

News and Views

A Message from Sarah Cardy, CEO

As we begin a new financial year, Age UK Wiltshire continues to build on strong momentum, with services and activities that are making a real difference to older people across the county.

Many of our newer initiatives are now well established and growing in popularity. Our **Daytime Discos** bring connection and enjoyment to local communities, while our **Arts & Friendship Groups** provide opportunities for creativity, companionship, and improved wellbeing. The **Celebrating Age Wiltshire programme** is also delivering a full calendar of events and Creative Conversation workshops, reaching people in areas throughout Wiltshire.

We are looking forward to the move of our **Wellbeing Checks with Meals** service to new premises, which will provide a more secure and suitable environment and allow us to expand the service in Swindon and Wiltshire.

Alongside this, our **Information and Advice Service** has supported older people to access **over £3 million in unclaimed benefits and grants**, helping those who need it most.

We are also delighted to be part of the new Southampton Early Advice and Support service, working with other Voluntary Sector partners, providing Information and Advice to older people, their families and carers in Southampton.

On a personal note, I will be stepping down from my role as Chief Executive in the coming weeks. It has been a real honour to lead such a passionate and caring organisation. I am proud of what has been achieved and confident that Age UK Wiltshire will continue to flourish under the leadership of **Chris Williams, our new Chief Executive**.

Thank you to everyone who supports our work.

Sarah Cardy
Chief Executive, Age UK Wiltshire & Age UK Southampton

A Greeting from Chris Williams, the new CEO

I'm delighted to be joining Age UK Wiltshire & Age UK Southampton as the new Chief Executive, and I wanted to take a moment to introduce myself.

I am looking forward to getting out and meeting our partners and supporters.

A bit about me - my most recent experience is as CEO of BRACE Dementia Research. Before joining BRACE, I held leadership roles across local, national, and international organisations.



Alongside my professional work, I'm proud to serve as a Trustee for two charities close to my heart: CLEFT, which provides surgery and support for people born with cleft lip and palate in low- and middle-income countries, and Alive Activities, which supports older people to live active, connected lives.

Outside of work, I'm an avid gardener (tulips are my favourite to grow), and a keen runner.

I am really looking forward to meeting you all, learning from your expertise, and working together as we begin the next chapter for Age UK Wiltshire & Age UK Southampton.

Chris

Our Daytime Discos will be back!



Over the past year, we've been bringing the dancefloor to communities across Wiltshire, and the results have been brilliant!

We ran 12 Daytime Discos across the county, visiting Trowbridge, Calne, Melksham, Royal Wootton Bassett, Tisbury, Chippenham, Devizes, Salisbury and Swindon. On average, 140 people came through the doors at each event - and at our second Melksham disco, an incredible 260 people joined the party!

But it's about more than just a good time. For many older people, events like these offer a vital opportunity to get out, meet people and feel part of their community, helping to reduce loneliness and isolation. Dancing is also a wonderfully sociable way to stay active, supporting balance, mobility and physical wellbeing, as well as lifting mood and boosting confidence! People always leave our discos with big smiles on their faces!

We're thrilled to share that, thanks to Get Out Get Active (Wiltshire & Swindon Sport) and other funders we'll be bringing even more Daytime Discos to Wiltshire over the coming year.

Dates and venues will be announced soon - watch this space, and get your dancing shoes ready!

Carers Together Wiltshire continues to support unpaid carers in Wiltshire

We wanted to share an update from our partnership organisation Carers Together Wiltshire following the recent closure of the charity Carer Support Wiltshire.

From 1st April 2026, Carers Together Wiltshire has taken on several services to ensure continuity of support for unpaid carers across the county. This includes the popular Carer Cafés in Amesbury, Calne, Ludgershall, Westbury and Warminster, which will be running in the same venues and with the same friendly welcome as before!

Cafés for people who are caring for someone with a mental health condition in Salisbury and Trowbridge will also continue, delivered in partnership with Avon and Wiltshire Mental Health Partnership NHS Trust.

