

Dementia 1st

for care & support

Winter 2025 | Issue 21

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!

Congratulations and thanks to **Carol Marriott, Mandy and Sarah** on their 5k walk around Mote Park in September. They walked in memory of **Diane, Derek and Bill** and raised an amazing **£1466.25**



as well as **£100** for a raffle prize and 2 more donated prizes that were raffled!

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Registered Charity Number
1172242

Update from our Trustees

As we trickle toward the end of the year things at Dementia 1st have been very up and down this year. The financial climate has not been too good for us and has brought us quite a lot of challenges. Unfortunately, that has meant we had to make the decision to close our satellite Day Centre in Lingfield at the end of October, it just was not financially viable to keep it open. Sue B, the Team Leader at Lingfield, took the vacant Team Leader position on a Friday at The Byre and Alex moved on to pastures new, we wish her well in her new ventures. Christmas is a busy time for everyone especially at the day centres, we are busy making cards and gifts and the staff are organising and taking part in the Christmas parties, ensuring that everyone has a great time. So, before everyone starts to get into their to do lists I just wanted to say a big thank you to Carole and the staff for all their loyalty, dedication and support through some very challenging times.

Thanks to my fellow trustees for their support.

On behalf of us all we wish you a peaceful Christmas.

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

Engaging Minds

Supporting people living with dementia

A group for those diagnosed with dementia to socialise with others in a similar position

- * For people below state pension age
- * Friends and family welcome
- * Held monthly on the **1st Tuesday of the month**
- * **18:30 - 20:30 at The Byre**

Please call to book your place

Anita: 07850 722816 or Kelly: 07885 245353

A note from Anita:

Our first two months at the Byre have been exciting as we settle into the welcoming new space offered by Dementia First – Thank you. We've received some lovely feedback, including:-

"Thank you for a lovely evening—much appreciated! Hope I wasn't too noisy. Loved the poo bag guessing game—FAB FUN!" "Thank you everyone! Lovely group". "Just got home, another great evening".

We're very much looking forward to the year ahead, working with Dementia First, meeting new friends and exploring new activities.

Interesting Fact: Fruitcake is notorious for being the most re-gifted holiday treat. Its longevity is impressive, not because people eat it, but because they keep passing it along to the next unsuspecting relative.

Day Centre News



The centres are now getting ready for Christmas, cards are being made and the Christmas parties are organised.



The day centre will be closed for the Bank Holidays on Thursday 25th, Friday 26th December & Thursday 1st as well as Friday 2nd January 2026. On **Christmas Eve** the day centre will close early. If you transport your relative, please collect them by **2pm** and if your relative uses our transport, please note that our minibus will leave the day centre at **1:30pm**, so please expect your relative to be home earlier than usual. On behalf of the Staff and Trustees I would like to wish you all a

Merry Christmas
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR

A note from the office!

A huge thank you to all of you that came along to our recent Winter Fair and to everyone that donated items. It's much appreciated by us, especially in these difficult financial times. Thanks to Jane for organising and staff & trustees for helping on the day. Congratulations to those that won some lovely prizes at the tombola and raffle stands. You will be pleased to hear we raised **£1558.36**. May I take this opportunity to wish you all a wonderful Christmas and a healthy & Happy 2026

Love, Carole x

Fundraising & Donations Update

Thank you to everyone for their help and support on the following days:

At Godstone Fete and Donkey Derby, on Monday 25th August, we raised £300

At Quality Street Fair in Merstham, on Sunday 7th September, we raised £613

At Teas on the Green in Brockham, on Sunday 5th October, we raised £720

Another **BIG** thank you to **Dave & Sue Weaver** and the **Bingo Boys and Girls** who very generously donate the proceeds from their bingo nights to us.

This year they raised a fantastic **£523!** Thanks to all who kindly donate prizes, as your contributions make a big difference to the amount of money raised.



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