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**XX (insert town/village) Resident Helps Charity to Wrap Up the Royal Albert Hall**

XX (insert name – first and surname), from XX (insert town/village) has helped the Lewy Body Society to help raise awareness of Lewy body dementia (LBD).

#AScarfForLewy – saw a huge scarf (1600 metres) wrapped around the entire circumference of the Royal Albert Hall in London and was the charity’s way to show support for those living with Lewy body dementia, raising awareness of this very often misdiagnosed condition, and to symbolise the wraparound support available for those living with the disease.

XX (insert name) got involved with the project by knitting a XX (include colour and length if known) scarf to form part of the mile long final product and travelled to London to help wrap it around the iconic venue – the Royal Albert Hall.

XX (insert name – first and surname) said: “I really wanted to get involved and support the amazing team at the Lewy Body Society to help them raise awareness of Lewy body dementia. Dementia affects so many people and it’s important to make sure you get it correctly diagnosed and get the support available to you.

“It was a fantastic day – one I’ll never forget and am so proud to be a part of it.”

It’s estimated that around 100,000 people in the UK have Lewy body dementia, around 10-15 per cent of those with dementia. It can cause the motor problems associated with Parkinson’s disease, hallucinations and sleep problems, as well as the progressive decline in cognitive abilities found in other forms of dementia.

Jacqui Cannon, Chief Executive of The Lewy Body Society, said: “We’re incredibly grateful to XX (insert name) and to all the knitters up and down the country and internationally who’ve got out their needles in support of A Scarf for Lewy.

“The aim of the scarf was to showcase the huge amount of wraparound support that we can offer those living with Lewy body dementia and their families, as it’s so often misdiagnosed, and not enough people know about it.

“We hope more people will become aware about the condition and show their support to families affected by the disease through this unique event.”

More than 100 volunteers attended to wrap the scarf around the iconic landmark and were ably helped by much loved actor and writer, Christopher Biggins and actress Susan Hampshire.

Other celebrities who showed their support with a knitted contribution included Dame Prue Leith DBL, TV presenter Anne Robinson, and actress Paula Wilcox, who currently stars in ITV’s *Coronation Street* as Elaine Jones.

The Lewy Body Society funds research into Lewy body dementia, a little-known type of dementia that is very different to the most common type, Alzheimer’s disease, and requires different support and treatment. It is the only UK charity focused exclusively on this type of dementia and was the first in Europe.

Once taken down from the Royal Albert Hall, the scarves will be distributed to charities supporting homeless people and refugees.

To find out more about Lewy Body Dementia or to show your support, please visit the website <https://www.lewybody.org/>

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**Notes to editors**

No national figures are available as the NHS does not collect statistics on dementia sub-types, but it is believed that around 24,000 people are living with a diagnosis of dementia with Lewy bodies (based on a 4.6% diagnosis rate of the 517,412 people with a dementia diagnosis across UK - sources Diamond-Lewy Kane et al and ARUK Statistics Hub).

However, this understates the number of people living with the disease, as only 62% of dementia cases in over 65s in England are diagnosed (NB this varies across UK).

It is believed that 944,000 people in the UK have dementia, and studies have shown that at a conservative estimate 11% of these could have DLB. This would mean that 104,000 people living with the disease, fewer than a quarter of whom have received a diagnosis. (Source ARUK and Stevens et al).

Note: These figures are for 'dementia with Lewy bodies', which is diagnosed when a person first experiences the cognitive and behavioural symptoms associated with the disease. A further group of people first experience the physical symptoms associated with Parkinson's disease, and when they later develop cognitive symptoms, their diagnosis is given as Parkinson's disease dementia. Both dementia with Lewy bodies and Parkinson's disease dementia come under the umbrella of Lewy body dementia but research studies often look at the two groups separately. Some studies have reported prevalence of higher than 11% - indeed some post-mortem research find Lewy body pathology in 20-25% of cases.