Community and Partnership Project Award

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**Nomination:** Jacqueline Fuller  
Kent County Council (Kent Community Warden Deputy Team Leader)

**Reason for Nomination:**

Jacqueline Fuller had put together a pilot photography project in aid to support Gravesend Alzheimer's and Dementia Support Services to deliver a creative and therapeutic program.

Gravesham Community Safety Unit funded (at Jacqueline’s request) the Blake Gallery at Woodville Halls to display the Photos at the end of the project.

Jacqueline also provided cameras to ensure all attendees were able to take part within the project.

Project objectives is to provide those living with the early onset of Dementia an alternative to a possible loss of communication and enhance an awareness of their environment.

To express emotion and language through pictures creatively and social interaction that can also contribute to stimulation of memory reference points.

These 2hr sessions are currently being run over a period of 8 weeks at various locations of the local Countryside.

As carers, family members have also taken part, this has contributed to elevating isolation and opening avenues to develop a new skill and hobby.

On occasions when the weather had been bad Jacqueline still went to the scheduled meeting point to see if anyone had turned up, when this has happened Jacqueline bought them a cup of tea and stayed and chatted to them to keep continuity and reduce any anxiety.

At the end of the program, there is a planned exhibition showing individuals chosen photographs to be displayed at the Woodville Halls Gravesend and the Safeharbour Hub, Northfleet.

Jacqueline had worked tirelessly to put this worthwhile project together enhancing the lives of those living well with Dementia and their carers, the locations used locally may have not been visited before. The participants who have been asked have said they will most definitely use these the locations more in the future.

1 Photograph submitted.
Community and Partnership Project Award

Nomination: Elaine Ferris, Symone Salwan and Anton Tavernier-Gustave
Run, Walk or Push against Dementia

Reason for Nomination:
In 2016 Elaine Ferris from The Good Care Group, Symone Salwan from Home Instead Senior Care and Anton Tavernier-Gustave from Sevenoaks District Council partnered to plan big for Dementia Awareness Week 2017, something that would raise enough money to make a real difference in the area. It took a lot of work and planning and on the 14th May 2017 the vision was realised and the first *Run Walk or Push against Dementia* event came together in Knole Park Sevenoaks.

Designed as a family and community event, 500 people registered for either a 3k distance; completed by a cross section of people, quite a few buggies pushed by parents along with those seeking a gentle route. A 5k distance completed by children, whole families, short distance joggers and dogs! The 10 k runners were a little more competitive and most strived to achieve a good time. Very different people with diverse abilities but everyone took part for one cause. Everyone received a medal of thanks, everyone had a good time and wanted to do it again next year!

Our community event raised **£4500**, the Sevenoaks Area Dementia Friendly Community Forum have set up a constitution and the money will be used for local dementia friendly projects and initiatives. Organisations and community groups will be able to bid for funding and we are delighted to say the good work has begun.

The money will fund two existing Forget-me-Not café’s in Edenbridge and Westerham for a further year, it has also funded the launch of a new Forget-me-not Café in Knole House Sevenoaks. The first two café’s support over 50 people living with dementia and their carers, the new café is expected to support a further 20 people. There are more initiatives and how to apply for funding on the way.

Testimonials - JB ran with a picture of his mother pinned to his shirt, he thanked us because he could make a difference locally in her memory. Three generations of one local family ran in support of father grandfather, great grandfather; 93 years old living with dementia.

Local business support and Volunteers - Sevenoaks Ladies Joggers gave great support with planning routes, warmups and encouragement. Tesco Sevenoaks provided water and bananas, Creative Solutions provided printing and creative. The Sevenoaks Chronicle partnered with Sevenoaks District Council to raise awareness before and after the event with articles featuring runners and their reasons for taking part. This further raised awareness of dementia services, local support networks and understanding. We had the support of many volunteers who gave up their time,
marshalled the event and without whom it would not have been possible to achieve the events success.

We are already planning next year’s **Run Walk or Push against Dementia**, we look forward to welcoming Sevenoaks community support who will help to achieve even more initiatives in 2018, raise awareness, change attitudes and spread the understanding that people can live well with dementia.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kHy2NA9ql98

5 Photograph’s submitted.
Community and Partnership Project Award

Nomination: Bethan Minter Tunbridge Well Knit appeal
Creative Learning Manager – Tunbridge Wells Assembly Hall

Reason for Nomination:

The Tunbridge Wells Knit Appeal was an initiative led by Bethan Minter, Creative Learning Manager at the Assembly Hall Theatre in partnership with Tunbridge Wells Dementia Forum and many local organisations in Tunbridge Wells during the run up to Dementia Awareness Week 2017. The aim of the project was to raise awareness of dementia, encouraging local people to Knit together against dementia by making and donating the Twiddle Mitts which can provide practical support for people living with dementia.

Twiddle Mitts are knitted or crochet tubes made with different textures and colours, with many items, such as beads, buttons and ribbons, attached that can be twiddled. They can help to reduce anxiety in people living with dementia, by occupying restless hands.

