.

Monday – 10-11am, Shevington Methodist Church, free teas and coffees (this is before Shevington Soup and Sandwich group)

- **Wednesday and Thursdays** 12pm-2pm, free soup and tea/coffee, Argyle Street Methodist Church, Hindley.

**Visit Next Page
for Activity
programme**

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

Bright Days Programme

Monday

- 10.30am Walking Football* Howe Bridge Leisure Centre £3.20pp
- 11am-12.30pm Soup and Sandwich, Shevington Methodist Church, £3.50 pp. Food Served between 11.15am-12.15pm

Tuesday

- 1pm Telephone Quiz Group
- 6.30pm Walking Football* Newbridge High School, Platt Bridge £3.20 pp

Wednesday

- 10.15am Silver Choir Argyle St Methodist Church, Hindley, £3.50pp
- 1pm-3pm Jamming Session (Popular Music) The Old Courts, Crawford Street, Wigan (£5pp includes tea, coffee & biscuits) Bring along your musical instrument

Thursday

- 10am Hindley Ukulele Group, Argyle Street Methodist Church, Hindley £3.00 pp
- 1pm Telephone & Online Games (via Teams) Bingo followed by games such as Blankety Blank, Catchphrase etc
- 7pm-8pm Women's Walking Football* Atherton High School £3.20pp

Friday

- 10.30am -11.30am Women's Walking Football* Howe Bridge Leisure Centre, £3.20pp
- 1pm Bingo Hesketh Manor, Bullough St, Atherton, Tickets £1 per book
- Indoor Carpet Bowls (Coming soon, please get in touch to enquire)

*In partnership with Be Well at Wigan Council



Contact us - 01942 615880
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Activities and Events near you!

Leigh Film Society

There is a fabulous opportunity for carers, their families and friends to sit back, relax and enjoy a film with Leigh Film at Spinners Mill, Park Lane, Leigh at no cost. You can sit in the wonderful surroundings of the newly developed cinema and take a little time for yourself. Please call 0796964766 if you are interested.



WLCC welcomes all new carers – Introducing a monthly drop-in

The WLCC logo is a blue stylized tree. Text next to it says 'Supporting young & adult carers across the Wigan Borough'. Below the logo is 'Wigan and Leigh Carers Centre', 'Charity Number: 1128908', and 'Registration Number: 7293321'. To the right is a photo of the building and contact details: 'CALL 01942 697885', 'EMAIL: INFO@WLCCARERS.COM', and 'WEB: WWW.WLCCARERS.COM'.
MONTHLY DROP IN - WELCOME SESSION
COME ALONG FOR AN INFORMAL CHAT, MEET THE TEAM AND FIND OUT MORE ABOUT OUR SUPPORT / SERVICES
MONDAY 6TH FEBRUARY 2023
DROP IN BETWEEN 2 PM - 7 PM
CARERS CENTRE
HINDLEY
WIGAN
WN2 3BD
The WLCC logo is repeated at the bottom right of the flyer.

Becoming a carer can be an overwhelming and life changing event in any person's life. When carers are registered at Wigan and Leigh Carers Centre, they recognise that there is a lot of information to process and frequently there are gaps in that information that the carer and their family need. In their experience, many carers and their families prefer face to face contact with the team and an opportunity to get to know the Wigan and Leigh Carers team.

That is why they host 'Carers Welcome' sessions and you are invited to drop in. The next drop in session is Monday 6th February, 2 pm - 7 pm Carers and other people who would like to know more about their work and the work of other organisations across Wigan and Leigh are welcome to come along any time between 2.00 pm and 7.00 pm. They will be there to help you.

Daisy Chain Stitchers

Daisy Chain Stitchers are group that meet on Tuesdays 1-3pm at Clifton Street Community Centre and enjoy a knit and a natter. You are welcome to join. For more information please ring 01942 234880.



Get Involved

Fundraise for us

It's a new year and what an achievement it would be to raise money for your local charity. Whether you want to walk, run, bake, or even jump out of a plane, we have loads of fundraising ideas and events for people who want to help us make a difference.



Volunteer for us

Our amazing volunteers help us to do so much in Wigan Borough. Whether you have an hour or a day to spare, we have lots of opportunities for volunteers.

Donate to us

We rely on your support to keep helping older people in Wigan Borough. Any donation, no matter how little, it is greatly appreciated.

Please Donate



Leave a Legacy

Help us continue to help our community's older people with a gift in your will. No matter the size of your gift, it will go a long way to help us help others.

To get involved please contact us.

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Thank you for reading our Newsletter and we wish you all the best in 2023!

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.