

January 2016

Edinburgh Branch Newsletter



St Leonard's Street News

If it's not too late may I send you all good wishes for 2016? It promises to be a challenging year for the Edinburgh Branch and I hope that you will feel able to support us as we re-focus our efforts on behalf of people with dementia, their families and their carers.

I have written often in this newsletter about my hopes for a Dementia Resource Centre for Edinburgh and earlier in the year it did seem as though this would become a reality. However, it is now apparent that Alzheimer Scotland needs to focus its finances elsewhere and there can be no capital expenditure for the foreseeable future. I had hoped for a transition from the small Branch office at St Leonard's to being part of a larger presence in a Resource Centre, continuing the Branch involvement in offering support and information. Now this is not to happen, the Branch Committee has taken the difficult decision to relinquish the premises at St Leonard's, the current activities of the Branch not justifying a physical space. There are very few callers, personal or telephone, to the office these days as opportunities for such support have grown in other areas – the Dementia Advisor, link workers and the 24 hour Freephone Dementia Helpline. I believe that the work of the Branch over the years has helped to lay the foundations for these current activities and in many ways 'we have done ourselves out of a job'. So sincere thanks to all those who have given their time to the Branch office and let's celebrate all that has been achieved at St Leonard's.

Losing our address does not mean that we are losing the Edinburgh Branch. With the will and the effort of our volunteers (and hopefully some new ones!) we will continue to support the D

Café and keep contact with you all via the newsletter. We hear that the real need in Alzheimer Scotland at present is fundraising and awareness raising. I think we have always done the latter and been very willing recipients of donations. Now we need to rise to this new challenge! I know we will have the support of Ruth McCabe, Policy and Engagement Manager, and Abby Parkhouse, Community Fundraiser. I hope we will have your support too.

I would be very happy to discuss any ideas and suggestions with you. Please contact the office (it will remain open in the short term) with your telephone number and I will return your call.

Barbara Mitchelmore, Branch Chair

Introducing Abby Parkhouse Community Fundraiser

I am the community fundraiser for the area incorporating Edinburgh, the Lothians and Borders, Fife and Forth Valley. I started with Alzheimer Scotland in December 2014 and spend a lot of time assisting people who are holding events for us; everything from coffee mornings, walks, runs, bike rides and swims, to balls, ceilidhs, shark dives, sky dives and ocean rows. Every single penny that is raised is vital to help us to continue our services throughout Scotland. We genuinely can't do it without our fund-raised income.

If you'd like to get involved in fundraising for Alzheimer Scotland, or have the seed of an idea, please get in touch and we can guide you through the organisation of your event, no matter how big or small. Tel: 07795 316741
Email: aparkhouse@alzscot.org
Thank you for your continued support.

Abby Parkhouse

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