

## News and Views

### A Message from the CEO of Age UK Wiltshire & Age UK Southampton

Dear friends,

We have had an interesting few months bringing new opportunities to support older people in even more meaningful ways and some success with the campaign on Winter Fuel Payments.

We're proud to share that the recent campaign around Winter Fuel Payments has led to real, positive change. Thanks to the voices of our community, more older people will be able to stay warm and well this winter. It's a powerful reminder of what we can achieve together.

We are excited to be growing our services:

- The introduction of Daytime Discos, a fun and friendly series of events.
- With the support of Wiltshire Council, we've expanded our team of Community Connectors, who are helping older people stay connected, informed, and confident in navigating local services.
- Our new Arts & Friendship Clubs are already bringing joy, creativity, and companionship to communities across the region.
- Piloting introduction to walking groups.
- The Exchange, an improved Information Point, bookshop and meeting space in Bradford on Avon.

These changes reflect our commitment to evolving with the times, while staying true to our mission: to ensure every older person feels valued, supported, and heard.

Thank you for your support. Whether you're a volunteer, partner, donor, or supporter, your role is vital in helping us build a stronger, more connected community for older people.

Warm regards,

Sarah Cardy

**CEO, Age UK Wiltshire and Age UK Southampton**

## Newsletter Highlights

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**Now Welcoming New Clients for  
our Wellbeing Checks with Meals  
Service!**




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Coming to Calne!**

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**Carers Together Wiltshire  
Partnership News**

**How You Can Help Us**

 [Find us on Instagram](#) [Facebook page - Wiltshire](#) [Facebook page - Southampton](#) [Facebook page - Charity Shops &  
Information Points](#) Visit our [website](#)



**Wellbeing Checks with Meals** - Providing a reassuring welfare check, plus a delicious hot lunch (with pudding!)



**Charity Shops with Information Points** - Pre-loved fashion and homewares, as well as helpful information



**Padwell Road Day Centre, Southampton** - Providing personalised care, activities and companionship



**Fitness & Friendship Clubs** - Gentle exercise to help with everyday tasks, fun, games and socialising



**Living Well** - Based in GP surgeries, this service supports people to live a healthy and fulfilling life and to live independently at home.



**Carers Together Wiltshire** - A partnership providing support to unpaid Carers in Wiltshire



**Information & Advice** - Free and comprehensive advice on a wide range of subjects, such as benefits and care



**Community Support Services** - Home visits providing support, access to information and practical help for older people in some areas of Wiltshire



**House Clearance with Heart** - A partnership with KFR providing compassionate and affordable house clearances



**Telephone Befriending** - Weekly phone calls with purpose for older people who are feeling isolated or lonely (internal referrals only)



**Arts & Friendship Clubs** - Fortnightly clubs in Devizes, Marlborough and Pewsey offering creativity and friendship, taught by visiting artists



**Royal Wootton Bassett Monday Friendship Club** - Weekly social club, plus fun coach trips



**Wellbeing Service** - Support with finding and accessing social activities (internal referrals only)



**Grass Cutting Service** - Regular garden maintenance (internal referrals only)

## NOW WELCOMING NEW CLIENTS FOR OUR WELLBEING CHECKS WITH MEALS SERVICE!

We currently have space for new clients in our Wellbeing Checks with Meals service across Wiltshire, Swindon, Bath and North East Somerset and the Southampton area!

Designed especially for older people, this service provides not just a hot, freshly prepared lunchtime meal, but also a friendly wellbeing check from a familiar face.

Meals are created in Wiltshire by chefs, dietitians and nutritionists using sustainably sourced ingredients. With over 100 menu options - including low sugar, gluten free, and texture-modified choices - we cater to a wide range of needs and preferences.

Our caring team will deliver to your door, offer a quick check-in, and can help plate the meal if needed.



**Find out more and  
sign up**

**“Just wanted to say thank you for the meals - my parents love them and are very impressed with the quality and the fact they turn up piping hot. Please send on my thanks to the person who delivers them who apparently is very jolly and upbeat.”**

## 🌐👤 OUR BRAND NEW DAYTIME DISCOS ARE COMING! 👤🌐

We're beyond excited to tell you about our Daytime Discos, fun and friendly events for anyone aged 55 and over!

As part of the Get Out Get Active programme we'll be running eight Daytime Discos across Wiltshire and Swindon in the coming months, for people to come and enjoy a lively afternoon filled with classic tunes from the 50s to the 80s. Whether you want to dance the afternoon away or simply relax with a drink and enjoy the music, these events will offer something for everyone!

