

Dementia 1st

for care & support

Autumn 2026 | Issue 24

Welcome to our quarterly newsletter for carers, clients and staff. We hope it will provide you with useful information and that you will enjoy reading about what we do and what we are planning to do!

Latest news from Action for Carers Surrey

Action for Carers Surrey is expanding their offer to carers, introducing changes to further improve their reach and offer support to more of Surrey's thousands of unpaid carers.

Changes include:

- expanded opening hours (weekday evenings and Saturdays)
- a new adviser team
- more bespoke events to meet carers' varied needs
- different Hub locations

Action for Carers Surrey's expanded offer is available online:

[https://](https://www.actionforcarers.org.uk/news/expanding-our-offer/)

www.actionforcarers.org.uk/news/expanding-our-offer/

Or Telephone: 0303 040 1234

Update from our Trustees

With the winter months approaching maybe you would like to come and try one of our singing groups, social groups, or attend a carers support group, it's a pleasant way to spend part of a day during the week - feel free to give the office a ring and find out more details.

As Trustees we attend local awareness events, review our finances and update our policies with any new developments and information.

You might have seen us out and about at various events.

This month two of our Trustees gave a talk about our services at the Bramley Golf Club's Charity Day, we thank them for their hospitality and support. Carole will be giving a talk to TWM Solicitors to update them on our services and we are grateful they continue to support us, so thank you to them too.

I've been acting chair for many months now and would love to hand over the actual position of Chair to someone else, so if you have an interest in dementia or would just like to be part of Dementia 1st please give me a ring, I would be happy to give you more details on what it entails.

Best wishes, Lyn Watson (Acting Chair & HR Trustee)

Upcoming Bank Holiday closure dates:

The day centres will be closed on:
Friday 25th December
Monday 28th December
and
Friday 1st January 2027

With **phishing scams** becoming more sophisticated every day, protecting your personal information requires a new kind of digital awareness. Today's scammers use highly realistic text messages, fake emails, and deceptive phone calls that can even "spoof" your bank's actual number on your caller ID. To protect your hard-earned money and peace of mind, **keep these 4 golden rules in mind:**

Hang up immediately: Legitimate banks will never call out of the blue to ask for your PIN, passwords, or to request that you transfer money to a "safe account". **Don't trust the link:** Never click links or download attachments in unexpected emails or texts, even if they look official and demand urgent action. **Pause and ask for a second opinion:** If a message or caller makes you feel anxious, stop and talk to a trusted family member or friend immediately before doing anything else. **Verify independently:** If you are ever worried about your account, hang up and call your financial institution directly.

Follow us & stay connected



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www.dementiafirst.org.uk

Registered Charity Number
1172242

Interesting Fact: During a famous 2003 heatwave in Europe, it was so hot and dry that grapes shrivelled up and turned into raisins right on the vine before they could even be picked!

At **Bletchingley Village Fair** we raised **£613.24** plus an amazing **£1000** from the fair committee. At **Banstead Village Fair** we raised **£210**. At **Godstone Donkey Derby** we raised **£326**. At **Quality Street** we raised **£690**!

Thank you for supporting us!

Upcoming Fundraising & Events

We would be very grateful for any donations of cakes for **Teas on the Green**, please, either at The Byre on Friday **9th October** or at the event on the day.

If you would like to come along and support us it's on:

Sunday 11th October 2:30pm - 5pm
Christ Church, Brockham RH3 7JH

Day Centre News

Summer has been hot and busy at Dementia First, but we have found ways to stay cool and have fun. Our Tuesday group recently had a wonderful trip visiting the interactive therapy pets, run by **Tracks Through Pastures**. Our clients enjoyed petting bearded dragons, baby tortoises and even a miniature pony! Thank you to **Lyn Watson** for inviting us.



Thank you to **Kyle & George**, part of the **IGF Team**, for finishing off the summerhouse painting - it looks great and we are grateful for the time they gave up to help!



One of our Trustees, **Liz**, being presented with the Community Matters cheque for **£1,500** from **Waitrose in Caterham**.

A note from the office!



In July I attended the Dementia Awareness Day at Redhill Library, organised and run by **Charlotte Best, Library Apprentice**. The purpose of the event was to promote the services the library provides for people with dementia, their families and carers and increase the awareness of services available in the local area.

Love, Carole x

Fundraising & Donations Update

A very big thank you to our long term supporters, **Pauline & Cliff** and their **walking group friends** who raised a brilliant **£200** at a sunny get together in July. We are very grateful for their continued support.

Thank you to staff and customers at **Simply Sports, Oxted** for another generous donation in June. They raised **£327.68** for us through their customer loyalty scheme.

Playdays Nursery at Blindley Heath raised an amazing **£436** for us at their fete in July – thank you for choosing to support us!



A huge thank you to **Betchworth Park Golf Club** for their fundraising efforts and support. We were so grateful to hear that we had been nominated as their charity of the year from February 2025 to 2026. We were amazed to hear that they raised an incredible total of **£9090.86**! We will use this fantastic amount to pay towards the running of our minibus, which has a large impact on our finances, but continues to be a vital service for many of our clients.



We're trying to save paper - if you would like to help us and receive your monthly invoice or any other information by email, please contact l.bradbury@dementiafirst.org.uk

If you do not wish to receive further copies of this newsletter, please let us know:

Telephone: 01883 818310 or

Email: info@dementiafirst.org.uk