

BBC Radio Shropshire Factsheet

Finding Work Over 50

You're over 50, you're looking for work, you're fit, you have so much to offer... but how do you convince a potential employer? It will soon be illegal to discriminate on grounds of age – but that doesn't necessarily help.

It may be that you are unemployed, returning to work after an absence, you could be semi-retired and a part time job is what you are looking for or maybe it's just time for a change.

Whatever the reason, mature jobseekers often feel they are at a major disadvantage solely because of their age, irrespective of their skills or experience.

Appearing on Jim Hawkins' Mid Morning programme on BBC Radio Shropshire, the **Employers Forum on Age** offered advice. EFA is an independent network of leading employers who recognise the business value of attracting and retaining experienced employees – regardless of their age.

EFA Information & Helpline

EFA run a help-line and are happy to advise members on age related issues, Government age policy and the developing age legislation consultation process.

Contact details

Email: efa@efa.org.uk

Phone: 0845 456 2495

Address: Mezzanine Floor, Elizabeth House,
39 York Road,
London
SE1 7NQ

Website: www.efa.org.uk

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external websites.

EFA attempts to convince employers that age discrimination is bad for business, and to lobby the Government for change. Their web site will not help you find a job, but the information might help you look in the right direction.

They have a 'Frequently Asked Questions' page and a page of links to other useful web sites, such as Department for Work and Pensions Age Positive site, which in turn has much useful information and specialist help for jobseekers.

It's worth mentioning that many companies – local and national – have a policy of employing mature jobseekers. Notably, B&Q, Woolworths and Asda have good reputations for looking positively at the benefits of age. Many other companies have a similar outlook.

Also appearing on the Mid-Morning programme was the **Third Age Employment Network**

Their 5 main roles are:

1. To represent the interests of all mature people who want to continue training and working, so that they have the opportunities to use their skills and experience in the economy.
2. To campaign against all forms of age discrimination in employment and training, and achieve legislative recognition of age as a form of discrimination equal to race, gender or disability.
3. To create equality of access for mature people to workforce development and services which meet their needs in career change, advice, re-training and jobs search support.
4. To be the leading centre of expertise and communication on age and employment.
5. To support our Network of Members by sharing good practice, supporting new initiatives, signposting organisations and individuals, and campaigning on their behalf.

Contact details

Email: taen@helptheaged.org.uk

Phone: 020 7843 1590

Address: 207-221 Pentonville Road
London
N1 9UZ

Web site: www.taen.org.uk

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Other Internet based resources include:

www.workbox.co.uk online job agency dedicated to recruitment of people aged 40 plus.

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external websites.

www.jobsforover40s.com Free UK online job search and advertising for the over 40s.

The aim of the site is to encourage employers to seek applications from mature jobseekers, and to judge them fairly on the merits and not age. Free to all Employers, Agencies and Jobseekers.

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external websites.

www.ukwebfind.co.uk/40plus-jobs.html Family Friendly UK directory of 100,000 UK Web sites including Motoring Property Education Employment Tourism News Travel.

The BBC is not responsible for the content of external websites.

www.wiseowls.co.uk broaden the services offered by and to the over 45s.

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Have you considered **voluntary work**? You may be looking for paid employment, but if you don't find what you want right away, volunteering has many benefits. You can give your time and skills for the benefit of others, and sometimes volunteering can be a stepping stone to a paid work. Keep listening to BBC Radio Shropshire's Action Desk bulletins for information on local volunteering opportunities.

Don't forget, if you don't have a computer at home, most public libraries and many community centres allow free access to the Internet.