

NEWS RELEASE

29th September 2022

ST JOHN'S WINCHESTER LAUNCHES TWO NEW COMMUNITY SERVICES: DEMENTIA SUPPORT AND HOMESHARE

Supporters of local charity St John's Winchester attended Winchester Cathedral on 28 September to celebrate the launch of two new community support services. St John's Dementia Support in partnership with Dementia UK, the specialist dementia nurse charity, and St John's Homeshare will provide much-needed support for local people.

St John's Dementia Support is a community service with two dementia specialist Admiral Nurses and two Dementia Advisors providing one-to-one advice, practical solutions and support for people over 55 who are living with dementia, as well as their families and carers, both within their own home and the community. The team provides expert guidance and supports the individual, families and carers to navigate their way through the complexities of living with dementia.

Dementia is a huge and growing health crisis, with 944,000 people living with the condition in the UK – and this number is set to increase to 1.1m by 2030. Admiral Nurses are specialist dementia nurses who are continually supported and developed by Dementia UK to help people living with dementia as well as provide life-changing support for families affected by all forms of dementia.

Clive Cook, St John's Chief Executive, said: *"There's no cure for dementia, but there is care and support. We are incredibly pleased to have worked with Dementia UK to create this comprehensive and much-needed dementia service to support local families affected by dementia."*

Hilda Hayo, CEO at Dementia UK, said: *"We are delighted that St John's has launched this important service, and are pleased to welcome Jeni Bell and Anne Evans to the Admiral Nurse team."*

"The last few years have placed increasing pressure on local services that support families with dementia. This has left many families struggling and unable to cope with no one to turn to for support. Admiral Nurses understand the challenges faced by families living with dementia; they help people with dementia to stay independent for longer and they support the people caring for them so that they have the strength to cope with the bad days and the energy to enjoy the good days."

More information on the dementia service can be found by emailing dementiasupport@stjohnswinchester.co.uk or visiting www.stjohnswinchester.co.uk

Also launched is St John's Homeshare, a mutually beneficial shared living arrangement where an older householder with a spare room is carefully matched with a younger sharer who is happy to help around the house in exchange for affordable accommodation. The new service covers Winchester and surrounding areas within a 10-mile radius of the City Centre.

The (younger) sharer agrees to give the householder 10 hours a week help around the house, which can include shopping, gardening, cleaning or pet care. They enjoy the benefit of safe, affordable accommodation, possibly close to their workplace or university, in return for their time, providing practical support and company to an older person.

Meanwhile, older people are enabled to live independently, safely and for longer in their own home receiving practical support around the house, the reassurance of overnight presence, and the chance to share their skills, experience and company with a younger person.

The pair provide company for each other by cooking meals together, watching TV and chatting. Skills, life experience and friendship are shared in a cross-generational arrangement where both parties can benefit on many levels.

Clive Cook said: *"We're so pleased to be able to bring Homeshare to Winchester. It's a great service through which older and younger people support each other. It helps relieve social isolation and loneliness for older people which is known to have a serious and lasting negative impact on older people's wellbeing and quality of life."*

More information on Homeshare can be found by emailing homeshare@stjohnswinchester.co.uk or visiting www.stjohnswinchester.co.uk

Talking about the dual service launch, St John's' Chair, Roger Bright, said: *"Our charity's roots are in the provision of affordable almshouse accommodation, but we are expanding our horizons all the time. Now with the launch of our Dementia Support and Homeshare services, in addition to our highly successful Hand in Hand befriending, wellbeing and signposting service, we are delighted to have expanded the scope of our work to help even more older people in the wider community to live well and independently for as long as possible."*

There aren't enough specialist dementia nurses to reach every family that needs support. To find out more about becoming an Admiral Nurse, visit www.dementiauk.org/professionals/how-to-become-an-admiral-nurse/

If you need advice or support around dementia, you can also visit dementiauk.org/get-support for information resources and to find out how to access Dementia UK's national Helpline and Clinics services.

Ends

For further information, please contact:

Clive Cook, Chief Executive – clive.cook@stjohnswinchester.co.uk

Evalynn Wills, Communications, PR, and Marketing Officer – evalynn.wills@stjohnswinchester.co.uk

About Dementia UK

We respectfully request that the terms dementia 'sufferer(s)', 'victims(s)', and 'patient(s)' are not used in headlines to accompany this story. Alternative suggestions are person/people 'with dementia' or 'living with dementia'.

Dementia UK is the dementia specialist nurse charity. The charity's Admiral Nurses provide life-changing support for families affected by all forms of dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. They work in hospitals, GP practices and local community and national services, including its Helpline and virtual clinics, to provide clinical, emotional, and practical support which enables people to live more positively with dementia.

If you need advice or support on living with dementia contact Dementia UK's Admiral Nurse Dementia Helpline on 0800 888 6678 or email helpline@dementiauk.org. The Helpline is staffed by experienced Admiral Nurses, who give vital support by telephone or email. Alternatively, you can book a free video or phone appointment at a time that suits you to get expert dementia support from an Admiral Nurse. Find out more at dementiauk.org/closer-to-home.

For more information visit www.dementiauk.org, follow Dementia UK on Twitter: @DementiaUK, and on Facebook: www.facebook.com/DementiaUK/