



# Forget-Me-Not

Selsey's Dementia-Friendly Community Project

## SDAA Newsletter

March 2026

This newsletter is formed from reports from members of the Selsey Dementia Action Alliance. The meeting was held on 24<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at The Beacon Church.

To find out more about any of the items, contact: [sdaa@selseycommunityforum.uk](mailto:sdaa@selseycommunityforum.uk)

### ✿ Chairman

Mike Nicholls opened the meeting and apologies were accepted. Everyone was welcomed to the meeting.

### ✿ Dementia Awareness Week 18<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May

**Turn your Town Blue for Dementia Awareness Week**  
**Mon 18th May - Sun 24th May**

If you are a shop owner in Selsey, Bracklesham or the Witterings we would love you to decorate your window to raise awareness and understanding of this disease. Prizes will be awarded!

Windows will be judged on:

1. Impact- does it draw attention?
2. Messages shared - does it get key messages across?
3. Creative use of materials?

Look out for other activities will be taking place during the week. To keep an eye on our website: [www.selseycommunityforum.uk](http://www.selseycommunityforum.uk) and social media

To enter email: Karen Pirks, Ops Lead [operations@selseycommunityforum.uk](mailto:operations@selseycommunityforum.uk) or text: 07824 376 760 by 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026

**Turning the Town Blue for Dementia** according to Karen Pirks has been evolving. From Selsey shops we are expanding to the Wittering's and Bracklesham Bay, and already there has been some interest in the Shop Window Competition. Volunteers in those areas have begun sharing the information, and it has been supported by the East Wittering and Bracklesham Parish Council.

In Selsey Ali Archer will assist with getting the flyers out to the local shops in the High Street, and East Beach along with Linda Edwards. Volunteers at Wittering's are delivering those to the shop over in Bracklesham Barn will be hosting the hub as usual on the Thursday of

21<sup>st</sup> May 2-4pm. Organisations supporting include:

- ✓ Alzheimer's Society
- ✓ Carers Support West Sussex
- ✓ Safe House/Dementia Support
- ✓ Selsey Community Forum
- ✓ WS Fire and Rescue -Safe and Well Visits
- ✓ Prevention and Assessment Team (tbc)
- ✓ Care at Home Agencies- tbc

**Dementia Awareness Week**  
**Mon 18th May - Sun 24th May**

Various activities taking place across Selsey, Bracklesham and the Witterings to meet the needs of the community- to support and raise peoples awareness of Dementia

**Combined Help Hub** supported by Carers Support West Sussex, Dementia Support, Alzheimer's Society, West Sussex Fire and Rescue, NHS SCFT  
 Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2026  
 2-4pm @Bracklesham Barn. Find out about local care

\*Turn Your Town Blue to Raise Awareness Shop Window Competition  
 \*Dementia Friend/Training Sessions  
 \*Meet your local Sage House Wayfinder  
 \*Fun activities and social interactions  
 \*Local care at home providers on hand

Any enquiries to: Karen Pirks, Ops Lead [operations@selseycommunityforum.uk](mailto:operations@selseycommunityforum.uk) or text: 07824 376 760 by 14<sup>th</sup> May 2026

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## Dementia Friend Sessions

The second session delivered to 10 people attending from different parts of the community. Thank you, Mike Beal the Ambassador who facilitated the session.

**Public Meeting**- Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> of March at Downsview Hall, East Wittering. The SCF were well received and approximately 50 people attended, hearing how SCF will work in synergy with local people and groups, to develop our services. They are happy with us developing a Care Shop on their behalf. Some people signed up to hear more, and some to become volunteers. The vacancy for administrator at the Wittering's Care Shop has received a good number of applications.

**Networking:** Karen attended a network event, and this is coming to Chichester on 12.00pm on 25<sup>th</sup> April in The New Park Centre in Chichester

Student Visit: Olivia Hubbard is a student Mental Health Nurse from Portsmouth University, and on placement with Drayton House Memory Assessment Service. She will be meeting with Karen on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March to discuss the work we do and hear more. Hopefully joined by Karen Halford. 10.45-11.45 am at Thrive.

There was also a highly informative Dementia Seminar at Caraway House on 26<sup>th</sup> February which several staff attended and the feedback was amazing.

**SUSSEX CARE HUB**  
TOGETHER WE CARE

**Later Life Living Festival**  
SUPPORTING INFORMED CHOICES

Join us for a free, welcoming event dedicated to helping you live well, plan confidently, and enjoy later life to the full.

