



# HOME INSTEAD COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

APRIL 2026

LOCAL CARE. STRONG PARTNERSHIPS. BETTER OUTCOMES.

Dear Community Partners,

We are delighted to welcome you to the first edition of our Community Connections newsletter. As owners of Home Instead Taunton and West Somerset and Home Instead Yeovil, Sherborne and Bridport, we know that the heart of everything we do is the shared mission we hold with you: supporting older adults to live safely, joyfully, and independently at home for as long as possible. That commitment is our common bond — and a constant endeavour.

Yet as we all know, life doesn't always run smoothly. A burst pipe, the need for an urgent dental visit, or the challenge of securing a GP home appointment can quickly create stress for older adults and those supporting them. These everyday hurdles remind us of the importance of strong networks and trusted professionals working together.

With this in mind, we've been developing a Home Instead Concierge Service — a carefully curated list of reliable, high-quality local providers who can help resolve the practical challenges that arise in day-to-day life. From tradespeople to healthcare professionals, these contacts are selected to ensure our clients receive timely, compassionate support when they need it most.

Recently, I had the pleasure of attending the opening of Witcombe Health in Martock — a new private GP practice offering an additional pathway for those seeking accessible healthcare. With over 20 years of GP experience myself, I was reassured by the calibre and vision of the team, making this service a natural and welcome addition to our Concierge list. Services like this, along with providers offering support such as ear irrigation or specialist home visits, help us respond quickly and effectively when our clients face unexpected difficulties.

As we grow this network, we warmly invite your input. If you know of trusted professionals, community groups, or local services that may benefit our clients, please do get in touch. And of course, should you ever need our assistance in resolving a crisis or supporting a vulnerable individual, we are always here to help.

Thank you for your continued partnership, collaboration, and belief in the power of community. We look forward to using this newsletter to celebrate our shared work, strengthen connections, and highlight the meaningful impact we make together.

Warmest regards,  
Dr Mark & Dr Bex  
Owners, Home Instead Taunton & Somerset



# Connecting Our Community: Meet Hannah

We are thrilled to introduce Hannah Sharland, our dedicated Community Engagement Lead here at Home Instead Taunton & Somerset. Hannah has been a valued member of our team for five years, and after recently returning from maternity leave following the birth of her second daughter, she has now transitioned into this role full-time.

Her passion, energy, and unwavering commitment to supporting our local community make her the perfect fit for this position. Hannah's belief in the power of collaboration runs deep — both professionally and personally. Alongside her work at Home Instead, she also serves as the Chair of the PTA at her daughter's school, where she sees firsthand how much can be achieved when people come together with a shared purpose. This insight fuels her mission to build strong partnerships, champion community initiatives, and create meaningful opportunities that benefit older adults across Taunton and Somerset.

Hannah says 'I'm always eager to hear from groups, professionals, and individuals who share our commitment to improving the lives of older people. If you'd like to explore partnership opportunities, discuss community initiatives, or simply connect, please get in touch with me at [community@tauntonsomerset.homeinstead.co.uk](mailto:community@tauntonsomerset.homeinstead.co.uk).'

Hannah's warmth, creativity, and community spirit continue to help us deliver not only outstanding care — but outstanding connection.



## A Testament to Excellence & Compassion



We're thrilled to share that our team has been honoured with a Milestone Award at Home Instead's 20-year anniversary celebration.

This recognition means so much to us. It reflects every visit, every act of kindness, every challenge we've overcome together, and every smile shared with the people we care for.

We are incredibly grateful to our dedicated team, whose passion and commitment make achievements like this possible. And to our clients and their families—thank you for placing your trust in us.

We feel proud, humbled, and motivated to continue growing and serving our community with heart.

# Dementia Networking with Spark Somerset



Hannah had the privilege of attending the Somerset Dementia Network – West Somerset event organised by Spark Somerset focused on dementia awareness and support.

In her own words "It was inspiring to see so many people—caregivers, healthcare professionals, and community members—come together to share experiences, insights, and practical strategies for supporting those living with dementia. Events like these are a powerful reminder of the importance of connection, understanding, and empathy. Every conversation, every shared story, helps break down stigma and strengthens our collective ability to provide compassionate care. A huge thank you to everyone involved in organizing and participating in this event. It was an honor to learn from and engage with such a dedicated community. Together, we can make a real difference in the lives of those affected by dementia."

