

Meeting	Community Development Committee
Date	3 rd February 2026
Report Title	Memory Café & Companion Café
Agenda Reference	7a
Author	Jo Newman Memory Café & Community Coordinator

Memory Café Co Ordinator's Recommendations.

1. To note report.

Memory Café

December brought an abundance of Christmas cheer to the Memory Café, creating a warm and celebratory atmosphere that delighted all who attended.

The month's festivities began with a special visit from local bellringers, whose traditional sounds filled the space with the unmistakable spirit of the season. Their performance provided a wonderful opportunity for members to enjoy live music and connect with this cherished Christmas tradition.

A highlight of the month was the appearance of Father Christmas himself, who generously assisted with the raffle. His presence added an element of magic and nostalgia to the proceedings, much to the delight of attendees. The raffle proved to be both entertaining and successful, with Father Christmas helping to create memorable moments for all involved.

Musical entertainment was provided by Nikki, whose selection of Christmas songs brought additional warmth and joy to the café.

January kicked off with an energetic drumming session at the memory café, led by Nikki, which got everyone's hands moving in rhythm. The room came alive with beats and laughter as residents tapped into their cognitive abilities and coordination skills, proving that making music together is both therapeutic and great fun. It was wonderful to see everyone connecting through the universal language of rhythm, with smiles all around as they discovered their inner drummers. What a fantastic way to start the year – setting the tone for more engaging, joyful activities to come

Companion Café

The Companion Café was delighted to welcome Tim, our Admiral nurse, who brought his characteristic warmth and expertise to create a truly enriching experience for all attendees.

Tim's genuine understanding and extensive knowledge shone throughout the session as he thoughtfully addressed the numerous questions posed by participants. His approachable manner and comprehensive responses ensured that every person felt valued and heard, transforming what could have been a routine information session into a meaningful dialogue. The wealth of practical insights Tim shared, combined with his ability to connect with each individual's concerns, left participants feeling both informed and supported.

Tim's presence exemplified the caring, professional approach that defines our service, making this Companion Café session particularly memorable and impactful for the community we have.

Working Towards

- Planning entertainment and activities for the community cafes
- Building the Companion Café as there is only one other facility available in the Borough and that is for all carers not specifically Dementia.
- Provide feedback forms for all the community cafes for the new year ahead
- Work on building new contacts for entertainment and talks
- Networking with other community projects
- Training up to date for the Co Ordinator and Volunteers
- Planning a new event for the summer for the over 60's and Memory Café.
- Get the Sensory garden up together in the Spring
- Finish off the extra add on to the Sensory Garden to invite the pre-school children over
- Recruit new volunteers
- Update volunteer files
- Find more guest speakers
- Planning a training session working with the Admiral nurses to provide information for the wider direct family, on changes, support, what to look out for etc

Memories from the Memory Café





Companion Café pictures

