



Owl cushions on sale now!

Look at these amazing handmade owl cushions! They were made by Honor, one of our fantastic volunteers.

The cushions are **£9.99** and would make a wonderful Christmas present. If you want to get your hands on one, email catherine@w-ise.org.uk

How to volunteer

Volunteers are the lifeblood of our work.

They are central to many of our most important services and we are always looking for more so we can help even more isolated, older people live happy and fulfilling lives.

The main services where volunteers may be needed are Befriending, WiSE Owl Café, Transport Scheme and events.

Some people volunteer for just an hour a week as a befriender, whilst others contribute more time.

If you think you can help us and would like to find out more, contact us on 01937 588994, or email volunteering@w-ise.org.uk

How we use your donations

Any amount of money you raise and donate can go a long way to supporting our work with some of the most isolated people in our communities.

To give you an idea of what your money could do:

- Fund an entertainer to perform at an event such as Elderberries
- Fund the room hire for our exercise classes including Chairrobics
- Fund the refreshments for all of our activities and coffee mornings
- Fund the running of our volunteering service
- Fund the resources for our craft sessions and activities
- Fund the running of the WiSE Owl Cafe – a lifeline to many in our community.

You can donate through our website www.w-ise.org.uk/donate or with the donation slip below.

Donation slip

If you would like to make a donation please complete the following slip and return it to us with your donation to: Wetherby in Support of the Elderly, The One Stop Centre, Westgate Wetherby, LS22 6NL

Name: _____

Address: _____

Postcode: _____

Email: _____

Telephone number: _____

I would like to make a donation of £ _____
to Wetherby in Support of the Elderly.

Please Gift Aid this donation and any donations I make in the future or have made in the past four years. I am a UK taxpayer and understand that if I pay less Income Tax and/or Capital Gains Tax then the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Tick to apply ☐

Please make cheques payable to: Wetherby in Support of the Elderly. Do not send cash. Or visit our website: www.w-ise.org.uk and donate online.

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WiSE Words



Autumn 2022

We reflect on the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

As individuals and as an organisation we have all been deeply moved by the passing of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – an outstanding, historic and much-loved monarch who has given so much public service to the nation over decades.

It also brings into poignant focus how special it was to receive the Queen's Award this year. It was fantastic to receive the award at the height of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations, and now feels even more significant following Her Majesty's sad passing.

It is fitting at a time like this to reflect on the nature of public service and to remember how this charity, in its own small way, aims to add so much to the lives of others. Public service and devoting one's time to others is both remarkable and selfless. We will strive to continue to deliver that both in Her Majesty's memory and for the people we serve so well.

We demonstrated this when we celebrated the Platinum Jubilee events, just a few months ago. In May we held an afternoon tea at Boston Spa Village Hall for dozens of the wonderful older people we support in Wetherby and its surrounding villages – many of whom are lonely and isolated. We sang the national anthem,

waved the Union Flag to 'Land of Hope and Glory' and drank Pimms together on a memorable afternoon we will all treasure forever.



Then in June, we held an extended Jubilee Coffee Morning, complete with locally sourced cupcakes and entertainment from three vintage singers. Events such as this are so important for helping isolated, older people maintain social contact and live happy and fulfilling lives in their own homes for longer.

Thinking back to those events now, makes the Queen's passing feel especially moving. Of course, as one era ends another begins and I am sure we will all want to raise a metaphorical toast to our new King.

God bless King Charles III. May he have a long and happy reign.

God save The King.

Mark Dobson, Chief Operating Officer.



Thank you for the Music! ABBA tribute raises hundreds for WiSE

We had glittered-up Dancing Queens galore at our recent fundraising event which aimed to make 'money, money, money' to help isolated, older people across the district.

ABBA tribute duo 'Angel Eyes', which features the two women from renowned group Planet Abba, performed the Swedish pop sensations' classic hits including 'Waterloo', 'Dancing Queen' and 'Mamma Mia'.

