



## SDAA Newsletter

June 2026

This newsletter is formed from minutes of the meeting for Selsey Dementia Action Alliance on 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2026 and some reports from people who were unable to attend in person. To find out more about any of the items, contact: [sdaa@selseycommunityforum.uk](mailto:sdaa@selseycommunityforum.uk)

- ✿ **Mike Nicholls** welcomed everyone to the meeting. There were several apologies received due to work commitments and reports sent to update the meeting.

### ✿ **Dementia Awareness Week 18–24 May 2026 – Karen Pirks**

Purpose of Dementia Awareness Week is to raise awareness, spark conversation, and visually unite the community. Supporting our commitment to a dementia- and compassion-friendly community across Selsey, Bracklesham and East/West Wittering.

### **Selsey**

- 28 shops participated (some prepared early; more joined after social media posts).
- Mix of returning and new businesses

Judges: Ali Archer, Philip Grocott, Linda Edwards.

### **Selsey Winners: ERA, Sue Bellamy's, Dinky's.**

- All displays contributed to a strong visual presence across the town.



## Bracklesham & Wittering

- 5 entries in this first year — promising foundations for growth.

Judged by you and a newly recruited staff member.

### Bracklesham & Wittering Winner: The Artisan Shoppe.

A more structured programme will be developed for 2027, supported by new staff and volunteers, especially once the Care Shop opens in the autumn.



## Communications & Reach

- Leaflets delivered by volunteers and circulated via Bracklesham & East Wittering Town Council.
- Social media used to highlight participation and activities.
- **Selsey Community Newsletter** reached **1,300 households in Selsey** and a similar number in Wittering/Bracklesham due to reprint and volunteer distribution.
- Other organisations and care companies participated independently, showing strong organic engagement.

## Dementia Friend Sessions

- Led by **Alzheimer's Society Ambassador Mike Beal** at the Royal British Legion, East Wittering.
- **3 new Dementia Friends** created.

## Combined Help Hub – Bracklesham Barn

### Thursday 21 May, 2–4pm 5 provider organisations:

- Sage House – Dementia Support
- Carers Support West Sussex
- Alzheimer's Society
- Pro-active Care Team
- WS Fire & Rescue Service

### 4 Care Providers:

- Vitale
- Home Instead Chichester & Bognor Regis
- Avoston Home Care
- Platinum Home Care



**Attendance:** 14 members of the public, including carers and cared-for individuals. **Support:** Deirdre Timney had 6 Dementia clients she kept occupied while their Carers were chatting to different organisations, and

excellent Wittering Care Shop volunteers providing companionship and refreshments. **Activities:** Conversations, information sharing, blood pressure checks, onward referrals.

### **Follow-up outcomes:**

- Partnership with Wittering Fire Station (Safe & Well visits).
- Training opportunities for WCS staff/volunteers via Sage House.
- Future Managers Forum involvement.
- Network Event 2027 planning connections.



### **Alzheimer's Society Additional Activities**

- Drop-in at Selsey Library (Wednesday).
- Information stands at St Richard's Hospital (Mon/Tue/Fri).
- Many publications taken.
- Discussions held about dementia support within the hospital, including the Dementia Nurses (Philip, Jay, Karen).
- Recognition of the importance of spiritual and faith support for people living with dementia.

### **Faith & Community Support**

- All Selsey churches — St Peter's, Methodist, Beacon, St Wilfrid's — provide dementia-friendly environments.
- Befrienders offer home visits and spiritual support, including communion, for people at home or in care homes.
- Beacon Church provides quarterly Sunday School-style services and visits care homes to sing and pray.
- As work expands beyond Selsey, new links are being built with churches across the wider parishes.

### **Selsey Community Forum's Ongoing Commitment to:**

- Provide dementia-friendly activities.
- Encourage staff and volunteers to become Dementia Friends.
- Offer Dementia Friend sessions to groups and organisations.

### **🌸 Alzheimer's Society Carers Support Group – Deirdre Timney**

Deirdre was at St Richards for 3 days during Dementia Awareness week and it was very busy with lots of staff and carers visiting the Alzheimer's stand picking up brochures and leaflets. The Chaplain at St Richards was wonderful and very caring. He also holds specially tailored Dementia friendly services.

It's important to continue with the Herbert Protocol and help carers become more aware of this for their loved ones.

