



## Update from Age UK Wiltshire – November 2023

**Sarah Cardy, CEO of Age UK Wiltshire** has attended several community engagement events recently and seen the need for information from older people and their families. It has also been encouraging to hear positive feedback about our services.

Over the years, we've witnessed a significant growth in the demand for our services. The desire of older adults to maintain their independence and continue living fulfilling lives in their own homes has never been stronger. This is a testament to the much-needed work Age UK Wiltshire does but it also highlights the pressing need for continued support and expansion of our programs.

### **Surviving Winter Grants**

We are currently promoting our Surviving winter grants, which can help vulnerable people experiencing fuel poverty.

The one-off grant available through Age UK Wiltshire is £200 and the scheme will run until April 2024 but may close early if all grants are allocated.

*"The Surviving Winter grant will make an awful lot of difference, thank you." - Eve*

The Surviving Winter Grant was introduced by Wiltshire Community Foundation over 10 years ago and has already helped 1000's of households in Wiltshire. It is a multi-agency approach working not only with Age UK Wiltshire but with Wiltshire Citizens Advice, Swindon Citizens Advice, Wiltshire Centre for Independent Living, and Wiltshire Warm & Safe to help people by providing grants towards fuel or other heating related costs.

There is eligibility criteria and an application process. More information on this can be found at [www.ageuk.org.uk/wiltshire/our-services/surviving-winter/](http://www.ageuk.org.uk/wiltshire/our-services/surviving-winter/)

### **Household Support Fund – hot food**

We are also providing support for older people who need food, are in rural locations and are unable to get support. We will give support for a period of time whilst we provide holistic advice and support for a more sustainable solution. People can contact our meals team on 01793 279606 or email: [communitymeals@ageukwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:communitymeals@ageukwiltshire.org.uk)

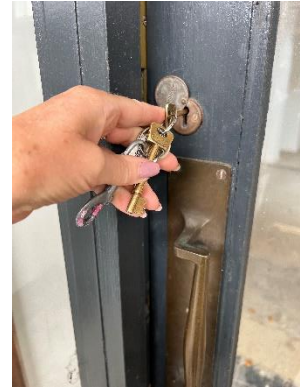
## **Age UK Wiltshire Charity Shops**

We have ambitious plans to have charity shop hubs across Wiltshire, and these are progressing which is very exciting. We've now signed the lease, and are working on our Salisbury site which should be open very soon.

It is an excellent opportunity for Age UK Wiltshire to have more of a town presence. These high street centres will include office space for our I&A advisors, providing the opportunity for residents to have accessible, face to face appointments.

We are also working hard towards the Marlborough and Devizes shops.

Although this is a great retail opportunity, the success of our charity shops is not just about selling items - it's about transforming generosity into tangible support for older people in our communities.



## **Melksham Community Support Scheme**

Age UK Wiltshire is working together with Melksham Town Council, Melksham Without Parish Council and Melksham Area Board to improve the wellbeing of older people living in Melksham, by offering support, access to information and practical help.

*“Sarah, (Melksham Community Support Senior Project Worker) who visited was brilliant and it was great to talk things through.” - Winifred*

We have already seen the difference our support can make to the residents of Melksham but if your network has any referrals or would like more information, please contact us on 01225 809265 or email [melksham@ageukwiltshire.org.uk](mailto:melksham@ageukwiltshire.org.uk)