

WiSE Words



Summer 2022

WiSE picks up UK's highest voluntary honour!



We're proud to announce Her Majesty The Queen has awarded us the nation's highest possible voluntary honour.

We are one of 244 charities, social enterprises and voluntary groups to receive the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - and one of just a handful of organisations locally to have ever picked up the accolade, which is equivalent to an MBE.

The prestigious, royal award is a fitting reward for our 130 amazing volunteers who have worked so hard to help isolated, older people across the district - both during the pandemic and beyond.

Chief operating officer Mark Dobson said: "Everyone at the charity is absolutely thrilled to receive such a prestigious award. This national honour is the greatest recognition a charity like ours can ever receive and represents deserved appreciation for the efforts of our incredible volunteers over many years.

"Our charity couldn't survive without our volunteers, who generously give their time and energy to help older people in Wetherby and its surrounding villages live healthy, fulfilling lives."

WiSE will receive a certificate signed by The Queen and a domed glass crystal which will be presented by the Lord Lieutenant at a special ceremony later this year.

Along with the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service, Voluntary Action Leeds and Leeds City Council recently presented WiSE with a certificate and medal for its work as a community care hub during the coronavirus pandemic.

WiSE was one of 11 such hubs that collectively delivered more than 250,000 food parcels and made almost 500,000 well-being calls to people isolating during the first phases of the pandemic. The charity contributed to a further 47,000 activities- from prescription deliveries to dog walking.



Message from the Chief Operating Officer



None of the incredible people who work or volunteer for WiSE do so to pick up medals and awards.

Even so, when we are lucky enough to receive external appreciation in this way, it tells me two things.

First, that we must be doing something right as a charity for the people we support.

Second, that we have an amazing group of volunteers who deserve every bit of recognition which comes their way.

Receiving the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service feels even more special in this - the Platinum Jubilee Year.

Our Community Care Hub award meanwhile, is the icing on the cake and a really good, local indicator that we are making a difference to people across the district who need our help.

Mark Dobson
Chief Operating Officer



WiSE reveals results of major public consultation drive



We want to say a big 'thank you' to everyone from across Wetherby and its surrounding villages for having their say in a major consultation to find out more about what people of all ages think about services in their community.

Of those who responded, three quarters said they had accessed the services of a charity or community organisation. Other results included nearly one in five people wanting better transport services, with others requesting additional befriending, shopping delivery and information support.

Dementia support, walking groups, hobby register, a support group for young parents and mental health support for people of all ages were amongst the other services put forward by respondents. Existing charitable services also won praise from respondents. Mark Dobson, said:

“

A very large number of respondents told us they had accessed services provided by WiSE - whether it was attending our café in Boston Spa or dates on our activities and events programme. Of these respondents, all reported a positive experience with several commenting positively on the social interaction and the opportunity to meet friends.

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We will now use these results to help determine how to develop our work in the future.

To read the full results, visit the news page of our website at www.w-ise.org.uk/news

Service area - Fundraising

As a small charity, a percentage of our income comes from the local authority - but we still rely heavily on community donations to carry out our work. We have two fundraisers – Catherine, who looks after our community fundraisers and Liz, who applies for large scale charitable grants.

Catherine said: **“We are always looking for people in our community to raise funds for WiSE. You could fundraise at home, or rope in your work colleagues for something a bit bonkers!**

“We completely understand that you have other commitments and your time may be limited. As such we welcome any ideas, large or small, you may have. Our team is always on hand to provide support and advice. Every penny you raise will help improve the quality of life for over 60s in Wetherby and surrounding villages.”

For more information, visit www.w-ise.org.uk/fundraise or email fundraising@w-ise.org.uk

Elvis has left the building!

Wow! What a night! Wetherby fundraisers were 'all shook up' in our musical bid to raise vital cash to help older people across the region.

£700
raised

Top performer Peter Binns- aka Memphis Pete / Daddy Cool- took to the stage for the event, with every penny of the £700 raised going towards helping over 60s live happy and independent lives.



The Queen is in the building!

As well as Elvis, we also had a visit from Her Majesty, The Queen at our afternoon tea to celebrate the Jubilee! Thanks to Emma James for providing such fab entertainment, as always.

Coming soon...

We are making plans to reopen our Dementia Café following generous donations from The National Lottery and the McCarthy Stone Foundation.

The weekly cafe was originally set up several years ago to respond to the growing number of dementia

cases in Wetherby and its surrounding villages. The café supported those living with dementia and their carers by providing an appropriate setting to focus on clients' wellbeing.

WiSE Corporate Fundraiser Liz, said: "We're really grateful for this



MCCARTHY STONE
FOUNDATION

funding, which will pay for a safe, well managed venue in which to host the café, helping to create a much needed support hub for people in our communities living with dementia and their carers." Keep an eye on our website and social media pages for updates.

Have you received a Smile card?

We are looking for case studies and testimonials of people who have received a 'Send a Smile' card that has brightened their day!

Please email smile@w-ise.org.uk with some information about how it helped you.



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 we need help with 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. *giftaid it*

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.