

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	2 nd April 2024
Report Title	Memory Café
Agenda Reference	7
Author	Jo Newman Memory Café Coordinator

Memory Café Co Ordinator's Recommendations.

1. To note report.

February

February in the Memory Café has been very busy, the team welcomed many new residents and their companions and has seen numbers regularly reaching 45.

On the 14th of February, love was the theme and attendees celebrated Valentine's Day in style with some delicious handmade cupcakes, creating love heart cards using everyone's sewing skills. The morning finished with Heidi from Rural Music playing the keyboard, Tony M filled the room with his fantastic singing and comedy, everyone engaged getting up and joining in with the singing dancing and having fun.

On the 28th of February, the session was more relaxed with Chloe's Farm visiting again with their small petting animals. The residents loved this, animals are so calming and ideal for people living with Dementia to stroke and pet, bringing anxiety levels down and raising moods.

March

We had a presentation from the STEAM Museum, Gwen brought along artefacts from back in the days of GWR, black and white pictures of trips to the seaside, some residents even tried on some of the old clothes. The morning finished with a specially devised dementia trivia quiz.

On the 15th of March, this hugely popular event for people living with dementia and the over 60s in the community was held in the Parish Council Offices. This is a sell out event with entertainment from Kiddley Divey - a very interactive entertainer, singing using props including bubbles, mini bells and many other handheld musical instruments. Asda kindly donated the desserts and refreshments.



Working Towards

- Planning the Companion's Café
- Planning the Summer Tea Dance (save the date 25th July 2024)
- Training on Love to Move

- Training for volunteers on Singing for the Brain & Midas Minibus.
- More networking with home care providers within the community.
- Networking to plan a Dementia walk within the Parish.
- Working with team on D-Day80 events.
- Researching new equipment and costs for tables with the Bowls Club, and utilising existing budgets for replacement water urn etc. and increasing equipment to accommodate higher numbers.
- Looking into more ways to advertise and reach out to the community, i.e., bus stops advertisement etc. Working with other Officers and bringing back to Committee (Finance & Policy and or Community Development).
- Sharing experiences with new team members and developing the Memory Café Events Programme for 2024/2025.
- Building a new team of volunteers to maintain the Sensory Garden.
- Finding funding options for the Memory Café sessions and activities.
- Meeting the Pinetrees Co Ordinator (Central Swindon North PC) to plan an inclusive disco with their Memory Café.
- Looking into providing a mini sports event for the Memory Café as requested by users.
- Continually assessing the café's usage and future location.
- Selling the Mobbi table and revisiting the use of the asset in the meantime.

Memories from the Memory Café



