



SDAA Newsletter

July 2026

This newsletter is formed from reports from members of the
Selsey Dementia Action Alliance on 28th July 2026

To find out more about any of the items, contact: sdaa@selseycommunityforum.uk

- ✿ **Mike Nicholls** - welcomed everyone to the meeting.
There was one apology and a report will be sent to update us.

- ✿ **Karen Halford** – Karen has seen a massive increase on help needed with money support and housing this month. Since the change in the law on 1st May regarding The Renters' Rights Act, Landlords are selling due to the new law and there has been an increase in people needing housing. Sue Boucher is also very busy helping clients with housing needs.
Karen has also been supporting a couple who live in Vision House on the 1st Floor and are unable to use the stairs and there is no lift. Karen also did a Pension Credit application for a gentleman on Thursday while at the medical practise. As Karen was completing the application online it asked if he wanted to apply for housing benefit and council tax relief at the same time, so of course they applied for all benefits. Hopefully he's got pension credit coming given the amount of pension he receives but not sure about the other benefits.

- ✿ **Karen Pirks** – Busy with applying for Disability Living Allowance for families with children with disabilities. We get a lot of referrals for those and they're usually quite complex but we've been successful so far so we keep getting the referral history and some including housing issues, so I reach out to different people like Sue Boucher and Richard over in the Witterings for guidance really because that's not my speciality. I'm learning quickly. I think more of my clients are becoming more successful with their claims.

- ✿ **Ronelle Juleff** – It's a been a busy month with Befriending. We have had 2 new ladies attending Together Time. One lady has just moved to the area and is brought by her daughter. Another lady from Seaview Court, who has slight dementia, attends Together Time, Venture Club and ResBite Teas. There are fewer attending at the moment as they are away with their families.

- ✿ **Deirdre Timney, Alzheimer's** – We are now up to full strength with staff in West Sussex, which gives us more time to get out into the community and support carers of loved ones with dementia. We have 2 new carers joined the Selsey group. One lady from Bracklesham bought by another lady, an original member and carer who attended, and a gentleman who cares for his wife that I

persuaded to come when I met him in the memory clinic. We are having a push forward to attract more carers. A new poster has been printed and will be distributed. Deirdre will attend the Mens' and Ladies Breakfast in future. Mike said he understood there is a Sage House Wayfinder over in the Witterings but Mike wondered if Deirdre could persuade carers to come to Selsey from Witterings and Bracklesham. Mike also said we were considering a Carers Support Group in Witterings but currently any other carers could attend the Selsey group. Deirdre agreed it could be possible and is happy to receive referrals.

✿ **Richard Lamdin, Beacon Church** - Breakfast at Caraways House has recently experienced falling numbers so it was good to see that at the last meeting we had four more that had not booked. It will be essential in future, that people who wish to attend should register in advance to enable the Chef at Caraway to prepare enough food for the number attending. It's good to hear conversations between them and it's also an opportunity for them to talk about their journeys. There's one gentleman that's attends and it's the only group he goes to. He used to be the manager of Goodridge's in Chichester, and he obviously would have been mixing with guys every day. Now he doesn't, he's extracted from that into retirement, so going to something like men's breakfast is immensely valuable for him. That was just one example of a conversation today, and how much it is appreciated. The church is fine we've got a new pastor starting in September. ResBite Tea on a Sunday continues to be popular, and we enjoy good support from several churches in Selsey and volunteers that will serve and help those attending. We had 40 to 50 at the last one. We get healthy numbers each time and we know they just enjoy getting out and mixing. It's very similar to Together Time which meets a need like Sunday afternoons' ResBite Teas.

✿ **Corinna and Paula, Sussex Grange Home Care** – We have been very busy which is very good. We've recruited more new staff. Also, we have been voted one of the top 20 Hand Care in handcarereview.co.uk this year so that's throughout South East Sussex. We held a little buffet at the start of the day to say thank you to all the staff at a team meeting. Just a celebration to thank everyone. That's pretty good news, they've worked so hard for that. It's been quite frantic the last couple of months so much so that at one point I worked 28 days without a break. We have now employed a lot of new staff which is working very well and we can get on and do our jobs.

✿ **Kellie Barker - Sussex Grange Residential Care Home**

As always, at Sussex Grange our residents and day guests have continued to enjoy a wonderful range of activities, from our regular monthly favourites to some very special occasions that have made this month one to remember! We firmly believe in creating moments, making memories, and where possible, finding reasons to celebrate, and this month certainly gave us plenty of opportunities to do that.

One of the month's many highlights was sharing in the wedding celebrations of one of our professional caregivers. In a move that can only be described

as dedication above and beyond, she visited the care home directly after her wedding ceremony to show the residents her beautiful wedding dress. Fresh from saying "I do," she spent time with everyone, allowing us all to share her special day with her. This incredibly thoughtful gesture brought many smiles, happy tears and heartfelt **congratulations**. Photographs are available on our social media page.

Leading up to this incredible day, the residents joined her in what some may call a hen party. However, rather than the usual party games, our celebration was more of a combined masterclass in marriage, as our residents happily shared decades of wisdom, advice and stories from their many happy married years. There was no shortage of valuable guidance for the bride-to-be.

We have been actively recruiting and successfully filled an internal supervisor role. We have been working closely with the elderly dementia support team who have been wonderful in supporting us. This week we had our West Sussex County Council Fire inspection, and it went very well.

We have availability for day guests, please call the office for any enquiries. Looking forward to the summer holidays!

Mike mentioned that we've have a number of contacts in Caraway Care Home now aren't we. Corinna and Paula also added that Sussex Grange do Day Care from Monday to Friday. This can be an ideal way of introducing someone to being in a care home, if residential care would ever be needed in the future. That person would slowly get to know the staff, the environment and build a rapport, The thought of residential care becomes less scary. It can be a valuable step.

Karen P asked Paula about clients becoming comfortable in residential care it's a good way for them to get used to being a in a residential home. It gives people a chance to feel comfortable in that environment. I've got two clients who are well known in the community and they both go to Sing Your Heart Out, the Dementia Choir. They go to a choir with their partner with their wives they attend on a Monday afternoon. Recently their needs have changed quite significantly but they both want to carry on doing something that they love together. Belinda has just reached out and asked if we can offer some support on a regular basis just to get them over the next 6-8 weeks from September into the concert in November. So we need a consistent team around on Mondays to help. Having just emailed out we are hoping some volunteers will step forward and we can create that little team but just to give them a bit more well it's guidance and this is keeping them on track returning pages so the wives can actually relax and enjoy their session but equally the chaps are enjoying it too, like Befriending.

Any Other Business

The item on the agenda for The Buddies Day Centre has changed to The Care Pod and the item on the agenda has now been removed.

The New Care Shop in The Witterings is on course to open on the 1st September 2026. Today we have made an application to The Charity Commission to register them as a charity/ and we are hoping that will go through without a hitch.

Karen Halford said we were lucky to have a work experience young lady, Isabelle, helping out recently. She had been visiting her grandparents and they encouraged her to get involved with the Care Shop. She helped quite a bit with Ronelle's groups and also in the Care Shop. She was a bit shy to begin with but very soon found her confidence and was a real asset. She is doing her GCSE's when she returns to school.

Mike thanked everyone who attended. We have a mix of people in Selsey who have cognitive impairment and mixing in with our activities and we are grateful to our residential homes for what they do. The Malthouse and The Bill House attend the All Our Yesterdays on a Thursday supported by The Venture Club who provide transport, and this group has become very popular.

🌸 **Next Meeting:** 22nd September at 5.00pm at the Cabin, Beacon church.