GETTING A GRIP ON DEMENTIA
The figures behind a disease that is increasingly affecting British society

DIFFERENT TYPES OF DEMENTIA

Alzheimer's disease
The most common cause of dementia. Symptoms include memory loss and mood changes as the brain is affected, leading to the death of brain cells.

Vascular dementia
This is caused by problems in the supply of blood to the brain, typically after a stroke, for example.

Dementia with Lewy bodies
Small round structures (Lewy bodies) develop inside nerve cells, leading to the degeneration of brain tissue, which can be a precursor to DLB and Parkinson's disease.

Fronto-temporal dementia
Nerve cells in the frontal and/or temporal lobes of the brain die, leading to behavioural changes and language problems.

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease
Variant CJD hit the news when it developed in people who had eaten meat from cattle infected with bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in the 1980s, leading to the ‘mad cow disease’ tag.

Korsakoff's syndrome
The syndrome is a brain disorder usually associated with long-term heavy alcohol consumption.

HIV-related
HIV infection can cause a number of different problems with the brain that affect up to half of people with HIV.

Mild cognitive impairment
A relatively new term for those with some problems with memory who do not actually have dementia.

Rarer causes
Dementia can occur during the course of other diseases such as Huntington's and multiple sclerosis.

WHAT IMPACT IS DEMENTIA HAVING ON SUFFERERS AND CARERS IN THE UK?

According to forecasts there will be around 1,140,000 people with dementia in the UK by 2025 and over 2,000,000 by 2051.

In 2013, unpaid carers worked with dementia for 1,340,000 hours, or over 150,000 years.

7 out of 10 people with dementia are living with another medical condition or disability.

850,000 people in the UK live with dementia.

Sources: Dementia UK second edition, www.alzheimers.org.uk, some figures have been rounded up.