

September 2015

Edinburgh Branch Newsletter



St Leonard's Street News

The year seems to be speeding by but I hope that by the time you read this we will have had even a bit of summer weather! It seems like wishing the time away but I do want to highlight the autumn/winter programme of Gallery, Garden, Museum and Library Socials – a new venture. You can read more in the next article.

We held the Edinburgh Branch AGM on 23 June and your committee was confirmed as myself as Chairperson, June Henderson (Hon Secretary), Grace Durham (Hon Treasurer), and members Joyce Shepherd, Kathleen Birchall, Alison Glen, Joyce Ferguson, Janet Ingleby, Andrew Gillie and Allison Littlejohn. The Dementia Advisor, Teresa Straczynski and Policy and Engagement Manager (formerly known as Deputy Regional Manager) Ruth McCabe will also lend their invaluable support.

I've written in previous newsletters about our hope and wish for a Dementia Resource Centre in Edinburgh. I'm pleased to say that possible premises are being considered and I hope there will soon be good news.

We will have a stall at the information fairs 'Caring in the City' which VOCAL is hosting from 10am to 4pm, Monday 12 October at Boroughmuir Rugby and Community Sports Club, Meggetland and on Friday 13 November at Pilrig Church, Leith Walk. The fairs will bring together various organisations that may be of interest to carers and the people they care for.

Alzheimer Scotland's mission is 'making sure no-one goes through dementia on their own'. As ever, if you have ideas how we might do this better, I would be very happy to discuss them with you. Please contact the office with your telephone number and I will return your call.

Barbara Mitchelmore, Branch Chair

Introducing Gallery, Garden, Museum and Library Socials

Gallery Social, at the National Galleries of Scotland, has been going strong since January 2014. This monthly programme invites individuals with dementia to enjoy free guided visits together with a relative or friend. The sessions comprise a short, informal guided tour and refreshments. Participants may also try out a simple art or craft activity related to a technique in an artwork which they will be looking at, but there is no pressure to do that – there are also images or objects to look at and the opportunity to socialise in a relaxed and welcoming environment.

Building on this success, the National Galleries are now teaming up with three other major cultural venues in Edinburgh - the Royal Botanic Garden, the National Library and the National Museum. From October each organisation will offer regular Friday morning free guided visits for anyone affected by dementia, their friends, relatives and supporters in a similar format. (See next page).

Our aim is for people to share a positive experience with friends or loved ones, meet others who may be going through something similar in their lives and be stimulated by taking part in a simple practical activity or seeing something beautiful or thought-provoking. A joint flier containing a map and information will be available at each venue. It can also be sent to dementia support organisations. We are very excited about this positive new partnership and we hope we can offer an enjoyable and high quality weekly cultural experience for people affected by dementia.

*For more information please contact Meg Faragher
T: 0131 624 6560 or email:*

communities@nationalgalleries.org

Meg Faragher

Edinburgh Branch 139 St Leonard's Street Edinburgh EH8 9RB Tel 0131 667 6289

E-mail Edinburghbranch@alzscot.org Website www.alzscot.org