



PRESS RELEASE – for immediate publication

15th June 2017

INNOVATIVE PLAY DRAWS IN THE CROWD AND RAISES MONEY FOR AGE UK SURREY

Age UK Surrey's first ever innovative fundraising play "My Dearest Kate" took place last Saturday (10th June) at The Wilfrid Noyce Centre, Godalming, and we are pleased to announce it was a great success – raising over £500!

The story of Charles Dickens and his wife Catherine's turbulent marriage and separation, seen through a collection of letters exchanged between herself and Charles, was the focus of "My Dearest Kate".

Originally written and performed by Ellie Dickens in 1983, as a one woman play at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival and touring throughout Britain and America. She gave her blessing and consent for My Dearest Kate to be adapted into this entertaining, dramatic 2 actor production, with moments of touching humour.

Tea, coffee and cake were available to purchase after the performance. Proceeds from the event have gone to Age UK Surrey and will help support services to improve later life for people across Surrey.

A big thank you to The Small Spaces Theatre Company, our sponsors Emery and Orchard & The Good Care Group and to everyone that made this event so successful.

End of press release.

More information about Age UK Surrey:

Age UK Surrey is an independent local charity. We work across Surrey to help improve the lives of older people. Our services are designed to enable older people remain independent

and informed, healthy and active and connected to their communities. We help combat loneliness and social isolation.

Services include: Information and Advice, Counselling, Help at Home, Computer Drop-in Centre in Guildford, Tea and Chat in Tandridge, Foot Care in clinics across the County, Shopmobility in Guildford, Men in Sheds in Ash, Making Connections in Guildford & Waverley, Handyperson Service and Making Connections in Runnymede & Spelthorne, and Café Culture in Cranleigh.

Numbers of people over 85 continues to grow in Surrey:

- A 25% rise since 2001;
- 32,300 people in this age group (2014).
- Nearly 214,000 people are over 65 (2014).
- Statistics show that people in Surrey generally live longer than the national average.
- In 2012 there were 15,456 people in Surrey living with dementia, predicted to rise to 19,000 by 2020.

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Age UK Surrey

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