

## **Shirley Neighbourhood Care: From Moving Day to Movie Day - A New Home and a Busy Start to 2026**

Shirley Neighbourhood Care is now happily settled into our new office at Shirley Community Library. Being based at the heart of the community places us alongside other valued local services and makes us even more accessible to the people we support.

Our move at the end of January was a true team effort. We are very grateful to our Trustees and two amazing volunteers — Dave Turner, our unofficial handyman and general ‘doer’, and our volunteer IT expert who ensured everything was safely transferred and up and running without delay. A special thank-you also goes to Neil at Key Display, a local family-run business, for generously lending us their van — we couldn’t have done it all of this fabulous support. We are also extremely grateful to the team at the Community Library for welcoming us so warmly and helping us settle in so smoothly.

In February, we celebrated Valentine’s Day at our Monday and Thursday Lunch Clubs. The hall was decorated with hearts and cheerful table displays, creating a lovely atmosphere. Our clients enjoyed a delicious three-course meal followed by tea, coffee and heart-shaped chocolates — a sweet highlight that brought plenty of smiles and conversation.

In March, we we marked World Book Day at Lunch Club with a book swap. Clients were encouraged to bring along well-loved books to exchange, share recommendations and memories along the way. Shirley Community Library kindly supported us with an additional donation of books to share, which was very appreciated. World Book Day is a wonderful reminder of how books can spark connection and conversation.

We love a themed Lunch Club, as these special touches make our gatherings even more enjoyable. Upcoming events include a celebration of a special birthday in April, VE Day in May, and a themed Royal Ascot event where clients and volunteers can wear their Sunday best — with a prize for best dressed on each day!

Our Film Clubs have restarted this year and we hope these will be thoroughly enjoyed by all. With two showings — afternoon and evening — and refreshments provided, it offers a relaxed and sociable way for clients and Shirley residents to enjoy a good film together.

We’re also looking forward to one of our popular outings to Polhill on 15th April, when two minibuses of clients will enjoy browsing the shop and having a bite to eat. These outings are always a highlight, giving everyone the chance to get out, socialise and try something different.

Look out for the Film Club and Outing dates we are planning throughout the year – you will find them in our regular SNC newsletters and website <https://shirleyneighbourhoodcare.co.uk/>; and your SPAN magazine. If you would like to join our Film Club mailing list, please get in touch at [sncs@shirleyneighbourhoodcare.co.uk](mailto:sncs@shirleyneighbourhoodcare.co.uk) or call us on 0208 662 9599.

**Barbara Donegan, SNC Chair**