The "Here to Talk" telephone befriending service is also transferring to Carers Together Wiltshire. Anyone currently using this service can expect to be contacted directly to give consent for their details to be passed across safely. Looking ahead, a new partnership with Dorothy House will aim to bring Bereavement Help Points to carers across Wiltshire.

If you or someone you know is an unpaid carer, please be reassured - support is still here!

Please see the Carers Together Wiltshire website for details of their upcoming events.

[Visit the Carers Together Wiltshire Website](#)

Our Arts & Friendship Clubs in Devizes, Marlborough and Pewsey



A selection of incredible recent photos from our Arts & Friendship Clubs!

With generous support from Wiltshire and Swindon Community Foundation, Pewsey Area Board, Devizes Area Board, Mercers and Pewsey Community Café, we run fortnightly Arts & Friendship Clubs in Devizes, Marlborough and Pewsey.

Each session is led by a visual artist and brings together older people who may be experiencing loneliness, offering a welcoming, creative space where friendships can grow alongside new skills.

All clubs are currently full, but waiting lists are open, please get in touch if you'd like to be added.

[Find out more](#)

**ROYAL WOOTTON BASSETT
OVER 60s COACH TRIP TO
WESTON-SUPER-MARE**



Tuesday 8th June

Ticket price: £17.50

Coach leaves **Borough Fields** at 9.00am

Followed by a pick-up in **Lyneham** (opposite the petrol station) at 9.15am. Returning around 6.00pm

To book and pay for tickets please call **07500 137135**

(Phone line open Monday, Tuesday and Thursday - 9.00 - 4.00pm)

All we ask is that individuals can independently access the coach.



**Royal Wootton Bassett and Lyneham coach trip
to Weston-super-Mare**

We're heading to the lively seaside town of Weston-super-Mare on the 8th June!

Tickets are £17.50, departing Royal Wootton Bassett at 9.00am with a pick-up in Lyneham, returning around 6.00pm. All we ask is that travellers can independently access the coach.

See our poster for full details, and please do pass it on to anyone who might be interested!

**"The staff really make us all welcome": Life at
Padwell Road Day Centre**



We love to get everyone involved with a game at our Day Centre in Southampton - and we recently had a very tense Jenga session!

At Padwell Road, we offer a warm and welcoming environment for older people, with a wide range of engaging group activities tailored to individual interests.

Our dedicated team ensures each day is meaningful and enjoyable, and, as one of our clients puts it, the staff really do make everyone feel welcome.

If you or someone you care for would like to find out more, please get in touch, or feel free to pop in for a tea or coffee at Padwell Road.

Contact: Alison Rood, Manager, Age UK Southampton Padwell Road Day Centre, 11-21 Padwell Road, Southampton SO14 6QX.

Tel: 023 8022 7166

Email: alison.rood@ageuksouthampton.org.uk

Our Wellbeing Checks with Meals service is growing to serve more people

Our Wellbeing Checks with Meals service, which delivers a reassuring wellbeing check plus a hot, freshly prepared lunch to older people across Wiltshire and Swindon, makes a real difference to the lives of those we support.

As we prepare to move to new premises, we're excited that this growth will give us greater capacity to reach even more people who need us. For many of the older people we support, this daily visit is far more than a meal, it's a reassuring check-in with a familiar face, and for their families, it's genuine peace of mind.



“Forever grateful that the team plate up my mum's meal and ensure she is sat at the table ready to eat it. Without this service she would regularly miss meals”

If you know someone who might benefit, please get in touch.

 wellbeingcheckswithmeals@ageukwiltshire.org.uk

 01793 279606

Celebrating Age Wiltshire on the airwaves

Celebrating Age Wiltshire is our county-wide project bringing live music, theatre, art and heritage to community settings across Wiltshire, using high-quality creative activity to support the health and wellbeing of older people.