## Recent addition to our concierge list

We're delighted to welcome Acorn Solicitors as the newest trusted partner in our Home Instead Concierge Service. Like us, Acorn Solicitors is a family-run organisation with deep roots in the local community, with offices in Taunton and Street. Together, we are developing clear, accessible guidance to help older adults and their families navigate some of the most important — and often overwhelming — areas of later-life planning. This includes topics such as Paying for Care in Somerset, protecting your home and finances, understanding Deputyships & the Court of Protection, and the importance of Lasting Powers of Attorney (LPAs). Acorn also offers home visits across Somerset, ensuring legal support remains accessible to those who may find it difficult to travel.

Planning for long-term care can feel daunting, especially when health, independence, and emotional wellbeing are already front of mind. By working closely with Acorn Solicitors, we aim to provide families with practical, compassionate advice that brings clarity, confidence, and peace of mind — helping people make informed decisions that truly protect their future.



## Wellington Cares with Kings Arm Community Hub



Hannah has begun working closely with the team at the Kings Arms Community Hub to support the Wellington Cares Somerset Project. This inspiring initiative is designed to strengthen the wellbeing of unpaid carers and local residents in the Wellington area who may need a little extra help to stay connected, supported, and well.

Funded by the Accelerated Reform Fund and the Somerset Association of Local Councils Health & Wellbeing Fund — with £51,000 awarded to bring the project to life — Wellington Cares represents a fantastic opportunity to make a meaningful and lasting difference within the community.

The project will focus on developing a local directory of support and services, launching a "Could You Be a Carer?" awareness campaign, and bringing together community partners, micro-providers, and volunteers to reduce isolation and strengthen early help. With the pilot being delivered from the Kings Arms Community Hub, Hannah is already forming strong relationships and is excited by the energy, vision, and collaboration emerging in these early conversations. She is looking forward to supporting the project as it grows — helping to build a more caring, connected, and resilient community for Wellington's residents. As this partnership develops, we will continue to share updates on the impact being made and the opportunities ahead.

# 'Time for a Cuppa' for Dementia UK

Get Ready to Bake, Brew & Do Some Good!

We're excited to announce that our office will be hosting a 'Time for a cuppa' morning in support of Dementia UK on May 8th from 10am to 12pm! We're calling on all Care Professionals, clients, and key players to roll up their sleeves, fire up those ovens, and show off your star-baker skills. Whether you're a master baker or a proud packet-mix enthusiast, every slice, cupcake, and cookie counts! More information will follow in the next newsletter but we would love to see you there..

About Dementia UK – The Charity We're Proud to Support.

Dementia UK is the specialist dementia nursing charity that supports families facing dementia. Their expert nurses, known as Admiral Nurses, provide free, life-changing advice, practical solutions, and emotional support to help families navigate the complex challenges of dementia. Their mission is to ensure that no one has to face dementia alone, offering guidance through helplines, clinics, and community services.

Every day, thousands of families turn to Dementia UK during moments of fear, confusion, and overwhelming responsibility. With dementia affecting around 944,000 people in the UK, the need for compassionate, specialist support is more important than ever.



## From the archives: Moments that made us



One of the most powerful moments in our recent history came on 13th May, when the Virtual Dementia Tour bus arrived at our Pitts Close office and opened a window into the world of those living with dementia.

This immersive experience moved everyone who stepped aboard. With specialist equipment and a carefully simulated environment, everyday tasks suddenly became confusing, overwhelming, and disorienting – offering a rare and deeply meaningful glimpse into the challenges so many people face every day.

The Virtual Dementia Tour, delivered by Training2Care, is the only scientifically proven method to help those with a healthy brain understand the lived experience of dementia. We are truly grateful to them for bringing such a transformative experience to our community. It has strengthened our commitment to supporting individuals and families with even greater compassion, patience, and understanding and you could read more about the event and what people had to say [here](#).

If you'd like to 'join us for a cuppa', sign up to our Concierge List, or if you have a community project that we can support, we'd love to hear from you. Please get in touch with Hannah on 01823 211121 or email her at [community@tauntonsomerset.homeinstead.co.uk](mailto:community@tauntonsomerset.homeinstead.co.uk) – let's keep making great things happen together in Somerset.