

The Dementia Forward Messenger

Helpline: 03300 578592

Website: www.dementiaforward.org.uk

**Dementia
Forward**

Your North Yorkshire Charity
Care and Support for Life
Registered charity number 1148225

Welcome to our December Issue

November started in style with our Winter Ball, a fabulous evening where over 175 guests came to support Dementia Forward and raise an incredible £10,000 towards our services. Everyone got into the spirit of the evening, including the wonderful Molly, pictured right, who loved the photobooth! The ball will be back next year and is growing in popularity, which is wonderful.

This month we also started our festive celebrations. We were delighted by the response to our Community Christmas Tree project, and thanks to all our supporters and knitters and crochets of North Yorkshire, we have been able to build two stunning trees - one in Scarborough and one in Settle. They are proper collaborative projects, and are raising awareness of dementia, of what communities can achieve when they work together, and of how crafting skills are very much alive and well. The remainder of the squares will be used to make additional trees, and at the end of the project will be sewn together to make blankets. See the trees (below) at the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough and at St John's Church in Settle.

Please note, our Christmas closing times. Our Helpline will close for Christmas on the 23rd December at 4pm. It will reopen on the 2nd January at 9am. If you attend any of our cafes or Hub Clubs, our local staff will let you know about closing dates. If you need any dementia support during our closing times, please call 111, the North Yorkshire and York Social Services Emergency Duty Team on 0300 131 2131 or if you are in the East Riding, call the Safeguarding Adults out-of-hours duty team on (01377) 241273.



Save the Date - North Yorkshire Dementia Conference

We are planning a conference on the Future for Dementia Care in North Yorkshire, in partnership with Saint Cecilia's Care Group. The conference will be held at the Scarborough Rugby Club on May 22nd 2026. We will bring more details very soon.



Service Update

To make sure we are truly listening and representing the people we support, we are launching new co-creation groups across North Yorkshire. Co-creation means working with you - the people who use our services - so your ideas, experiences, and perspectives directly shape and improve what we do. These groups will be known as Dementia Forward Voices (or DF Voices)



We held our first DF Voices group this month in Harrogate and had 12 attendees. We will be looking at different themes each session. Suggestions from the first group included website design, a leaflet to show that you can still live well after a diagnosis and exploring the language used around dementia. We are really looking forward to developing DF Voices and rolling out these groups to every district. We want to make the groups as accessible as possible, so will aim to have a mixture of in-person and online meetings. If you are interested in being involved, please contact Ellie Clayton on 01765 601224 or email ellie.clayton@dementiaforward.org.uk.

Service Spotlight

The Poppleton Hub Club, is one of our weekly day services, and it runs out of the beautifully converted Church Hall at Poppleton Methodist Church, every Tuesday from 10am to 3pm. Run by Dementia Activity Support Workers Paul and Helen, with a lovely team of volunteers, the group is always full of smiles, fun and laughter. They get involved in all sorts of activities, from singing to card making, crafts to boccia. The church is also a great community venue - there is a Community Cafe, Coffee on the Green, which is open 10am to 4pm on Mondays and Tuesdays, serving delicious homemade food, and they also hold regular charity coffee mornings on Saturdays. There will be one for Dementia Forward in May 2026. Poppleton village also has an annual Christmas custom. Three knitted nativity figures are taken around the local shops and businesses - to encourage people to remember the traditional Christmas story. On Tuesday 2nd December they visited the Hub Club (right).



Local groups and activities

Harewood House are holding Dementia Friendly relaxed afternoons every Wednesday over the Christmas period. It's a great opportunity to see the stunning Christmas decorations when it is a little bit quieter and calmer. You can book online at www.harewood.org or by calling 0113 218 1010.

Esk Valley Railway are doing a Christmas Jumper Special of their **Forget-Me-Not train** on Wednesday 17th December. The train starts from Whitby station at 12 noon, arriving in Middlesbrough at 1.30pm. The return journey will be 2.04pm from Middlesbrough station arriving back in Whitby at 3.37pm. As it is also a normal service train, you can join at any station along the line. Find out more about this and future dates for the Forget-Me-Not Train on the Esk Valley website or by calling 07584 419114.

Fiona's Education Sessions

The next **Understanding Dementia** session with Fiona will be on Thursday 29th January at 7pm. Email fiona.andrews@dementiaforward.org.uk if you would like the link to attend this online session.