Our discos will have:

- Spacious, accessible venues
- Music from the 1950s to 1980s
- Free tea, coffee, and squash
- Licensed bars (where available)

And most of all, it will be a great opportunity to socialise and meet new people!

Just turn up on the day - we'd love to see you there!

For more information, contact:

☎ 07754 612569

✉ [fitnessandfriendship@ageukwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:fitnessandfriendship@ageukwiltshire.org.uk)

Let's dance, laugh, and make some memories!

# Daytime DISCO

## Calne Town Hall

The Strand, Calne, SN11 0EN

### Friday 29th August

### 2pm - 4pm

**FREE ENTRY!**

**Our Daytime Discos are open to everyone aged 55+**

They offer a chance to enjoy music from the 50s, 60s, 70s and 80s, and are the perfect place to have fun and socialise!

Our accessible venue has a **licensed bar, free tea/coffee/squash** and plenty of space to dance the afternoon away, or just sit and listen to the music.

**No need to book, just come along on the day!**

*Come and join the party!*

To find out more, phone **07754 612569** or email [fitnessandfriendship@ageukwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:fitnessandfriendship@ageukwiltshire.org.uk)



## News and Updates

### AMAZING OUTCOMES FOR THE LIVING WELL TEAM

The Living Well service, based within GP surgeries in the north of Wiltshire, reduces the amount of contact patients have with the surgery for non-medical concerns.



One surgery we work with reviewed the number of consultations a patient received in the eight months prior to their Living Well referral, compared to the eight months after first contact, and found that the number of surgery consultations reduced by 314% following our involvement and support.

### ARTS & FRIENDSHIP CLUBS COMING SOON!



We are delighted to announce that from September, we will be running the fortnightly arts clubs in Pewsey, Marlborough and Devizes, following the handover from Arts Together.

We're honoured to continue the legacy of their incredible work and are so grateful for the opportunity to bring creativity and companionship to older people in these communities who may be feeling isolated or lonely. A heartfelt thank you to Arts Together for all they have done - we're excited to build on that foundation and see the positive impact that making art will bring to our clients! Watch this space for further information!

### WINTER FUEL PAYMENT

The Government have recently announced that:

- Everyone over the State Pension age in England and Wales with an income of, or below, £35,000 a year will benefit from a Winter Fuel Payment this winter.
- This increased threshold means no lower or middle-income pensioners will miss out, with over three quarters of pensioners in England and Wales receiving the payment – a total of 9 million people.
- The Payment will be paid automatically to everyone over State Pension Age and clawed back automatically through PAYE or income tax for those whose income exceeds £35,000. [Find out more.](#)

Please note that no one will text you about Winter Fuel payments. If you get a text about a "Winter Fuel Payment" it is a scam. Winter Fuel Payments are made automatically, you do not need to do anything.

Report suspicious texts at:

<https://stopthinkfraud.campaign.gov.uk>



### COMMUNITY CONNECTORS – COMING SOON TO MORE AREAS OF WILTSHIRE

Our Community Connectors engage with older people to identify their needs, challenges, and goals through person-centered conversations; signposting to relevant local services, and connecting people with appropriate resources. We're recruiting two new Community Connectors, one covering Calne and Marlborough, the other the south west of Wiltshire – and will soon be able to start promoting these services.



## News and Updates

### FUNDRAISING UPDATE - THANK YOU!

On the 4<sup>th</sup> July, we attended the annual Ogbourne Maizey theatre production with 'The Miracle Theatre' company.

We are grateful for the support from the hosts Marion and Ian and the audience in sponsoring Age UK Wiltshire as their chosen charity this year. Every donation helps us help more older people to stay independent and connected.

We'd also like to thank the homecare organisation Right at Home Chippenham for choosing to support us at the Chippenham Food and Drink Festival - thanks to their Lucky Dip fundraiser, vital donations were raised to support our work with older people across Wiltshire. If you are planning an event, please consider choosing to support us!

The Big Knit is over for another year. We wanted to let you know that our amazing knitters and crocheters have sent us an amazing total of 22,850 tiny hats - this will raise almost £7,000 in donations, so it is a truly fantastic result!

Thank you to everyone who took part - we will be sending out more information soon!



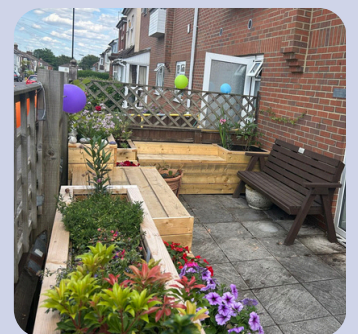
### PADWELL ROAD DAY CENTRE'S AMAZING NEW OUTDOOR SPACE!

