

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	5 th September 2023
Report Title	Memory Cafe Report
Agenda Reference	7a
Author	Jo Newman, Memory Café Co Ordinator

Officer's Recommendations:

1. To note the report.

Background

The Co Ordinator would like to welcome Paul to the Memory Café Volunteer Team, its lovely for the Café to be able to have Paul as it offers the male residents that attend the café some alternative conversation.

One of the regular attendees had her interview published within the Dementia Together magazine, so she was pleased to bring the article along to show to other attendees of the café and share her story.

With great sadness, the Co Ordinator, has to inform the Committee that two regular attendees of the Memory Café have passed away within recent weeks. The Co Ordinator and the Volunteers, who had built up a great rapport with them, attended the funerals to represent the Parish Council and the Memory Café and pay their respects with the families that they have grown to care greatly for over the past two years. The families really appreciated the attendance at the funerals and the support provided by the Memory Café Team. Messages of thanks included:

"Thank you Jo and your volunteers for everything, all of your kindness"

"Thank you so much for all your care with Mum at the Memory Café & thank you to you all for attending the funeral. "

The Co Ordinator is working towards creating a policy for memorial plaques within the Sensory Garden for previous attendees of the Memory Café who have passed away.

Memory Café Activities

On the 26th of July the Memory Café had a quiz and bingo session, which was great fun and had everyone laughing and interacting.

On the 9th of August the Memory Café had something a little different and welcomed Karon, who brought her water paints along and the residents did their own interpretation of a sunflower. Karon talked a little about how painting became a hobby for her, about how to paint perspective and gave a step-by-step guide to each stage. This activity was very well received and went on for nearly 1.5 hours. It was lovely to see residents who sometimes are a little more reserved paint such lovely colorful pictures.



On the 23rd of August, the Memory Café welcomed Molly, who used to work for the Prospect Foundation and works with the Memory Café attendees and their companions to create a marvelous hanging sun catcher. This is a particularly special activity for the Memory Café as it has a little piece of art work from every resident forever.

Summer Tea Dance

On the 18th of August the Memory Café was really excited to be able to hold its first Vintage Tea Dance at GLL Haydon Centre, inviting those over 60 and those living with Dementia. Laura Sings and Erica Fowers from Swing Out Swindon sang and entertained everyone for the afternoon. Asda donated the tea, coffee, milk and sugar refreshments and the Memory Café Co Ordinator ordered fresh sandwiches and cream cakes.

The afternoon was absolutely fantastic and there was lots of singing, dancing and laughs around the room. Those more experienced at dancing networked with all participants and helped them with learning new moves and increasing their confidence. It was nice to meet new faces.

Abicare, a local care company within the Parish brought along some of the people they care for and joined in the fun.

Thank you to Councillors for supporting the event.

Working Towards

- Planning the official opening of the Sensory Garden.
- Hosting a Fish n Chip Friday for October.
- Activity planning for future Memory Café sessions from January – March
- Reviewing Memory Café budgets
- Training – Creating Dementia Inclusive Spaces / First Aid & Mental Health

Tangible Evidence

The statements within the report show how these sessions enrich people's lives and how the initiatives provided by the Parish Council support companions as they navigate through caring for loved ones who are living with dementia. And give them a sense of community and belonging. These events align to the community led plan in several ways, such as Dementia Friends, Listen Up and Senior Service categories within the *Haydon Wick: A Kind & Caring Place* category.

Memory Café Pictures

Thank you very much to Shirley with her wonderful bakes that she brings to every Memory Café. The treats are always well received.





Painting Session



Vintage Tea Dance





Hanging sun catcher for the Sensory Garden