Our Creative Producer, Rebecca Seymour, was recently a guest on TisTalk, a community podcast from Tisbury, talking about Creative Conversations, one of the latest activity series from Celebrating Age Wiltshire. If you'd like to hear more in Rebecca's own words, you can listen from around 23 minutes in here:

[Listen to the podcast now](#)

Celebrating Age Wiltshire's upcoming events

Behind Enemy Lines

Solo performer Louise Jordan tells the incredible story of female secret agents in WW2 through original song, storytelling and performance. Free to attend, booking required.

Chippenham Library — Tuesday 26 May, 2.00–3.00pm | Book: 01249 650536

Warminster Library — Thursday 28 May, 11.30am–12.30pm | Book: 01985 216022

Bradford on Avon Library — Friday 29 May, 11.30am–12.30pm | Book: 01225 863280

Free Summer Social - Big Band Concert, Dancing & Tea

Salisbury Big Band live, afternoon tea and dancing at Dinton Village Hall.

Saturday 30 May, 3.30–5.30pm | Free, but please book with Val O'Keefe: 07719 419232

Could you help us to make Wiltshire and Swindon a great place to grow older?

We're looking for new Trustees! Age UK Wiltshire is the county's largest charity supporting older people across Wiltshire and Swindon. As a Trustee, you'll play a vital role in shaping our strategy and overseeing the direction of the charity.



The role is unpaid but offers valuable experience, leadership development, and the chance to be part of a dedicated team making a real difference to the lives of older people.

We're looking for individuals with strategic vision, independent judgement, and a passion for supporting older people, who are willing to commit their time and skills to representing our organisation and values.

[Find out more and apply](#)

Free guides and factsheets giving you information at your fingertips

Did you know that Age UK has a wide range of free information guides and factsheets available to download, covering topics that really matter to older people and those who support them?

From benefits and money matters (including Pension Credit, Attendance Allowance and Carer's Allowance) to health and wellbeing, housing, care, and legal issues such as power of attorney and making a will, there's something for almost every situation.

The guides are short and easy to read, giving a helpful overview of a topic. If you need more detail, the factsheets go into much more detail. Both are free and available online at any time.

You can find the full list by following the link below, or if you'd prefer a printed copy, call the Age UK advice line on 0800 678 1602 (free, 8am–7pm, 365 days a year).

[Download Age UK Guides and Factsheets here](#)

Supporting our Charity



Leave us a legacy

We want to be there to ensure that people who are lonely or isolated or need us for any reason will always have us to turn to. Gifts in wills are a very effective way to enable us to continue helping older people in the local community.

[Find out more](#)



Support us on EasyFundraising

Sign up to support us on EasyFundraising and raise free donations for us when you shop online with all your favourite retailers! You can raise money for us every time you shop online at no extra cost.

[Sign up here](#)

Fundraise with us

If you are thinking of fundraising for Age UK Wiltshire, whether you are an individual, club, or company we would be delighted to hear from you.



- As an individual you may be interested in organising an event to raise funds, or take part in an organised run, cycle or walk. Your fundraising could be eligible for Gift Aid, please ask us for more details.
- As a club or group, you may decide to adopt Age UK Wiltshire as your supported charity and mobilise your membership to get behind us to raise funds through your club activities.
- As a company, your employees may choose to support Age UK Wiltshire as Charity of the Year and organise various fundraising events. They may also support us with volunteering days such as helping at our events or helping our clients.

Follow us on social media

[Facebook - Age UK Wiltshire](#)

[Facebook - Age UK Southampton](#)

[Facebook - Charity Shops with Information Points](#)

[Instagram](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

We hope you enjoyed our newsletter! If you have any questions or feedback please do let me know by replying to this email. Alternatively, if you would like to stop receiving these emails please use the unsubscribe link below.

Alex Turner, Marketing and Communications Officer at Age UK Wiltshire

Registered charity
number 800912.
Company number
2121174. © Age UK
Wiltshire 2026. All rights
reserved.

Age UK Wiltshire, Unit 10 Prince Maurice Court,
Hambleton Avenue
SN10 2RT, Devizes



[Unsubscribe](#)