**WM DAG**

**Notes of meeting held on Wednesday 18th January 2023**

1. Present: Angela McVeigh, Library; Jo Breen, local resident; Rachel Kelly, Social Prescriber, Pip Prantl, Social Prescriber; Jenna May, Moors Manor c/h; Victoria white, Kiteleys Solicitors; Lynne Morris, St Mary's Parish Church.

Apologies: Alex Clark, WM Parish Council; Victoria Lombard, Moors Manor; Charlotte, Brook View c/h.

Jo B was welcomed to her first meeting.

2. A quick review of some key items from the last meeting was done:The Sensory Walk at Avon Heath had to be cancelled due to extreme weather; Christmas tree festival worked well and positive comments were made of some tree ideas, particularly Kiteley's. A brief explanation was given as to when where and how this takes place.

3. The Garden Group has no feedback and its future is uncertain. Lynne will continue to try and have a conversation with Tim (Sturts Farm) to see what the possibilities are of a Garden Group happening.

4. Jigsaw puzzles and other dementia activities: a supply of these dementia friendly activities have been offered by Jo B. Jo explained the back story of these items and we had a very helpful conversation about how to put them to good use. It was decided that they could be stored at the WM Library and could be borrowed by anyone short term for someone they care for who has dementia and also the Social prescribers for use at their Carers events when are 'cared for' person has to attend with them. We talked about how to make it known that this activities resource box is available. Lynne to include it in the Living Well magazine, Pip offered to put it on the website and Jenna to put it on facebook. If anyone else finds other possible means, go ahead and also keep Lynne and Angela informed. Thank you to Jo for this donation of activities.

Stepping into Nature : Seasons of Stories SPRING. Lynne has acquired a supply of these lovely books for giving to people with dementia to help jog memories on a particular season and encourage conversation. They could be used to help others too. We discussed how best to to use and distribute these. Initial idea had been to convene a one-off Memory Lane Group in West Moors, but the wider conversation highlighted that the Memory Lane Groups in Ferndown were full and Angela mentioned the Memories Tea & Me group at WM Library. Ideas about this developed. Jenna offered help and support of a member of her staff if the Library needed an extra pair of hands due to growing numbers. Pip and Rachel said they could take some to make available at Carers events. One event next Monday.

Rachel to collect from Lynne and distribute

Topsy Turvy Dolls: Lynne introduced the hand knitted T-T dolls which were knitted by the St Mary's knit & natter ladies before covid. Lynne visited all local care homes before Christmas 2022 offering dolls for any ladies that would benefit from the comfort of having a doll. The few still left over Pip took to distribute.

Rachel also mentioned Worry Worms - small knitted items to keep discretely in the pocket, that would be of value to people with mental health issues and many others. This to be looked into and Rachel to let Lynne have access to pattern. [pattern received]

Twiddle mitts/muffs were also raised and it seems there is a need for a few of these again.

Dementia Awareness Champions for running Awareness session for members of the public. No one was aware of a Champion covering this area who might be able to provide this. Lynne and any others to explore and investigate.

Living Well Magazine - This is struggling to attract enough advertising revenue and its future is vulnerable. All felt it was a very good magazine and very useful for both professionals and lay folk. There was enthusiastic support for it to continue. Jenna suggested fund raising (sponsored walk around Avon Heath or similar), leading to conversation about the cost of publicity, printing, etc. Lynne to enquire from Pulfords re costs, sponsorship, etc.(at mtg on 23.1.23).

5. Any other business: Victoria W informed those present that at Heathland House care home, Ferndown there was to be a 'Virtual Dementia Experience' in the form of an adapted bus - 21st and 23rd February. Anyone interested would need to book.

All were thanked for giving of their time and the good discussion.

6. Date of next Meeting : Wednesday 22nd March at WM Library.

Meeting closed at 8.05pm

NOTE:

Since our meeting the WM parish council have informed of this years Westival, 8th July, 12-4pm on Fryer Field. This will be on our next Agenda.