

Winter and Spring Newsletter 2025

A local Charity Supporting Local People



Friends and Family Test

98% of our customers say they would recommend our services to their families and friends.



Customer Feedback

“Age UK Wigan Borough have given me a new lease of life, knowing that there are people out there that really care.”



Our Mission

We improve the quality of life for local people aged 50 and over. We provide services to ensure people have the information they need to live their lives as they choose, can live safely in their own homes and combat loneliness and isolation. We make sure the voices of local people are heard and can influence improvement to local services.

Contact us - 01942 615880

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?

Age Co Products Now Available on Our Website!

Age Co Personal Alarms, Stairlifts, Homelifts, Bathing Solutions, Legal Services and Incontinence products are available through our website.

Age Co can help you find the right solution to provide you the comfort and support you need to live life with confidence. Age UK Wigan Borough receives commission for all products sold through referrals that we make. This supports our work in the Borough.



Visit our website or give us a call to find out more -
01942 615880

Celebrating the International Day of Older People

We had a wonderful time celebrating the International Day of Older People with a sponsored walk along the scenic canal route from the Post Code Coffee House in Wigan to The Hide Coffee House in Leigh.

Thanks to the incredible support from our community, we raised over £300 to benefit individuals aged 50 and over across the borough. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who sponsored our walking group and made this event a success



Tea with your MP

We were pleased to invite Josh Simons MP, the Labour MP for Makerfield, to join us for a conversation with our customers and volunteers about enhancing the lives of those aged 50 and above, all while enjoying a lovely cup of tea!

We conducted a survey with over a hundred of our customers and identified several pressing issues, including digital exclusion, travel difficulties, and financial worries, including the Winter Fuel Payment.



To find out more about our discussion, please visit our website:
www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk

Christmas Celebrations

We embraced the festive spirit with a Christmas Jumper Day and enjoyed a delightful Jacobs Join.

We are incredibly grateful to The Shoebox Fairies for their generous donation of shoebox gifts. These thoughtful presents were distributed to members of our community who may be feeling isolated, ensuring they receive a special gift this year.

One of our clients who received a gift shared their heartfelt thanks: "Special thanks to the lovely lady who delivered my shoebox hamper and to Kiel (Handyperson) for nominating me. I was overwhelmed by the kindness. Thank you so very much for making my Christmas special. I don't feel so alone now."



Training

Our management team participated in valuable training sessions on equality, diversity, and inclusion, led by Farai from Everything Human Rights. We covered essential topics such as legal definitions, responsibilities, and perspectives specific to Wigan. The training focused on practical steps for implementation, including addressing bullying, harassment and inappropriate banter, understanding unconscious bias, and fostering alliances.

Earlier on in the year, we also received training from the George House Trust on HIV awareness and understanding. We learned about HIV transmission routes, attitudes towards HIV, improving our services for people living with HIV and the latest developments in HIV.

Community Engagement Highlights

We have truly enjoyed engaging with our community, promoting our services, and sharing how we can support those aged 50 and over. It has been a pleasure attending the Extra Time Hubs, visiting local shopping centres like Spinning Gate, and participating in community events such as the Wigan Health Events.



Upcoming Fundraising Opportunities

Upcoming Event: Wigan 10k

Challenge yourself to complete the Wigan 10k and raise sponsorship money for Age UK Wigan Borough in September 2025. This event is a fantastic opportunity to support our cause while staying active and engaged with the community. For more information and to register, visit the Wigan 10k website. Get in touch with us if you would like sponsorship forms and support - **01942 615880**



The Big Knit Campaign

The Big Knit campaign is back!

We are calling on all knitters and crocheters in the Wigan Borough to join the fun and help make a big difference to the lives of older people, while being part of this infamous campaign.

How to get involved

Create little hats by knitting or crocheting for the Big Knit campaign. Innocent will place them on their smoothie bottles, and for each locally made hat, we will receive 30p to support our charity at Age UK Wigan Borough.

Our Target

Collectively we would like to make 5000 hats by July 2025!

Where do you hand the hats in?

Once you have done your hats please send to our office by the 1st July 2025:
74-80 Hallgate, WN1 1HP

If you do struggle sending your hats to us please contact us - 01942 615880.

Visit our website for patterns!



Our Services

Support at Home

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

Handyperson Between April 2023 - April 2024, we completed 2707 handyperson jobs in people's homes! Our Handyperson service gets excellent feedback. One client commented "I liked the fact that a name was given for the handy person, uniform was worn, and they had an ID badge. It made me feel safer, as I am on my own."

