



Summer & Autumn Newsletter 2024

A Local Charity
Supporting Local People

Our Friends and Family Test

99% of our customers say they would recommend our services to their families and friends.



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

Age Co Personal Alarms, Stairlifts, Homelifts, Bathing Solutions, Legal Services and Incontinence products are now available through Age UK Wigan Borough. Age Co can help you find the right solution to provide you the comfort and support you need to live life with confidence. Plus, Age Co is owned by Age UK and so profits go towards supporting local older people in need.

Give us a call to find out more - 01942 615880



St Mary's Primary School Fundraiser

We would like to say a huge thank you to reception class for fundraising at their school and for choosing our charity as their class cause. The children ran the equivalent of their age and friends and family sponsored them. They raised an impressive **£890.45!**

We enjoyed visiting reception class as the children always gave us a lovely warm welcome. We had meaningful conversations about supporting people aged 50 and over in our lives and discussed how the funds raised will benefit our local community.



Seniors & Student's Unite!

We had a fantastic afternoon at the Students and Seniors Unite Event hosted by the Health and Social Care Students at Wigan & Leigh College!

Members from our activities enjoyed afternoon tea, a fun quiz, amazing performances and had a question and answer session with Brian who participated in the Nuclear Testing Programme on Christmas Island.

We would like to thank Wigan & Leigh College for the time and effort that went into the event that which it so great. It was lovely to see two generations connecting. Everyone had a fantastic time.





Volunteers' Week

We enjoyed celebrating Volunteers' Week this year and showing our appreciation as they are an essential part of our team. Their generosity in sharing their time and skills has allowed us to support thousands of people in Wigan. We're immensely grateful for their help.

Carers' Week Roadshow

We joined the Carers' Week roadshow in Wigan town Centre and the Parsonage Retail Park in Leigh. We really enjoyed reaching out to carers across the borough and sharing the support available for them and their loved ones.



Solicitors Afternoon

It was fantastic to be joined by Jade and Sophie from Butcher & Barlow Solicitors. We had an informative session and discussed important topics such as Wills and Power of Attorney. These discussions can truly make a difference in people's lives, providing clarity and control over their personal and financial affairs.

Thank you Bryan

We said goodbye to long-standing trustee Bryan Shephard who joined our board in 2001! We would like to thank Bryan for volunteering his time and being a part of our charity. In Bryan's time, we have helped thousands of people in Wigan with various services. We look forward to Bryan joining us at upcoming events.



Our Impact

David's Story

David contacted us for assistance through the Handyperson service. We helped him install a new curtain rail, adjusted his gate to prevent his dog from escaping, and fitted a security chain to his front door. The same Handyperson has visited him on each occasion and got to know him well.



During their conversations, our Handyperson recommended that David reach out to our Information and Advice service, as he was facing financial difficulties after becoming a widower.

With the support from the Information and Advice service, David now receives the benefits he is entitled to, and we were also able to assist him in obtaining a blue badge, making it easier to get out and about.

David has praised the services provided as excellent and described the staff involved as 'lovely, willing people.' He now considers the Handyperson as 'his mate' and believes that 'everyone should have a conversation with Age UK.'

Thanks to the support we've provided, he feels safer at home and has a more positive outlook on life.

Upcoming Fundraising Events

Help local older people by organising or taking part in a fundraising event for Age UK Wigan Borough.

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.

Here are a couple of events you can get involved with -

Paws for the Cause 2024

Join us on Saturday, 28th September 2024, starting at 10 am from the Postcode Coffee House, The Edge, Wigan. We'll enjoy a scenic walk along the canal, finishing at The Hide Coffee House in Pennington Flash.

Our 8-mile journey welcomes all walkers, with or without dogs. We hope to raise sponsorship funds for our charity Age UK Wigan Borough in celebration of the International Day of Older Persons. We aim to fundraise to further tackle issues such as loneliness and social isolation by making connections through our activities.



Scan the QR code or Ring 01942 615880 to register.



Wigan Borough
ageUK

International day of Older People
8 Mile Sponsored Walk along the Canal

Starting Point
POST CODE
Postcode Coffee House, WN3 5BE

End Point
THE HIDE COFFEE HOUSE
The Hide Coffee House, WN7 3PA

Paws for the Cause!

Saturday the 28th of September 2024
All walkers welcome!

Scan **QR code** or call **01942 615880** to register

Wigan 10K

Support Age UK Wigan Borough by taking part in the Wigan 10K on Sunday the 1st of September! The Wigan 10K has two options a 10K or a family mile to choose from so everyone can join in.

