



Alzheimer Scotland  
*Action on Dementia*

**Charity of the Year 2012**

**Making sure no-one goes  
through dementia on their own**

**December 2013**

## **Edinburgh Branch Newsletter**

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### **St LEONARD'S St NEWS**

Some of you will have been at the conference and AGM of Alzheimer Scotland at Murrayfield on 1 November where it was good to hear of the successes of the past year. Henry Simmons (Chief Executive) spoke about what had been achieved through policy and campaigning; the ongoing dialogue with the Scottish Government to help develop the National Dementia Strategy, delivering quality services, information and outreach (including the 24 hour Dementia Helpline and the mobile information vehicles) and advice and support through Dementia Advisors, Dementia Champions and Dementia Nurses. Fundraising through events, appeals, legacies and partnerships with charitable trusts and corporate supporters has made this work possible. The Annual Review is well worth a read. It will be sent to members with the next edition of Dementia in Scotland and will also be on the website. Any non-members can request a copy by telephoning 0131 243 1453 or by email on [info@alzscot.org](mailto:info@alzscot.org)

Henry Simmons also spoke about a more local focus for Alzheimer Scotland in the future; engaging with local members, local strategic fundraising and policy development. This will be supported by the new post of Deputy Regional Manager. I trust that you will help the Branch to play a part in this more local focus.

I reported in September that a Dementia Resource Centre for Edinburgh is being given serious consideration. Such centres in other towns are helping to remove the cloak of secrecy and stigma from dementia and bring information and support into the heart of the community. The search continues for suitable premises in Edinburgh.

On a personal note I have been a member of the

Council of Alzheimer Scotland for three years but have decided not to seek re-election. Significant changes to the Council (voted through at the AGM) mean an increase in meetings to which I cannot commit. My loyalty remains to the Edinburgh Branch and I think I can use my time better to supporting the Branch in the (hoped for) transition to being a valuable partner in the Resource Centre for Edinburgh.

*Barbara Mitchelmore, Branch Chair*

### **HOLIDAYS in CALLANDER**

Edinburgh Branch has been organising holidays for people with moderate dementia and their carers since 1989. Volunteers accompany the group, providing meals, activities and companionship.

This year we booked fully catered accommodation. Three groups visited with very positive feedback being received from all. The helpfulness of the owners and the care and dedication of the volunteers were highly praised. Comments included, "I was at a low ebb and this holiday was just what I needed" and, "Lovely to get away and speak with others experiencing the same problems. Lots of laughs".

We are now taking referrals to add to our waiting list. Volunteers to accompany a holiday are always needed. They find it a very rewarding experience too. For more information please contact Fiona Ashton, at the Edinburgh Branch, on 0131 667 6289 or email direct to [feef27@hotmail.com](mailto:feef27@hotmail.com)

*Fiona Ashton*

### **DONATIONS**

From 1 January to 31 October we have received £2683.85. We are very grateful to those who have been so generous in donating to the Branch.