

# Kirklees Older People's Network

is an active organisation which enables older people (aged 50 and over) to be empowered and have an active and collective voice in Kirklees.



*Newsletter Issue 16 September 2012*

*You are Invited to*  
the KOP Annual General Meeting  
on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September  
10.30am to 1.00pm  
at Cleckheaton Town Hall (Bar lounge)  
Bradford Road, Cleckheaton, BD19 3RH  
Refreshments and a light lunch will be available

Guest Speaker: Chris Fitzsimmons from Kirklees Citizens' Advice  
on "Financial matters as we get older"

## Kirklees Older Peoples Network Celebrates the Diamond Jubilee!



The Union flag and plenty of red, white and blue bunting made a big splash in Batley when older people from all over Kirklees came together to celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee at the Old Peoples Centre in Batley on a really sunny June afternoon.

Kirklees Older Peoples Network invited all 50+ residents to their celebration party and there were plenty ready to heed the party call! Equally, everybody adopted the red, white and blue dress code for the day too! *(Continued page 4.....)*

*You are Invited*

To the next 50+ Forum  
on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> October  
2.00pm to 4.00pm

at Batley Old People's Centre, Upper Commercial Street, Batley, WF17 5DH  
Guest speakers

# Carephone and Assistive Technology

available from Kirklees Council

## Assistive Technology

This refers to a wide range of gadgets or disability equipment that can help you to live independently in your own home, and give you the freedom to make choices about how you live your life. It includes things like bed occupancy detectors, fall detectors, gas detectors and jar openers, which are easy to use and give you peace of mind.

## Carephone

This is a special unit that plugs into your telephone line and can dial for help when you need it. It calls the Carephone Home Safety Service and a trained member of the team will answer the call 24 hours a day, every day. They will talk to you via your Carephone and if you need help they will take the most appropriate action, for example, contact a family member, neighbour, doctor or the emergency services.

The carephone standard and private service charge each week is £3.80 and installation is free. It comes with a pendant which you keep with you (wearing it keeps the battery charged). In an emergency, you need to press the button on your pendant and your Carephone springs into action. It will work in the garden as well as your house. It is advisable to have a key safe fitted when you have a carephone, to enable a carer to gain access (Keysafes can be ordered from Mears on 0800 0324483) It is important to remember to use the button for help if you need it, not just medical emergencies.

Additional gadgets can be fitted if needed – such as fall detectors (vibrates if someone falls), medication dispenser to automatically remind you to take the right tablets at the right time, a GPS watch can relay signals about where someone is (very beneficial for someone with memory problems).

There are now over 5,000 people in Kirklees using the scheme. KOP members using the scheme could not speak highly enough of the benefits of the care phone system - it gives real peace of mind, particularly when living alone.

More information is available from: [www.kirklees.gov.uk/assistivetechology](http://www.kirklees.gov.uk/assistivetechology)  
or telephone Gateway to Care on 01484 414933

## Energy Saving tip:



Only boil as much water as you need (but remember to cover the elements if you're using an electric kettle).

**Hilary Thompson**, secretary of KOP, has recently been appointed Chief Executive of Age UK Calderdale & Kirklees.

Hilary was born and educated in Faversham, Kent. After leaving school, she joined WH Smith as a Management Trainee and worked in various branches in Kent and then the north of England. After some 25 years she decided she wanted a change from retailing and joined Kirklees as Towns Manager for Batley and Dewsbury. One of her contributions was the appointment of a Town Crier! In this role she became increasingly involved with charitable organisations and took up the opportunity as Chief Executive Officer of Batley Resource Centre. It was here that she became increasingly focused on older people – hence the attraction of the new post with Age UK Calderdale & Kirklees.

Hilary said: “We must continue to raise the profile of, and confidence in, Age UK Calderdale & Kirklees with our current stakeholders and with the wider general public. I want Age UK to be the first choice for any person needing information, advice, services and support for older people. There are some great services, staff and volunteers within the organisation”.

Away from work Hilary likes to run for fun and competitively and has completed the London Marathon and ten Great North Runs. She has been married for 27 years to John, a Professor of Entrepreneurship at the University of Huddersfield. Together they enjoy theatre, sport and travel.

## **Age UK Older People’s Information Service**



Age UK Calderdale and Kirklees are building up their Advice and Information Service with new full-time worker, Heather Taylor. She will be working along side Abdul Ghaffar who covers north Kirklees from the base at the Batley Resource Centre and the Age UK team of excellent volunteers.

Heather is based at the offices at 5 Upperhead Row near the bus station in Huddersfield town centre. If you find it difficult to get into town, Heather may be able to visit you in your home.

Age UK information staff are available to offer advice and information on a wide range of topics including welfare benefits and tribunals, money matters, consumer issues, affordable warmth, leisure activities and much more.

They can also refer and signpost older people to other appropriate services offered by Age UK Calderdale and Kirklees such as our free legal and financial advice clinics, and to other voluntary and statutory agencies.

For information or to book an appointment, please call the Age UK Calderdale and Kirklees Huddersfield office on 01484 535994 or Batley on 01924 446208.

Age UK celebrates its 40 years of working in Kirklees in October this year.

## Diamond Jubilee Party *(.....continued from page 1)*

The guests were entertained with an “energise” disco with popular music from 1952 onwards and a good old sing song started when the WW2 hits began to play!

Margaret Trott arranged a general knowledge quiz about the Queen and the Royal Family and Sarah Delves, daughter of Sheila Horton, one of the founding members of the Network organised a “Pin the Tail on the Corgi!” much to everybody’s amusement! Dog lovers don’t worry; the corgi was a giant cartoon with a fluffy tail!

The staff from Mears Home Improvements decorated the hall and also served the refreshments, made by staff and volunteers from Batley Resource Centre.

Richard Palmer – Chairperson for KOP said: “It was so good to see so many people from all over Kirklees come together to celebrate sixty glorious years!”

## Mears Home Improvements

have a small pot of money from Kirklees Council Environment Unit to help with energy efficient savings and gas repairs.



Making People *Smile*

We can help with things like: boiler repairs, power flushes, room and boiler thermostats, valves on radiators, emergency heaters and draught proofing. This service may be free to older people, people on income support or DLA, and also families with disabled children who are on a low income.



If you would like any more information and are a homeowner, don't hesitate to contact us on:  
0800 032 4483 or 01484 845492

## Kirklees Older People’s Network

KOP is run by and for its members. All older people are invited to join us. Do join us and add your voice; let us know what concerns or ideas you have.

We are aware that not everyone is able to attend Forum meetings and welcome views from people who cannot attend. We produce 3-4 Newsletters a year.

KOP representatives attend Older Peoples Partnership Board, Older Persons Transport Forum and Disability Liaison Group, Affordable Warmth Strategy Steering Group and Disabled Go Steering Group.

KOP can be contacted via  
Batley Resource Centre,  
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Batley, WF17 5DS.  
01924 326331

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