



Alzheimer Scotland
Action on Dementia

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

March 2014

Edinburgh Branch

Newsletter

139 St. Leonard's Street
Edinburgh EH8 9RB

T:0131 667 6289

E:edinburghbranch@alzscot.org

[www.alzscot.org/services_and_support/search/1918
_edinburgh_branch](http://www.alzscot.org/services_and_support/search/1918_edinburgh_branch)

St LEONARD'S St NEWS

We seem to be very quickly into 2014 and I hope I'm not getting ahead of myself in thinking that we can begin to look forward to spring!

I wrote in the last newsletter that Alzheimer Scotland was recruiting for a new post of Deputy Regional Manager. I'm delighted to report that Ruth McCabe is now in post and you can read an introduction to Ruth and her aspirations for her new role elsewhere in this newsletter. Ruth has already attended a Branch committee meeting and I look forward to working with her.

Many of you will know of the holidays organized by the Branch for over 20 years and some might even have been our guests. Those closely involved as guests, volunteers or nurses referring people to us will already have heard directly that the Branch committee have had to take the very difficult and sad decision that these holidays can no longer be sustained. The litigious nature of society has changed enormously over those years and as volunteers we can no longer fulfil the many requirements now essential to the safe running of such holidays. We are looking at ways in which we might offer support to people with dementia and their carers to enjoy activities and days out. Watch this space – and please do get in touch if you have any ideas what would best suit you.

I think it is an interesting time as, through Ruth, Alzheimer Scotland works to engage with its local members, many of whom receive this newsletter without necessarily having any close contact with the Edinburgh Branch. As ever, if you have ideas how we, the Branch, might better support those with dementia and their families and carers, please let us know. I would be very happy to discuss any ideas and suggestions with

you. Please contact the office with your telephone number and I will return your call.

Barbara Mitchelmore, Branch Chair

INTRODUCING RUTH McCABE

Ruth McCabe has been appointed as the Deputy Regional Manager for Alzheimer Scotland and will cover the Lothian and Borders areas.

This is a new post within the organisation and it has 4 key target areas. They are membership and branches, involvement, fund-raising and strategic engagement. Ruth took up post in December and is in the process of creating a work plan based on these 4 areas.

She anticipates being able to increase the membership of Alzheimer Scotland in her areas by about 25%. She also hopes to be able to engage members more meaningfully in the activities of the organisation. In particular she is keen to support members in being more actively engaged in campaigning and policy work and getting involved with their local health and social care planning structures. She also hopes to raise £25,000 to support current and new service developments.

Ruth's background is in nursing and before she took up this post she was working with the Alzheimer Scotland Early Onset Service as a support worker and Day Opportunities Organiser.

She is looking forward to the challenges this post will bring and is delighted by the warm welcome she has received from everyone in Alzheimer Scotland and the Edinburgh Branch.