

## **Among Friends Kidderminster Celebrates Anniversary 15 April 2011**

**Our specialist dementia day care service, Among Friends Kidderminster, marked one year at its purpose-designed venue with a celebration on Tuesday 15 March.**

The event, held in their centre on George Street, began with a talk by Professor Dawn Brooker (of the Association for Dementia Studies, University of Worcester), looking at the importance of high quality dementia day care, and applauding the role Friends of the Elderly's services play in delivering the West Midlands Regional Dementia Strategy. Mrs Halfacre, the wife of a former member, spoke about the support both she and her husband received from [Among Friends Kidderminster](#). She highlighted how much her husband had enjoyed the relaxed social atmosphere and stimulating activities at the centre and the valuable respite it offered to her as his carer.

Sam Arnold, manager of the service, said, "The last 12 months have been challenging but exciting for [Among Friends Kidderminster](#) and we wanted as many people as possible to join the celebration of our success so far. Events like this help us to emphasise the importance of high quality dementia care in our community and it's fantastic that so many people have shown an interest in the service".

Richard Furze, Chief Executive of Friend of the Elderly, thanked the various health and social care professionals, day centre members and their carers who attended the celebration. He said, "I'm full of praise for the dedication of the staff and volunteers at [Among Friends Kidderminster](#) who are making such a difference to the lives of older people and their carers. We are clearly fulfilling a vital role locally and are constantly looking at how we can do more, despite the very difficult financial circumstances."