



**Enable us to support
older people in
Coventry &
Warwickshire**

Your Legacies Guide

Age UK Coventry and Warwickshire

We're a local charity working in the community of Coventry and Warwickshire to support older people, their families and carers.

The role of Age UK in Coventry and Warwickshire is to offer information, advice, activities and services. We aim to enable older people to live fuller lives, help them stay safe, make informed choices and to remain independent and connected. We want everyone to be able to love later life.

We are a local charity- focused exclusively on the five districts of Warwickshire and the city of Coventry- and we are an independent charity - our “Brand Partner” agreement with Age UK national means that although we are part of the same brand, we are a separately registered charity.



Where Will We Spend Your Gift?

Thanks to the support we receive from legacies, Our Services reached over **8,302 people** throughout Coventry and Warwickshire on **90,399 occasions** during **2023-2024**. Your gift could keep these services running:



Our **Information and Advice Service** can continue to support older people in Coventry and Warwickshire looking for information and reassurance.



Our **Befriending Service** can be there for some of the most lonely and isolated people in Coventry and Warwickshire.



Our **Counselling Service**, for those experiencing anxiety, stress, depression, bereavement or low self-esteem.



Our continued provision of **Social Activities** to provide friendship and fun.

What impact Can A Legacy Have?

Maurice and Michelle's Story

Maurice spent 19 years looking after his mother, who suffered with Parkinson's and sadly passed away from cancer. Spending most of his time caring for his mother, Maurice lost touch with friends. He now lives alone with his cat, Jack.

Since losing his mother, Maurice has undergone cataract operations, which left him with limited vision in one eye. This in turn affected his balance. Maurice felt anxious and suffered from panic attacks when leaving his home.

Consequently, Maurice became more withdrawn and isolated.

With the help from the Counselling Service at Age UK Coventry and Warwickshire, Maurice's mental health improved and he felt confident enough to then reach out to our Befriending service.

He was quickly allocated to his volunteer befriender, Michelle.

A year later, Maurice has expressed how having a befriender has made a difference.



“Michelle is just like me- we are able to talk about everything and anything; things that matter and things that don't. We can be serious or just have a laugh. Michelle calls me every Thursday no matter where she is, even when on holiday, and I really look forward to speaking to her”.

“I found out about volunteering with Age UK Coventry and Warwickshire through work. I was soon matched with Maurice, and since day one our conversations just flow and before we know it an hour has passed!



We have so much in common from our interests in nature, our pets and gardening, so we're never short of conversation.

I look forward to our weekly chats and know how much Maurice does too. It's like checking in and catching up with a friend whom I've known for years.

Maurice has so much to offer and tells with me his tips for the garden and we share places we've visited- we put the world to rights!

More recently, Maurice has been a great support to me when I lost my dad suddenly. He shared some of his experiences and feelings he had when he lost his mum, which I know has been very difficult for him.

It's nice to know you're making a difference and giving someone something to look forward to each week - **I'd encourage everyone to give volunteer befriending a go, you never know, you could find that you need this kind of support in the future yourself.”**

FAQs

Should I make a will?

Having a will and keeping it up-to-date helps ensure that your wishes can be respected, and your property and assets benefit people and causes you really care about.

We would always recommend that you speak to a qualified professional such as a solicitor, when making or amending your will.

Your solicitor will be able to advise you on the required wording to carry out your wishes.

What are my next steps?

Age UK Coventry & Warwickshire is committed to being there for older people. If you decide to leave us a gift in your will, you will be supporting us to make life better for older people in Coventry and Warwickshire.

**Age UK Coventry & Warwickshire,
8 Clemens Street, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV31 2DL
Registered charity number: 1090007**

Although we are a partner of the national charity Age UK, we are registered separately with the Charity Commission, and you will need to specify our registered charity details in your will, to ensure that anything you leave is spent locally.

If you already have a will:

If you already have a will and you want to include a gift to Age UK Coventry & Warwickshire in it, there may not be a need to rewrite it. You can ask a qualified professional such as a solicitor to add an amendment (called a codicil). Generally, if the change you wish to make is quite small or simple, you can use a codicil and if the change is more significant or complex you should make a new will.

What kind of gift can I leave to Age UK Coventry and Warwickshire?

You can leave a specific sum of money or an item such as jewellery or a piece of art. Or you can leave a share in, or all what's left of the value of your estate after family and friends have been taken care of. The advantage of leaving a share (also known as residuary gift) is that it remains the same over time, and you won't need to change your will to keep up with inflation. Even a small sum can make a huge difference.

Is a gift to Age UK Coventry and Warwickshire subject to inheritance tax?

A gift to charity is taken out of your estate before your liability for inheritance tax is calculated. Your solicitor can advise you about the current threshold. Some people see leaving a gift to charity as a useful way of bringing their estate under the inheritance tax threshold.

Should I tell Age UK Coventry and Warwickshire if I include them in my Will?

If you included us in your will- thank you. We could not provide the services we do without people like you. We respect that a will is a private matter and you may not choose to tell us that you have left a gift. However, if you would like to let us know, we would be pleased to show you more about what your legacy could achieve.

Further questions?

If you have any more questions, please contact us

Email: info@ageukcovwarks.org.uk.

Tel: 02476 231999

We will be happy to help you.