



Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Services

March 2015

RAISING DEMENTIA AWARENESS, ONE DAY AT A TIME!

IN THIS ISSUE

Staff Update

by The Operations team

A busy month for our fundraising endeavours this month. We have held a very successful Quiz Night, a very scary Abseil and an amazing Afternoon Tea! There have been a number of new procedures put in place, improving the overlap and collaboration between Operations and Fundraising. This has dramatically improved our level of efficiency, but more importantly seeks to support Angela in achieving our really ambitious fundraising targets for 2015.

A new take on the Membership Scheme will be rolled out over the next few months. The new Membership Scheme will build upon and improve on the previous one, ensuring that our members feel valued and included, while getting something in return for their much appreciated support.

In other news, Kris has taken over the line management of Garden Lodge on a temporary basis. This will allow Carol to focus on Support at Home / Support at Home Plus / The Bridging Service in

preparation for a CQC audit. Both Kris and Carol will be working together to ensure that Garden Lodge continues to provide the quality service it always has done, whilst reviewing some of the procedures in place. One of the recent changes already making a massive difference is the new Invoicing Spreadsheet that all staff keep up to date on a daily basis. This spreadsheet has allowed us to invoice our clients at the beginning of the month and has greatly improved accuracy. This has not only improved our cash flow but has also improved their computer skills and access to statistics regarding the service.

Annette has sent out the enrolment keys to those staff who are starting their LearnDirect computer courses.

Have an Eggscellent Easter, there are chocolate eggs in our office for those of you who are passing!



Abseiling

On the 15th of March our Intrepid Adventurers battled the 135 ft Miller House In Maidstone

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Quiz Night

Find out what Garden Lodge has been up to this month

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Abseil

Extract From the KM

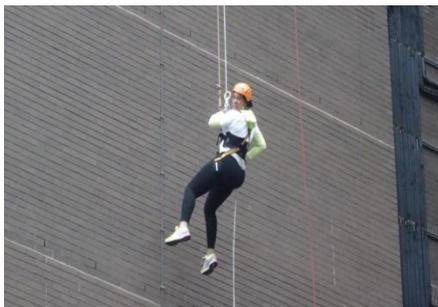
One hundred brave souls raised £18,000 for charity at the KM's spring abseil challenge on Mothering Sunday.

The fundraisers beat the 135 foot drop at Miller House in Maidstone town centre to the delight of onlookers below and boosted the charity pot for 22 good causes.

Jackie Cassar of Northfleet was the most successful individual fundraiser on the day with £580 for Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services. The Best Fancy Dress award went to Thanet's Richard Croucher – aka Spiderman – who supported the Caring for Connor campaign.

Elizabeth Berry, 66, from Ashford was the oldest participant to take the plunge and her chosen charity was Guide Dogs for the Blind. The youngest abseiler was Ben Bancroft, 16, of Margate who supported Kent Search and Rescue – KentOnline's charity of the year.

Staged by the KM Charity Team the sold-out abseil was supported by chartered accountants Day Smith and Hunter and Over the Edge Adventures.



Simon Dolby from the KM Charity Team said: "The day was a great success and everyone did themselves proud. Their enthusiasm for the event and for their charities was a joy to behold."

Pat Marshall, Guide Dogs for the Blind supporter, said: "I would just like to say a big thank you to everyone in your team who assisted me at the Maidstone abseil."

"I am totally blind. I found the instructions were excellent and the whole event very well organised. Although it was pretty hair-raising and scary I found the whole experience very exhilarating and a huge challenge. Thanks again for an exciting and challenging day."

Liz Jewell, 'I would like to say a big thank you to those who participated and those who supported this and all the fundraising / awareness raising events we are undertaking' it is important and does make a difference - THANK YOU!

Call for Help Saturday 2nd & Sunday 3rd May

Morrison's at Gravesend

We are looking for volunteers to hold a tin and give out information. Ideally we need at very least 2 people at a time on the following shifts for two days:

9 am – 11 am

11 am – 1 pm

1 pm – 3 pm

3 pm – 5 pm

Do you know of anyone who would volunteer to help with this? Please encourage them to get in touch. We need their help.

OUR SERVICES



Meopham Café

A big thank you to all who attended our Meopham Café at the new venue this month. Special thanks to The Mayor and Mayoress, John & Sue Caller, who managed to speak to everyone there. See you next month Tuesday 21st April. 10am



Hartley Café

One of our attendees, Mrs C Harris, at the Hartley Café held an Afternoon Tea to raise funds for us last Saturday. I attended with my wife to find standing room only! What a success!! The event raised £1,120.00 how fantastic!! A HUGE Thank You to all that helped backstage and all that attended.

SHARING IS CARING!

Is there an article you want to see in the next issue? Would you like to help write it?

PLEASE TALK TO ANNETTE OR JACKIE
01474 533990 EXT 209



I would like to say a big thank you to all of the quiz teams who participated in our first ever Quiz Night! It was a roaring success, in more ways than one (it was amazing how many of you were up on technology if you know what I mean (Wink Wink!))

It was interesting to see you all totally absorbed with the vast range of questions and it was fun to watch the group con-flabs, disagreements and almost divorce in one of the teams!

We raised a fabulous amount of money through our raffle and Heads & Tails challenge - **£380**.

A big thank you must go to the staff at the Battle of Britain pub and quiz masters Paul & Mandy, and also to Wendy & Geoff – I couldn't have done it without you!

The winning team was the **Quizzie Rascals** who reigned supreme at the end of the night with a score of 86.5. We must also put our hands together for the not so high scorers on the night, **The Odd Jobs**, who scored 49.75.

