

Dementia-Friendly Parishes around the Yealm

By Councillor Liz Hitchins, chairman of
Brixton Parish Council and Dementia-
Friendly Parishes around the Yealm



Dementia Friendly Parishes *around the Yealm*

- Five Rural Parish Councils - – Wembury, Brixton, Yealmpton, Newton & Noss and Holbeton - working together in South Devon

Purpose to:-

- Support people living with dementia and their families remain actives and involved in their community (make new friends, take up new activities).
- Raising awareness about dementia with local organisations across the communities

Background

- Now in its 8th year and has been linked to over 130 families
- Started as community project with working group with representatives from each of the 5 Parish Councils, Plymouth University, Alzheimer's Society, Devon Carers, South Hams CVs This group has evolved into the Board of Trustees when we became a charity in 2018 Parish Council representatives are now Trustees



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Created two jobs – contributing to the local economy

- Project Coordinator currently supporting 44 families individually and in groups,
- Project Support Worker funded by Awards for all supports all our inclusive group activities

How funded? –

- small grants from parish councils, district council and county council, grant applications to major national trusts charities. Local fundraising and sponsorship.

Publicity

- leaflets and poster, regular articles in village magazines, Facebook and website www.dementiayealm.org



- Four Rivers Dementia Alliance is an Alliance of one town council and 19 parish councils around the market town of Ivybridge in South West Devon.
- **Purpose**
- is to improve the lives of people living with dementia and their families by raising awareness,
- reduce stigma by sharing ideas, promoting good practice
- share and develop resources and partnership projects to build a dementia friendly area



- Fully constituted Committee with bank account. Members of the committee include parish and/or district council representatives from the 19 parish councils and the town council, the Alzheimer's Society, Dementia Friendly Parishes around the Yealm, Filo Project, Memory Café in Ivybridge and community centres.
- In February 2018 we held a conference 'Let's talk about dementia in our community' -speakers were Sir Gary Streeter MP, Ian Sherriff, Plymouth University, Devon Chairman of WIs and a local GP attended by 80 people including people living with dementia and their families.
- Through Awards for All we have a grant to employ a support worker to whose purpose is to visit all 19 Parish Councils and the town council to promote dementia friendly communities; and to support them in their work locally recognising that each community is different and will need an individual approach. Also applied for funding from local District Councillors to promote dementia friendly signage (Alzheimer's Society) in all public buildings across the area.



South Hams District Council

South Hams Dementia Forum

- South Hams District Council at its council meeting on the 19th December 2019 resolved 'That the authority work towards becoming a 'Dementia Friendly Council'.
- South Hams Dementia Friendly Forum was set up in 2019 led by a District Councillor and Officer. The membership comprises the South Hams District Council – members and officers, Four Rivers Dementia Alliance, Kingsbridge Dementia Alliance, Dartmouth Caring, Totnes Caring, South Hams CVS, Alzheimer's Society, The Filo Project, Devon Carers, Adult Social Care and others

The purpose of this group is to:

- bring about a community wide response to dementia across the district of South Hams;
- work in collaborations to improve the lives of people living with dementia and their families across the South Hams District by building inclusive dementia friendly communities

How ;

- by building links with the District Council, local statutory and voluntary organizations
- update and exchange information on projects
- share skills, knowledge and best practice
- raise issues of mutual concern with a view to seeking resolution
- support national and local strategies for people living with dementia and their families