**Saturday 25 April 2026**  
12 NOON - 4PM

**New Park Centre**  
Chichester PO19 7XY

Jess Brown-Fuller, MP | 25 Expert Exhibitors | Refreshments

FREE ENTRY | OPEN FOR ALL AGES

Free Viewing of 'Now Voyager' showing at 10am before the event, kindly offered by Chichester Cinema

sussexcarehub-chichester | www.sussexcarehub.co.uk

SageHouse | my Charity | ageUK

## 🌸 Karen Halford Report

The joint group that Karen helps Deirdre run is going well and has between 3 – 9 Carers attending and some new Carers will be joining soon. The group is definitely worthwhile. One of the ladies attending has recently had to make the decision for her mum to go into a Care Home and she is struggling with the decision more than her mum and feels completely guilty. The group are extremely supportive to each other and meet each other outside the group. Deirdre said she would be attending the next meeting with Keith and Ryan.

Karen made a visit to a Carer today with one of the Care Shop Volunteers and the wife is having a really difficult time. The husband has not received his diagnosis yet and it's causing great difficulty due to his behaviour. It was difficult to bring him into the conversation as he only wanted to talk about what he did when he was younger.

People are receiving Council Tax Bills and worried about how they are going to pay for them and have been approaching The Care Shop for help. When we visit them we find that person is living with dementia but hadn't applied for their discount because they didn't know. We have a couple that have accepted and

been back dated. When the client has AA or PIP in place, they also need a SMI in place the council will then back date it. Now, when we make a visit to the client with the AA or PIP we also take the council tax forms with us to complete which means as soon as AA has been agreed the council tax claim form can immediately be upload the council for processing. The council will not accept a claim without the SMI signed by the GP though.

### ✿ **Alzheimer's Deirdre Timney**

Deirdre confirmed that Alzheimer's Society are still working on referrals up to the end of February.

During Dementia Action Week Alzheimer's are going to have a stall at St Richards. It won't be manned all week but will always have information available. Deirdre will also be contacting the libraries in Selsey, Bracklesham and Wittering's and ask them to be involved, perhaps using Memory Boxes.

### ✿ **Befriending – Ronelle Juliff**

The groups are growing and on Thursday we have over 30 people attend with quite a number of people with dementia. Lunch is kindly funded twice a month by Neil Kimber who has arranged with The Boulevard and The Joy to take turns fortnightly to supply the lunches.

Morning Live group have 3-5 people attending with dementia and enjoy playing cards and dominoes.

Movies for Memories on a Monday 23 attend and the next film is Driving Miss Daisy. The films shown are chosen to be light-hearted and easy to watch.

Sunday Respite Teas is always popular, we will ensure to let people know this Sunday that there won't be one on Easter Sunday.

### ✿ **Sussex Grange Homecare**

One of our carers, Norbert, won the Most Outstanding Individual in Home Care award at the 2026 Home Care Awards from the Homecare Association. One of our 98-year-old clients suffered a heart attack, Norbert responded with remarkable calm and clinical awareness. His swift and decisive action saved our client's life. We are very proud of Norbert.

On Mothering Sunday, we delivered bunches of daffodils to all our lovely clients bunches of daffodils, and also gave our staff a bunch, to show them how valued they are.

With the WSPIC Accolades Award ceremony fast approaching, we have nominated a few of our lovely staff for different categories.

For Easter we have organised that all our clients will have a yummy egg to tuck into on Easter morning.

We continue to be busy and are still recruiting staff.



## **Any Other Business**

Mike informed Karen Halford that we have about £300 left in energy vouchers, if she has any clients in need and that will be all for now until we can get another grant.

We also only have 10 Key Safes until we can get some more from the council through Rich Moorey the Community Warden.

Linda explained how she had seen an extraordinary news item on BBC about important research by CrossSense for Dementia . The Longitude Committee awarded a £1 million grand prize to CrossSense for inventing a personalised AI assistant designed for smart glasses that helps people living with early-stage dementia navigate everyday life. The technology identifies objects in the user's surroundings and gently guides them through daily activities, with the aim of helping people live safely and independently in their own homes for longer.

Copy and paste the link into your browser to read more about this amazing product:

[CrossSense win £1 million Longitude Prize for AI smart glasses companion for people living with dementia - Longitude Prize on Dementia](#)

## **Next Meeting Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2026 5pm**