The Knit Appeal was developed through conversations within the Tunbridge Wells Dementia Forum and particularly with Barbara Cobbold from Tunbridge Wells Over Fifties Forum, who suggested a craft project making twiddle mitts, based on their previous experience. From this, the idea of running a Dementia Awareness Week Knit Appeal in Tunbridge Wells began.

The project was launched by Bethan in April with a website, social media, knitting pattern leaflets and several articles in the Times of Tunbridge Wells, including a fantastic double page spread. By early May the word was spreading through the whole community. The first visitor to the Alzheimer’s Society Roadshow Bus on 4th May was a lady wearing a hijab and asking for a knitting pattern. This was followed by a visit from the Iman, who wanted to find out more about dementia.

In response to a Twitter conversation with Royal Victoria Place shopping Centre (RVP) and requests through the appeal website, Bethan ran 2 pop up knitting and crochet workshops on the 11th May. This was made possible with amazing support from RVP, who provided a window space for 3 weeks and a workshop space; Janet Jones from FullaBeanies, who gave her time to help teach; Cook Kitchen, who provided free cake for participants and Trinity Theatre, who loaned chairs for the workshops. We had 10 participants on the day, and many people stopping by to ask questions and discuss their concerns about dementia.

The project ran from the 18th April to the 31st May, with over 120 twiddle mitts donated to our supporting centres, the Tunbridge Wells Gateway and Tunbridge Wells Library. We’re utterly thrilled with the brilliant response from our first ever knit appeal, and look forward to running more in the future.
The mitts have been donated to 3 fantastic local care centres: Highlands House, Capel Grange and Cornford House who received 39 mitts each. The remaining mitts have been donated directly to individuals in need, who were nominated throughout the appeal.

‘Just to say many thanks for the mitts, I will ensure they will go to a good homes’ Claire Gainsford, Community Health Care Worker, Highlands House

‘Thank you very much, our residents love them! So bright and colourfull!’ Lorraine Cousins, Manager, Cornford House.

3 Photographs submitted.
Community and Partnership Project Award

Nomination: Faversham Dementia Action Alliance

Reason for Nomination:

In November 2016, Dementia Action Alliance Faversham developed a new-style dementia awareness-raising event called ‘Dementia: Ask the Experts’. The project was designed to bridge a knowledge and awareness gap in regards to latest research, effective care solutions and locally available support services.

The event was originally planned in direct response to a request by one of the members of Dementia Action Alliance Faversham, Melvyn Brooks, who is himself affected by Frontotemporal Dementia and represents East Kent Forget Me Nots peer support group on the Alliance. The event was divided into two parts. A marketplace of local services and drop-in exhibition was open from 10am-1pm. Between 11am-12.30pm, there were specialist speaker talks followed by a Question and Answer panel discussion.

The panel comprised 4 speakers with different areas of expertise:

- Professor Paul Whiting, Chief Scientific Officer, Alzheimer’s Research UK - to explore current research projects being undertaken, offering hope for the future.

- Reinhard Guss, consultant Clinical Psychologist – to discuss the benefits of ‘psychosocial interventions' with people affected by dementia and to offer some practical ‘take-away’ ideas and tips on how to help loved ones.

- Val Prosser, Elderly and vulnerable client specialist, Furley Page Solicitors; Accredited Member of Solicitors for the Elderly - to discuss Lasting Powers of Attorney; advising Court appointed deputies and attorneys; NHS Continuing Healthcare assessments and appeals; Care fees funding; Welfare benefits and appeals.

- Tracey Shorthouse, Kent resident affected by dementia - to talk about her personal experience from diagnosis to the present day.

The event was fully subscribed, with the large hall filled to capacity. It attracted members of the public, including people affected by dementia and their carers, plus interested professionals from the health and social care sector.

The comments received from participants were all very positive:

“I didn’t realise that there was so much support available locally. It was really reassuring.” (Local resident) “I wanted to save a massive well done and thank you for putting on a superb event last week! Myself and our volunteers have attended many events and yours was definitely the best we have attended in a number of years. It had a great mix of both professionals and people living with and caring for people with dementia and the talks were all very interesting. So big pat on the back, well done.”
“One of the best organised events I have attended.” (Area Manager, Alzheimer’s Society) The only financial costs associated with the project related to individual partners printing a few posters to put up prior to the event.

As part of the project, a Resource Pack for Event Organisers was created to help other areas to host their own ‘Ask the Experts’ events.

Local Dementia Action Alliance groups have since replicated ‘Dementia: Ask the Experts’ in other areas of Kent. It is hoped that this innovative format will be recognised in the Dementia Friendly Kent Awards to spread this awareness-raising model even further.

5 Photographs submitted.
Community and Partnership Project Award

Score Sheet: Please score each nomination 1-10

The more you like it ☺ The Higher you score it

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Please Also fill in the below and return to:

Laura Summers | Project Officer – Community Support | Strategic Commissioning | Social Care, Health and Wellbeing | Kent County Council | Third Floor, Invicta House, Maidstone, Kent, ME14 1XX

Or you can call Laura and leave her a message on 07825 712701 and she will call you back (Tues-Thurs)

Or email her at Laura.Summers2@kent.gov.uk

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