

NEWS, ADVICE, SUPPORT, CARE



For the over 50 population of Calderdale

Your monthly newsletter

Welcome

As we enter the month of August, we have responded to concerns about the "cost of living crisis" and problems accessing healthcare by making some changes to our website and newsletters. We are putting finance & money issues at the top of our agenda and have also set up a new web page of Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) including guidance on what to do if you cannot access your GP! We will be adding to the page each month and if you have an unanswered question or unresolved issue about life for an over-50 person in Calderdale, please contact us at info@calderdaleforum50plus.com to tell us more.

Next committee meeting

Our next committee meeting is on Tuesday 23rd August at 10.30am at Copley Mill House, Copley HX3 0UY and is open to all. We would like to see more Calderdale residents at our meetings where we discuss the work of the Forum, the issues affecting the over 50s in Calderdale and how we might respond to these through the information and advice on our website and our role on the Council's Ageing Well Alliance Board. If you're interested in helping to improve Calderdale for older people, why not come along and have your say!

Changes to Calderdale and Huddersfield's hospital services

Calderdale and Huddersfield's hospital services have been reconfigured to improve patient safety, access to A&E and to make improvements based on learning from the COVID pandemic. Both hospital sites will provide 24/7 A&E services and day-case, outpatient and diagnostic services but blue-light ambulances will be received at Calderdale Royal Hospital as well as acute in-patient admissions. In addition new investment in facilities and services is due to come on stream from 2023 onwards.

Elland's next chapter

More than £30m is on its way to make sure that Elland, West Vale and the surrounding area are places where people feel safe, happy, and welcome, where they want to spend time, and where businesses can flourish. An impressive portfolio of projects is being designed to make life in Elland better so that everyone can live a larger life. There will be new ways to travel around, transformed spaces, and natural features.

Calderdale's 2021 census data released

The first results from the Census 2021 were published in June. This information includes population and household estimates at local authority level rounded to the nearest 100, statistical bulletins, a report on the quality and methods used, and a couple of interactive tools. This gives us some insight to how our local population has changed in the last decade.

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Brighouse Third Age Group release autumn and winter timetable

Brighouse Third Age Group run a wide variety of classes and activities and have just released their Autumn & Winter timetable including table tennis, dressmaking, French conversation, whist, indoor curling, a walking group and luncheon club. Find out more at their Signing on day for the 2022/23 year on Monday 5 September. To find out more email brighousethirdage@yahoo.com or call Mike on 01484 715944.

Southowram Over Fifties Activities

Southowram Over Fifties Activities (SOFA) is a friendly and active community group for people in the Southowram and Brighouse areas offering a wide range of activities including an art group, singing and table tennis. Sessions cost just £3 and annual membership is £5. To find out more call Elizabeth on 01422 342470.

New dementia support page

More than 850,000 people in the UK now have dementia and the figure is growing at an unprecedented rate. Support for people with dementia in Calderdale is being stepped up and we have created a new Dementia Support Page on our website to provide a starting point for families looking for information, help and advice or for people who simply want to know more about the disease.

COVID-19 autumn booster and flu vaccine programme expansion

NHS England has set out plans to offer a COVID-19 booster vaccine to all over 50s, vulnerable people and carers this Autumn and Winter along with the flu vaccine. 50 to 64 year olds that are not in a clinically at-risk group, are likely to be offered vaccination later in the year once people that are more vulnerable to COVID-19 and flu have been offered their vaccine.

Cost of Living payments – how does it work?

Millions of people on means-tested benefits should have received the first of two Cost of Living Payments totalling £650 in July as part of a £37billion government package to help families with cost of living pressures. For those eligible, the second payment will follow in September.

Impacts of increasing state pension age

A new report commissioned by The Centre for Ageing Better reveals nearly 100,000 more people have been pushed into poverty by having to wait another year to collect their state pension. Carried out by the Institute for Fiscal Studies, the research shows that the number of 65-year-olds in absolute poverty rose from one in ten before the state pension age increase to almost one in four just two years later.

New bowel cancer guide published

Cancer UK has produced a new bowel cancer guide for NHS professionals in response to the efforts of the late Dame Deborah James to raise public awareness of the disease. Five year survival rates from bowel cancer are more than 9 out of 10 cases if the cancer is diagnosed at the earliest stage and a screening programme is running for everyone aged 60 to 74 years old.

Calderdale Forum 50 Plus aims to represent & promote the collective voice of people over the age of 50 in Calderdale by: Communication, Campaigning, Influencing, Encouraging & Empowering.

News, advice, support, care: www.calderdaleforum50plus.com