WiSE Activities Coordinator, Debbie, organised the event. She said: "We had such a brilliant night with oodles of glitz and glamour! ABBA are loved by young and old, so we knew this would be a popular event.



"Thank you to everyone who supported the charity by coming along. Our mission is to improve the quality of life for over 60s, but we can only carry out that work by people supporting fundraising events like this one."

The event raised £800 which will go towards helping isolated, older people in Wetherby and its surrounding villages.

Shining a spotlight on our volunteers

In this issue we are shining a spotlight on three of our amazing volunteers.



Lindsey began volunteering for WiSE last year, after four years living away from Wetherby. She said: "My husband and I retired recently, so I was looking for things to keep me busy whilst helping the local community.

"I emailed the WiSE office and after being invited for a meeting, I was delighted to be accepted as a volunteer. On my first day, I was slightly nervous as I didn't know what to expect, but felt welcomed into the fold straight away and settled into a new and fulfilling way of life."



June is one of our longest serving volunteers, racking up an impressive eight years with WiSE. She is a well-known face at many activities including Line Dancing, WiSErcise, our craft group and Elderberries.

She said: "The first time I volunteered was at the Meet Up Monday Dementia Cafe. After that ended I went on to do all the other activities. I love volunteering, being with older people, chatting and making them feel comfortable. It's very rewarding and gives me something to do."



Sue volunteers regularly at our WiSE Owl Café at Boston Spa Village Hall. She began her journey with WiSE as she wanted to make a difference to the lives of older people. She said: "Loneliness in older people has always been something that has concerned me, so when I read about the WiSE Owl Café I decided to try to become involved.

"I became a volunteer at the cafe, just a few hours a week, and have enjoyed every minute. Volunteering has given me a renewed sense of purpose, some welcome structure to my week and has helped me to make new friends. WiSE volunteers are always made to feel appreciated and valued."

If you are interested in volunteering and would like to find out more about the roles available, please email catherine@w-ise.org.uk or phone 01937 588994.

Bumper greeting cards donation sends hundreds of smiles



WiSE has received more than 500 cards from UK Greetings after Royal Mail employee, Janette Clark, read about our 'Send a Smile Scheme'.

Janette said:

"I live in Wetherby and read about the initiative online. I felt it sounded like an incredibly thoughtful scheme. I am acutely aware of the loneliness older people can experience, having seen the change in my own dad since he's been on his own.

"Through my role at Royal Mail, I met with UK Greetings and the Greeting Card Association (GCA). When I drew attention to WiSE's project I was really grateful when the business agreed to back it. The scheme has a lot in common with GCA's 'Thinking of You Week', which is held annually in September.

"Melody, who runs the scheme at WiSE, said: "We're so grateful for this wonderful donation. Although we encourage individuals to submit handmade post under the scheme, donations from businesses like this give us a massive boost and mean we can really extend its reach."

Fundraising fashion show coming soon!

Exciting news! Retailer of fashion and homewares M&Co is hosting a Fashion Show at its Wetherby branch to raise funds for WiSE.

The event will take place on **29 November 2022** at 7pm, with tickets priced at £3. More details, including how to get tickets, will be announced on our social media pages and website soon. Everyone who buys a ticket will receive **10% off purchases made on the night.**

For anyone interested in modelling, we need both adult and child models who will be rewarded with **20% off purchases at the event.**

Please contact Liz on **07875 365043** or liz@w-ise.org.uk for details.



Elvis (Claus) is coming to town...

We had so much fun at our Elvis tribute night earlier this year that we've booked the fabulous Pete Binns, AKA Memphis Pete, for our WiSE Christmas Party!

Join us at the Engine Shed, Wetherby, on **Thursday 15th December** for festive fun, food and entertainment! Doors open 1.00pm, with the entertainment starting from 1.30pm-3.30pm.



Avoid a 'Blue Christmas' and book now!

Tickets cost £7.50 and must be purchased in advance from Debbie at WiSE events, the WiSE Owl Café, The Engine Shed, Wetherby, or online <https://w-ise.org.uk/events/wise-christmas-party-with-memphis-pete/>