Home Help Between April 2023 - April 2024, we provided over 18,318 hours of help through our Home Help Service! Our Home Help service also gets excellent feedback. One client said "She's become a part of the family. She cheers us up. It's working really well."



Information & Advice

Our free service provides information and advice about a wide range of topics such as Pension Credit and Attendance Allowance or practical guidance like filling out applications for a blue badge.

This financial year, our Information and Advice team have already helped households across Wigan Borough claim over £1.9 million*.

* Cumulative figure of successful claims to 31st March 2025

If you are aged 50+ and live in the Wigan Borough we want to make sure you are getting the benefits you are entitled too. An estimated 4,376 pensioners in Wigan are missing out on Pension Credit, resulting in nearly £9 million in unclaimed funds annually. We offer a free information and specialist welfare benefit advice service, helping you maximize your income and access essential support. Last year, we helped clients claim over £2.8 million in benefits. One client says “I would like to say the difference Age UK Wigan Borough has made to my life is life-changing. The dedication, time, and support I received over these past few months will make a difference. I was in a very dark place, not knowing where to turn before I contacted Age UK Wigan Borough.”



Book a free benefits check by calling **01942 615880**.

Steps to Success

Our free and new Steps to Success programme engages individuals aged 50 and over in local activities and hobbies, providing opportunities to forge new friendships and strengthen community ties. Our team works closely with individuals helping them over a six-week journey to help them feel more positive, confident and more active as well as reducing social isolation and loneliness.

Mel's Story

When we first met Mel, she recently moved into sheltered accommodation in a new area and was not going out much. She joined the Steps to Success programme to help get her out and about and become more sociable.

Mel met with Nicolle, Steps to Success Support Worker, to discuss what activities she would like to try. Nicolle supported Mel by attending a social group together. Mel said “it really helps with confidence and meeting people”. Since completing the programme, Mel has taken the initiative to explore new groups on her own and has become more engaged in various activities.

If you know someone who may benefit from our Steps to Success Programme like Mel did then please get in touch – **01942 615880**



Bright Days Activities

Our activities are designed to bring people together and reduce isolation. For the latest activity programme, please visit our website or check the next page of this newsletter.

One of our clients shared, "When I feel down, it perks me up."

We are excited to introduce one of our newest activities: the Music in Mind Café. This session brings moments of joy, connection, and true expression to people living with dementia, their carers, family, and friends.

Join us for our weekly session every Monday at 2 PM at The Turnpike Gallery, Leigh, WN7 1EB.



Bright Days Programme

1st of November 2024 - 28th of February 2025

Monday

- 10:30am - 11:30am Walking Football* Howe Bridge Leisure Centre, M46 0PJ
- 11 am- 12:30 pm Soup and Sandwich, Shevington Methodist Church, WN6 8EA
- 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm Music in Mind (Supporting people with dementia and their carers), Turnpike Gallery, WN7 1EB

Tuesday

- 10 am - 12 pm Bright Days Social Morning, Grosvenor Court, Orrell Road, Wigan, WN5 8HD.
- 1 pm - 2 pm Telephone Quiz Group.
- 6:30 pm - 7:30 pm Walking Football* Newbridge High School, Platt Bridge, WN2 3TL.

Wednesday

- 10:15 am - 12 pm Silver Choir, Independent Methodist Church, Hindley, WN2 3PN (Term time only)
- 1 pm - 3 pm Jamming Session (Popular Music) Wigan Stars, Hallgate House, Frank Street, Wigan, WN1 1HP
- 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Ping Pong Parkinson (Starting soon, ring for more information)

Thursday

- 10 am - 11:30 am Hindley Ukulele Group, Independent Methodist Church, Hindley, WN2 3PN.
- 7 pm- 8 pm Women's Walking Football* Atherton High School, M46 0AY.

Friday

- 9:30 am - 12 pm Bright Days Social Morning, Grosvenor Court, Orrell Road, Wigan, WN5 8HD.
- 10:30 am -11:30 am Walking Football* Howe Bridge Leisure Centre, M46 0PJ.
- 1 pm - 2 pm Bingo Hesketh Manor, Bullough St, Atherton, M46 0DL.

*In partnership with Be Well at Wigan Council

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, WN2 3BD.

To find out more about the Wigan and Leigh Carers centre give them a call on **01942 697885** or visit their website www.wlcccarers.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 318004** or visit their website 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 consider 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



Daisy Chain Stitchers

The Daisy Chain Stitchers are a lovely and welcoming group that 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 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.



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 to take 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.ageukwiganborough.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.