

# HALE PLACE NEWS

ISSUE 18

DECEMBER 2019

## WHY DEVELOP A DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

A recent study in Britain revealed that one-third of people with dementia feel let down by their local communities and, as a consequence, trapped in their own home.

According to research from the Alzheimer's Society, 35% of people with dementia leave their homes once a week. What's more, about 10% go out only once a month.

People with dementia stay home because they feel like a burden to their communities. In turn, they become less independent and their quality of life suffers. This leads to more and more health issues that land them in care facilities.

The research identified community awareness, and understanding, as critical to developing dementia-friendly communities so people could remain active, valued and involved within their community without feeling isolated and burdensome.

In an effort to help people with dementia feel more included, cities and towns are transitioning to dementia-friendly communities.

Essentially, these communities make a promise through words and actions to understand, respect and support the unique needs of people with dementia. The hope is that these individuals will feel more a part of their community and contribute more of their unique talents and skills.

Hale Place not only provides flexible services to people with dementia within the local community but is also heavily involved in transforming East Peckham into a dementia friendly community.

## HOW WE SUPPORT OUR DEMENTIA FRIENDLY COMMUNITY

In December, the East Peckham Dementia Friendly Community [DFC] project was formally launched by the Mayor and supported by Hale Place Care Solutions and the Parish Council. Sandra Edmonds, Kent County Council's Community Warden, leads the village steering group which we are delighted to be an active part of.



This initiative raises awareness and removes the stigma that is often linked to dementia; we all want everyone to be a valued, supported and respected member of our village.

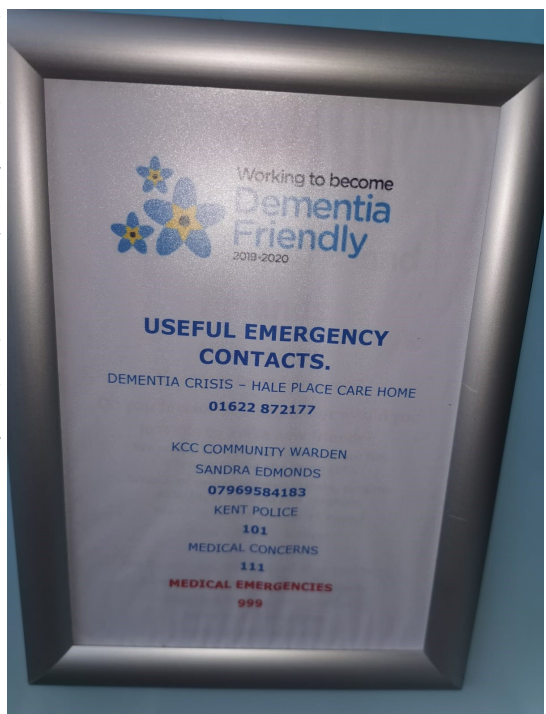
The DFC unveiled a project to support people who live with dementia by providing an information kiosk and a sensory flower bed in the heart of the village.

The Parish Council secured a decommissioned BT phone box and turned it into the village information hub, a central point in the village where people can go at any time, night and day, to find out clear information about the help, services and support which is available.

This information kiosk will support residents, especially if they are in crisis with a loved one with dementia, to be able to identify pathways for help. It can be used by family, carers, friends or worried neighbours who need to ask advice about someone they are concerned about.

Hale Place is the village's crisis centre (as displayed in this poster located within the kiosk) so that people who are lost or confused can be brought to our door for professional support, rather than calling the emergency services. We can also be called for advice and guidance 24 hours a day.

The majority of our employees have attended the Virtual Dementia Tour bus, which gives people an insight into what it's like to live with dementia. Empathy comes with understanding and walking in their shoes, viewing the world through their window.



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## WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

### *Silver Band*



We had an evening with the Silver band playing all the traditional Christmas tunes. Service users and staff were encapsulated by the musical set and everyone hummed and sang along. This wonderful evening launched us into the Christmas spirit and put a smile on our faces.

### *Community Choir*

We had another fabulous community choir attended by residents and people from the community. Of course it was Christmas themed and everyone participated, singing along and enjoying the dulcet tones of the Choir. Listen carefully and you will hear some melodious voices from our residents.



### *School Children*

The local school children had fun alongside our residents, decorating Christmas cookies. The young children's energy and enthusiasm radiates throughout the home and the service users are always engaged and uplifted by their presence.

## OLD ROAD FLOODING

### *Christmas Party Saturday 21st December*

The late decision to cancel the Christmas party turned out to be a wise one. Old Road flooded and was closed; some of the lanes were also closed and trees were down. Despite that, our amazing staff still managed to wade into work.

Staff all worked brilliantly over Christmas to ensure the residents had a wonderful few days. Christmas Dinner was cooked by Mandy and Rita with all the trimmings. Christmas films, music and The Queen's speech make it festive. Even Winston had his festive headband on!

## IMPROVEMENTS

New chairs arrived for the lounge at 79 and the wetroom in 77 looks fabulous.

New flooring in 79 has been booked for February and the final phase of the garden redesign is being considered for completion in the summer.

## WELCOME

### *Liz Amey*

Liz joined our senior care team bringing a wealth of experience, knowledge and a level 5 qualification to the table.

### *Angela Jenner*

Angela joined our valued housekeeping team and will strive to improve our high standards of cleanliness.