So if you feel you have what it takes to get your name on the Quiz shield tell your family & friends and join us for the next Quiz Night on Friday 19th June.

Angela Farrell – Fundraising Coordinator

Care Act 2014

Brought into effect 1st April 2015

Some information regarding this act is highlighted below. If you would like to learn more about this, then please come into the office to discuss. This act will be explained in more detail in next month's news letter. Major changes to the care system in England are being introduced in what is being dubbed the biggest shake-up for 60 years.

The Care Act 2014 includes rights for those receiving care and those who provide it to their loved ones. It includes standards for access to services from care homes to help in the home for tasks such as washing and dressing. Four major changes are being introduced:

- The creation of national eligibility criteria establishing for the first time when someone should be entitled to help - to date, it has been up to councils to set their own criteria
- A duty on councils to offer schemes by which those who need to pay for residential care can get a loan from their local council, which is then paid back from their estate after death.
- Giving carers, for the first time, the same right to assessment and support as the people they care for; before, they had to provide "substantial care on a regular basis" to get an assessment
- Those who pay for care themselves will be entitled to go to councils to get advice and information about the care system.

To help protect people's assets, a cap on care costs they have to pay for - set at £72,000 for the over-65s - will kick in from April 2016. The changes mark a major milestone in care services, which experts say have hardly changed since the current system was created along with the NHS after the Second World War.

ShopSafe Scheme

by Operations Team

Please be aware that there is a scheme now available to help vulnerable people: - **Shop Safe ID Scheme** which has been running in Gravesham since December 2013. The Scheme is ideal for people who are elderly or have a disability or condition such as dementia, although anyone of any age can register. There are currently around 200 members and it is particularly popular where an older relative does not speak English as a first language.

The member's details are stored on a secure database and they receive a key fob with a membership number on it, while a relative can have a matching credit card-sized card holding the same ID number. A carer can also be individually registered in their own right. The fob and card do not reveal an address or personal details to protect scheme members from abuse.

If a member ever needs assistance when they are visiting Dartford or Gravesend town centres or Bluewater, they can seek help in a shop, café or restaurant that displays a Shop Safe Stay Safe sticker.

The 24-hour helpline is hosted by St George's Shopping Centre who will match the ID number with the personal information that has been securely registered, in order to provide an effective response to the person's need at that time.



Front and back of the ShopSafe card and fob, showing the ShopSafe logo that appears in the window of participating businesses.

If you come across anyone you think would benefit from the scheme please do encourage them to contact Sophie Jordan, the G SAFE Coordinator on 01474 337154 for more details.

NEWS IN BRIEF



Mothering Sunday.

Lynda and Karen went to Morrisons the day before Mothering Sunday and managed to get an amazing 20 Balloons donated for our clients in Garden Lodge. A huge thank you to you both!



Photo of the Month

Photo of the Month comes from Karen, who was sporting a very fashionable dummy. Thanks Karen for keeping us and all of our Service Users entertained.



Dementia Buddy

This month we held a painting session with one of our Dementia Buddys and a couple of patients. Here is an example of their amazing art work.

CEO's Thoughts

by Liz Jewell

We are definitely living through some exciting times!

ADMIRAL NURSES

I am really pleased to let you know that we have been asked, by the CCG, to host two Admiral Nurses to work in Dartford, Gravesham & Swanley as well as Swale. They will be a great addition to the team providing us with a clinical background we have not had in the past. The plan is for our services to be integrated in the primary health care pathways for people living with cognitive impairment & dementia. If we are to reach more people and secure a future for our services this is a great development. We will start recruiting in the next few weeks – so do watch this space.



PREMISES

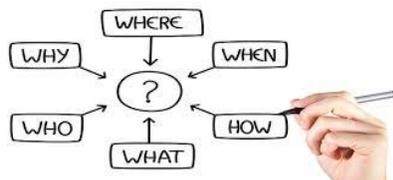
We are also still in negotiation with KCC regarding the Age UK Building on Coldharbour Road and I believe we will be able to make a deal in the relatively near future – it has already taken 18 months, so waiting a little while longer will be worth the wait if all goes to plan.

POLICY REVIEW

The focus over the next few months is to undertake a policy review and ensure we have in place the policies and procedures we need to support an excellent service.



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We are also looking at a comprehensive induction programme, linked to the Certificate of Care to ensure all new and existing staff have the information, training and ongoing support to do their job well. This is very much linked to ongoing professional development and we are committed as an organization to provide quality opportunities for individuals to develop their skills and competencies to progress their career.



TWILIGHT SESSIONS

In the next quarter we will start to run twilight sessions on topics that staff have identified as being useful in their daily work. If you have any suggestions of what you would like to see provided – please let me or Kris know.

NOMINATIONS

I am not aware of anyone, other than Kris and myself, having nominated anyone for special recognition for going over and beyond what is expected. I know how committed you all are and how on a regular basis you do over and above – so please start taking note and nominate some of the unsung heroes in this organisation.

This month I would like to make a special mention of **Angela Farrell** – she is only working as a fundraiser for 1 day a week and last month she pulled off three new fundraising initiatives – helping to raise very valuable unrestricted funds. I know Angela has definitely done over and above to make this all possible and I want to **thank her** for all her efforts.

To nominate send an email to me liz.jewell@alz-dem.org and /or Kris Healey kris.healey@alz-dem.org with the following information;

- Name of the person you are nominating
- What they did?
- What made it so special for you?