

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	1 st April 2025
Report Title	Memory Café & Companion Café
Agenda Reference	6
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Memory Café Co Ordinator's Recommendations.

1. To note report.

February

Love was in the air at February the 12th Memory Café, as we embraced the Valentine's season with open hearts. The highlight of our gathering was a delightful musical performance by Nikki Pearce, who brought warmth and joy through her repertoire of romantic songs. What made the performance truly special was Nikki's personal approach, taking time to connect with each resident individually, creating meaningful moments of engagement.

The creative spirit flourished as residents participated in a unique craft activity, transforming ordinary wooden spoons into personalised works of art. Each spoon became a canvas for individual expression, with residents adding their own distinctive touches and personal flair.

February the 26th brought a variety of engaging activities to our rural community. Daisy delighted everyone with her musical talents, playing keyboard and singing lovely songs that lifted spirits throughout the gathering. Lin continued her commitment to community wellness by leading her regular exercise sessions, everyone enthusiastically participated, getting up and moving to improve their health and fitness. These activities enrich and promote physical well-being among attendees.

Our Popular Fish & Chip Friday made its triumphant return for 2025, proving once again to be one of our most popular events with another complete sell-out! Thames Avenue Chip Shop expertly provided the delicious fish and chips.

The atmosphere was uplifting as Cally Pearce took to the floor, transforming our dining experience into a vibrant musical journey through the decades. She had everyone swaying and singing along to timeless ABBA classics, a selection of hits from the 70s and 80s. The combination of classic British comfort food and nostalgic music created the perfect recipe for a fantastic social gathering.

March

Spring sprung in March, bringing renewed energy to our community gatherings. Nikki Pearce made a welcome return visit, guiding everyone through an exhilarating drumming experience that combined rhythmic percussion with spirited singing and marching. Nikki's natural talent for inclusion ensured that every participant felt valued and involved, regardless of their musical ability. Her entertaining approach created an atmosphere of joy and camaraderie. The session provided not only musical enrichment, but also physical activity and social connection, leaving participants uplifted and looking forward to the day ahead.

Thank you to local bakery Tru Delights for offering baked goods once per month to the sessions. This month we received Old School Tray Bake which went down a treat.

Companion Café

The Companion Café is flourishing as attendance continues to grow, cultivating the essential safe space and trust needed for effective community support. This welcoming environment has become a cornerstone for connection where participants feel comfortable sharing and engaging with one another. Meanwhile, Right at Home has stepped up to provide consistent support and entertainment specifically tailored for our residents living with dementia. Their thoughtfully designed programming features lively sing-alongs and a diverse selection of interactive games that keep everyone connected and mentally stimulated.

Our community has also benefited tremendously from an impressive lineup of guest speakers, including representatives from:

- Community Care
- Various private care companies
- Admiral Nurses
- Swindon Carers
- Local police officers
- Alzheimer's Swindon

These expert visitors have shared valuable insights, resources, and guidance, further enriched our support network, and ensured community members have access to comprehensive information about available services.

Working Towards

- More networking within the Dementia care resources
- Initiating work on community noticeboards to increase local awareness of both café programs
- Keep promoting with the new attendees out of the Parish the donation offering
- On going recruitment of volunteers for the Memory Café (back up), Sensory Garden team, Companion Café
- Exploring new venue options, for the Vintage Tea Dance & Barn Dance
- The ongoing building of the Companion Café, and expert speaker
- Looking for new entertainment ideas
- Working on the Community plot, once the GMF is finished
- Safeguarding training (Level 3)
- Attending The Care Show at the Doubletree Hilton (2nd April)
- Hosting the Virtual Dementia Bus training in house
- Planning another Fish and Chip Friday for later in the year
- Working with other Memory Cafes on another Decade Disco
- Attending more SBC Memory Café Meetings

Memories from the Memory Café



Companion Café Pictures