Registration fees from the event go to the organising charity but runners can raise sponsorship money for any charity of their choosing.

To find out more give us a call on 01942 615880 or scan the QR Code -



WIGAN 10K **WIGAN FAMILY MILE**
1st SEPTEMBER 2024 REGISTER NOW > START TIME: 10am
1st SEPTEMBER 2024 REGISTER NOW > START TIME: 12.30pm

Wigan Borough
ageUK

Do you want a new challenge?
Join the Wigan 10K and make real impact in your local community!

Scan **QR code** or call **01942 615880** to register

WIGAN 10K

Campaigns

Over the past months, we got involved in campaigns focussing on topics such as cost of living and mental health by raising awareness through press releases and social media. We also conducted a survey on local people aged 50 and over that gathered views aligning with Age UK's national research, focusing on issues important to people aged 50 such as the Pension Triple Lock policy, reliable NHS services, and a long-term plan to tackle the challenges presented by our rapidly ageing population. These views were shared with local councillors and our MP Candidates to drive change.

If you would like to get involved in these sorts of projects our **Have Your Say Group** allows individuals to contribute and make a difference by completing surveys or attending focus groups.

Contact 01942 615880 for more information.

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 we were 'Very quick and efficient with response to the request for help. Don't know where I could go for help without you.'



Home Help

Between April 2023 - April 2024, we provided over 18318 hours of help through our Home Help Service!

Our Home Help service also gets excellent feedback. One client said 'She does exactly what mum wants her to do. She's very friendly, helpful and chatty.'



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.

We have helped local people claim over £2.8 million in benefits!

We're thrilled to announce that we've assisted local residents in claiming over £2.8 million in benefits, marking a new milestone!

Our free Information and Advice service helps individuals over 50, collaborating with Wigan Council and Citizens Advice Wigan Borough to offer financial support, energy advice, benefits, and much more. Amidst the cost of living crisis, our service has seen a surge in demand. This year, we've enabled people to claim £687,138.39 more than last year, the highest since our service began.

Our Chief Executive officer Bryonie Shaw, says "We are so proud to provide this much needed advice and information service to people across the Borough. We have been able to apply for additional grants to help fund our team of brilliant advisors, who help those coming to us to understand what income they are entitled to. We know, from the feedback we get, our team's support can help change someone's life, being able to afford the things they need to live more comfortably in later life".

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 support them with healthy living and tackle issues such as social isolation and loneliness.

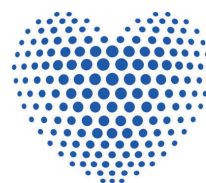
Our Steps to Success project has empowered Eileen with confidence and positivity!

Eileen, who sought to enhance her mobility and social life, worked with Laura, her Steps to Success worker to create an action plan. They explored local activities and weekly walks at a scenic spot, where she could gradually extend her distance each time.

Additionally, Laura helped Eileen to navigate public transport which boosted her independence. Her participation in walking and chair exercise classes has significantly improved her well-being, leading to an improvement in her health.

Now attending her group solo, Eileen looks forward to swimming at her local leisure centre and continuing her journey of personal growth. She says, " I am much happier; you have given me the confidence to achieve other goals. Steps to Success is a brilliant service"

Congratulations, Eileen, on your achievements!



SUPPORTED BY
NHS
CHARITIES
TOGETHER

Bright Days Activities

Our activities help reduce isolation and get our community together. Please visit our website or see the next page of this newsletter for our latest activity programme.

One of our clients says 'It's such a lovely group. The staff are so welcoming and friendly. Really look forward to attending group.'



Visit Next Page
for Activity
programme

To find out more about our Bright Days Activities give us a call on 01942 615880 or visit our website - www.ageukwiganborough.org.uk

Bright Days Programme

1st of June - 31st of August 2024

Monday

- 10:30am - 11:30am Walking Football* Howe Bridge Leisure Centre, M46 0PJ
- 11 am - 12:30 pm Soup and Sandwich, Shevington (Enquire to find out more)

Tuesday

- 10:00 am - 12 pm Sing that Song, 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

Thursday

- 10:00 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

- 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.
- 2 pm - 4 pm Beginners Dancing (Dance & Chat). St Joseph's Hall (Mather Room) , Mather Lane, Leigh WN7 2PR.

*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.wlcarers.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 236953** 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.