Healthwatch Survey

Healthwatch want to understand how well people are supported at their health appointments, including any positive experiences, adjustments offered, or barriers faced. You can share your views on the Healthwatch North Yorkshire website, or you can ask to receive a copy of the survey by post, by calling 01423 788128 or emailing hello@hwny.co.uk

Christmas at Dementia Forward

We are getting into the Christmas spirit across North Yorkshire with various events which we would love to invite you to, from coffee mornings to quiz nights. See our Dates for the Diary below or visit the Events Page of our website to see what is happening near you.



A Christmas Carol

We had a magical festive evening with a dramatic rendition of Dickens' classic, intertwined with Christmas music sung beautifully by The Yorkshire Decibelles and soloist Milly Lennox. John Middleton, a well known face to many from Hollyoaks and Emmerdale, was the perfect narrator for the evening, creating a wonderful ghostly atmosphere, which finished on the perfect festive high, with carols and congregational singing.



Cards and Calendars

Dementia Forward's Christmas Cards and 2026 Calendars are now on sale! Our calendars are made up of photographs submitted from our supporters from each month throughout the year, showcasing the beauty of North Yorkshire. You can purchase them at our services or online via our Website.



Ripon Rotary Bike Ride

As a result of the contribution made from riders and sponsors in the 2025 Rotary Bike Ride, the rotary were able to receive a match funded award to enable the purchase of 6 new laptops for our Dementia Support Advisors. Thank you!



South Cliff Golf Club

We would like to thank South Cliff Golf Club in Scarborough for supporting Dementia Forward through their captain's charity for the year. They raised a fantastic £1,652.70 through various quizzes, raffles and charity matches.

Northallerton Christmas Tree

At All Saints Parish Church in Northallerton we have designed and dressed another tree with baulbles showing our members enjoying all kinds of activity in our Hub!



Musical Things!

- The Harrogate Theatre Choir are hosting '**It's THE Christmas Concert**' featuring lots of festive favourites and more! Only a few tickets are remaining so book your place quickly. Saturday 13th December, West Park Centre Harrogate, Tickets £12
- Since Duncan Goodwin's feature on 'The Piano', he has continued sharing his passion through various events and concerts in aid of Dementia Forward. On February 14th, we are hosting a Valentine's Day special concert, '**Love is in the Air**' celebrating all kinds of love, between friends, families and communities. Saturday 14th February, West Park Centre Harrogate, Tickets £10.
- Fancy singing **The Messiah**? Professional soloists, Jessica Harper and Julian Hubbard will be leading a workshop in Settle, rehearsing in the afternoon, performing in the evening. The retiring collection is in aid of Dementia Forward. Saturday 14th March, Settle Parish Church, Tickets £15





How to support your local North Yorkshire charity



As a local charity, we rely on the donations and kindness from our local communities to be able to provide our services, for those living with dementia and their loved ones. Our ethos of 'local for local' support ensures that every donation made to Dementia Forward will be spent within North Yorkshire.

Here are some of the ways you can support us:

- **Online Donations**
- **Regular Giving**
- **Give in Celebration**
- **Legacies**
- **Fundraising Event**
- **Payroll Giving**
- **Corporate Support**
- **In Memory**

To find out more about how you can support us, please visit www.dementiaforward.org.uk/donations/ or call 03300 578592

Join our Numbers Club!

Donate just £2 per month and be entered into a monthly prize draw.

Winners will receive 25% of the monthly income. All other proceeds will go directly towards running our services. To find out how your donation helps us, and for terms and conditions, visit the Numbers Club page on our website www.dementiaforward.org.uk

December's Winning Number: 13



Dates for the Diary



8th December - Scarborough

Mince Pies & Memories

8th December - Harrogate Christmas Hut

10th December - Richmond Mince Pies & Memories

10th December - Burton Leonard

Mince Pies & Memories

11th December - Carol Service, Harrogate

12th December - Pocklington Fair at Ballerina House

13th December - Harrogate Theatre Choir Concert

15th December - Tesco Bucket Collection, York

16th December - Carol Singing, Ripon

8th January - Dales Diners, Darley

14th February - Love is in the Air, Harrogate

14th March - Come & Sing The Messiah, Settle

For full details of any of these events, visit www.dementiaforward.org.uk/events/ or email amy.senior@dementiaforward.org.uk