After some hard work and teamwork, the garden at Padwell Road Day Centre has officially bloomed again! With generous donations from B&Q Portsmouth and beautifully crafted raised beds and seating built by carpentry students at Southampton College, it's been a true team effort.

We marked the occasion with a grand opening, joined by the Sheriff of Southampton, Cllr Pat Every, who captured the spirit of the project perfectly:

**"Gardens are more than just beautiful spaces; they are places of healing, connection, and joy."**

A heartfelt thank you to everyone who helped make this space so special.



## News and Updates

### OUR SHOPS NEED YOUR DONATIONS - PLUS NEW ONLINE SHOP COMING SOON...

Our Charity Shops in Devizes, Marlborough, Salisbury and Bradford on Avon need your help! We're in need of good quality, clean men's, women's, and children's clothing, as well as bags, shoes, jewellery, and accessories. We also accept items such as vases, ornaments, glassware, new soft furnishings, small pieces of furniture, toys and games that are in working order, and books. Every donation helps raise vital funds to support older people across Wiltshire, and your generosity makes a real difference! [Click here](#) to find out more and for the addresses of our shops.

We are currently in the process of setting up an eBay shop to sell some of our items online! Watch this space for more news...



### VOLUNTEER WITH US!

We rely on the support of volunteers to help us deliver our services for older people. Our amazing volunteers help us to do so much across the local areas. Whether you have an hour or a day to spare, we have lots of opportunities for volunteers. Check out some of the volunteer opportunities we have available below, as well as a link for our Volunteer Application Form. [See all of our volunteer roles](#)

#### **Fitness & Friendship Club Support Volunteers (Corsham and Westbury)**

Our Fitness & Friendship Club Support Volunteers help run activity clubs with the club leader and support from the Fitness & Friendship team.

#### **Charity Shop Volunteers - Bradford on Avon**

We are developing a project in Bradford-on-Avon which will be an information point, bookshop and community café. We need volunteers to help us run this exciting new space!

#### **Trustees**

As a Trustee you will provide a strategic lead and oversight for the direction of our charity. We are looking for people from all walks of life with strategic vision, independent judgement and a passion for helping older people.

#### **Information & Advice Community Volunteer**

Our volunteers visit older people in their own homes, and complete telephone appointments, to help them fill in disability benefit forms and provide information on core subjects.

#### **Telephone Befriending Volunteer**

Providing a social telephone support service to older people to take the outside world to a client to help relieve isolation and loneliness. Our volunteers provide regular telephone contact to our clients and are positive and encouraging.

#### **Café Helper – Carer Café (Carers Together Wiltshire)**

As a Café Helper, you'll help create a friendly, supportive environment for unpaid Carers to enjoy a relaxing break, good conversation, and a well-earned moment for themselves.

**[Volunteer Application Form](#)**



## CARERS TOGETHER WILTSHIRE PARTNERSHIP NEWS

We had a fantastic time at the Chippenham Health and Wellbeing Day on Saturday 5th April! With 160 visitors attending, the event was full of community spirit, helpful resources, and engaging activities.

A highlight was the Brain Dome, where 63 people explored how our brains are affected by dementia through an exciting interactive session from Explorer Dome.

Thank you to everyone who stopped by and helped make the day such a success – it was a wonderful reminder of the strength of our community.



Hair and beauty students at Wiltshire College & University Centre recently teamed up with Carers Together Wiltshire to offer free treatments to local unpaid Carers as part of a special event during Carers Week.

The event welcomed around 15 Carers to The Aspire Academy of Hair & Beauty salon in Chippenham, where Carers were given facials, pedicures and haircuts in a professional training environment.

Kirsten Kerr, Service Delivery Manager at Carers Together Wiltshire, highlighted the importance of raising awareness, noting that many people don't realise they're Carers despite the emotional, physical, and financial demands they take on.

Our Carer Corner evening group, run in partnership with Alabaré Riverside, continues to go from strength to strength. It's a welcoming space for unpaid Carers to relax, connect, and catch up with others in similar situations. The next group is on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> August, from 7pm - 9pm at Alabaré Riverside Sanctuary, 2 Watt Road, Salisbury, Wiltshire SP2 7UD. Come along, we'd love to see you there!



## WE NEED YOUR HELP!

Follow us on  
Social Media  
and share our  
information

Share this  
newsletter  
with others

Donate to our  
charity shops

Tell an older  
person about  
our services

Sign up to  
support us on  
Easyfundraising