The Carer support Group is held at the Methodist Church Hall, High Street Selsey from 13.30 to 15.30; held every 6 weeks; the next group is the Wednesday 1st July. Refreshments provided.

Alzheimer's Society Dementia Advisor Deirdre Timney facilitates the group; it provides the opportunity for carers to meet other carers to share experiences and advice. Guest speakers have included Rich Moorey talking about Scam awareness, Portsmouth Water, local historian, Carers Health team. Deirdre will be talking about caring for someone with Dementia.

Deirdre distributed the latest Alzheimers magazine along with some Fridge magnets with Dementia Support line contact details.



#### **Befriending groups – Ronelle Juleff**

**MOVIES FOR MEMORIES** - usually twice a month showing suitable classic films or musicals. We have between 20 and 30 attendees each time. They are served a homemade lunch and dessert. Venture bus provides transport for those who cannot get there on their own. We usually have 2 or 3 wheelchair users, 4 using walking aids.

**MORNING LIVE** - Every Monday at the Venture Club. 20 attendees, 4 or 5 living with dementia - a carer plays dominoes or cards with them. The Venture bus provides transport for 12 guests - disabled, wheelchair users, walking frames.

**TOGETHER TIME** - Every Thursday at the Methodist church hall - an all - day group. 30 to 35 regular guests - some living with dementia, learning difficulties, disabled. Tea and cake served, lunch, we have a sing song, games, raffle.


**FRIDAY TEA & TALK** - 15 to 20 guests enjoy tea and eats every Friday afternoon at the Venture club. Most guests are able to get there on their own or else with a carer.

**RESBITE TEAS** - a tea every Sunday at the various churches - sometimes over 40 guests - disabled, living with dementia, etc. The Venture bus again provides transport.

For all these groups the guests are contacted personally.

#### **Sussex Grange Residential Care Home – Kellie Barker**

It's been another busy month for us here at Sussex Grange. In addition to our scheduled activities this month we have:

Attended the WSPiC accolades evening. This was such an incredible evening. The venue was stunning, the host was incredible and the array of spectacular outfits made it a truly wonderful evening. Sussex Grange residential care home won the '**care team**' award . We were absolutely thrilled and so incredibly proud.

We enjoyed the bank holiday weather out on the terrace with family and friends, and of course a large ice cream!

Our Activities Coordinator, Jacqueline, was interviewed by the BBC as a young lady working beyond retirement! We are all in such awe of Jackie and the role she plays here at Sussex Grange. We are all so incredibly proud of

her, and everyone who meets her would agree. We look forward to reading the published article.

We continue to keep our minds and bodies healthy with sessions from Sarah. We always see a packed-out lounge for these sessions.

We're supporting and cheering on our young workers who are sitting their exams now. ★

Preparations are in full swing for the open gardens this weekend. Please do pop by, we will have refreshments available and we also have two entertainment slots planned.

Sage House is visiting us at the end of the month. They will deliver a bespoke dementia support session. We are very excited about this session.

We have some day guest availability. If you receive any enquiries, please signpost them to either myself or our Marketing and Engagement Coordinator, Alex.

We'll also begin preparations for our annual 'holiday week' very soon. Already have destinations such as a cruise on the list!

#### 🌸 **Sussex Grange Home Care – Corinna Forsdike**

The WSPIC accolades were award on 21/05/2026.

Our lovely Luna won the Highly Commended Carer Award and I won the Highly Commended Registered Manager Award, for which I was very grateful.

We are hosting the open gardens this year, Debbie (one of our carers) has been very busy getting the garden ready.

One of our clients enjoyed a trip out to where he grew up, which he thoroughly enjoyed, as part of one of our free one-hour client-of-the-month sessions.

Still actively recruiting and some positive interviews have been held and we also continue to be very busy delivering lots of care to our lovely clients.

#### 🌸 **AOB**

Mike informed the meeting about talking to the son of a dear Friend of SCF, Mr Fred Allan who died a few weeks ago. His wife Luella had died some time ago. Fred used to be SCF secretary, and Mike had been informed by the family that they will be making a legacy gift for the Dementia work SCF continue with once Fred and Luella's house has been sold. This wont be for a few months, but we can decide what to do in respect of Dementia and mark this in his memory.

🌸 **Next Meeting:** 28<sup>th</sup> July at 5.00pm at the Cabin, Beacon church.