

Good News for Young People & the National Citizenship Scheme (NCS)

Teenagers and young people have always received bad press; not much has changed as the view is still held by many today. Well, for a change, this is some good news about teenagers!

Forty-two 16 – 17 year olds attended the NCS Scheme in November. In the scheme, young people take part in some fun activities, learn about team- building and social skills, set themselves some challenges, meet those challenges and make a difference. This is as well as learning much about themselves, discovering what they are capable of and building self-confidence.

As part of the course, local charities are invited in to let the young folk know what they doing, The youngsters then have the opportunity of supporting one of those charities in their work.

One team of fifteen decided to support Bristol DAA. They raised money, donated raffle prizes, set up a GoFundMe page and distributed “Guides to Understanding Dementia” booklets to local businesses in Cabot Circus and Park St. They also attended the “Happy Days Memory Café” at Westbury Baptist Church and helped celebrate their 2nd birthday. They did not stand idly by, they helped make and serve refreshments, welcomed people at the door and mixed with our regulars and visitors (which included our Pre-school and local nursery children). They are a credit to the NCS scheme and themselves.

PS at the NCS Graduation Celebration at Ashton Gate, a Mum of one of these boys came up to me and said that the Dementia Friends session had really made an impact on her son. A family member has dementia and after the session this son told his parents and family that they had to change their attitude and behaviour to that family member and he told them what they could do. A result I think!



Bristol Post Health & Care Awards

This prestigious event takes place annually to recognise and acknowledge the fantastic work carried out by local people within the health and social care sectors. There were many fabulous entries and nominations, across a number of categories including ‘Healthcare Professional of the Year award’, ‘Healthcare Team of the Year Award’ and ‘Best Innovation’ award, plus some very worthy winners.

However, the ‘Blue Riband’ award of the evening was for Outstanding Achievement, sponsored by Care UK. This award is about celebrating someone who has pushed through change with tenacity and determination. This person will have made a difference to healthcare in Bristol.

We were therefore absolutely delighted and proud that our Chair, Tony Hall, was presented with this award by Dr Phil Hammond, our local celebrity GP, following some lovely words given by Jacqui Mills, from Bristol Airport, with whom Tony has done such marvellous work on behalf of people living with ‘hidden disabilities’.

Not only is this fantastic recognition for all Tony’s tremendous work and dedication, but also represents an acknowledgement of the progress of the BDAA in such a short period of time and in doing so raising awareness that little bit more.



Anna Molter, Senior Associate Solicitor at Barcan+Kirby LLP

“The Dementia Friends initiative has been of huge benefit to our business. As a firm of solicitors, we frequently come into contact with people with dementia, so it’s really useful for our staff to know how they can be helpful and responsive to their needs. Above all though, it helps us ensure that we are a safe and welcoming place for our clients with dementia, who often come to us for help at an uncertain time in their lives. We would recommend Dementia Friends to all businesses.”



Henleaze Townswomen's Guild - Increasing Dementia Awareness in Derbyshire

Following our successful project with the Henleaze Townswomen's Guild in early 2017, we have received the following e mail from Shirley Phillips, Chair of Henleaze (Evening) Townswomen's Guild.

Elmlea Junior School Leads the way on Dementia Awareness in Bristol

Four years ago, in September 2013, Elmlea Junior School arranged for Bristol Dementia Action Alliance (BDAA) to go into school and run a series of Dementia Awareness workshops with the three Year 6 classes. Three workshops were run and the children were given a badge, a car-sticker and a take-home leaflet to let the folks at home know what they had been doing all afternoon. Some of the children also performed a drama (involving a person with dementia) in front of the whole school at assembly. As a result of this, Elmlea became our first Dementia aware school in Bristol and it was awarded a certificate. The question is "Does it work?"

A few weeks after those initial workshops, it was "Maths Week" and the children were told what they would be doing in lessons. They were then asked the question "Can anybody tell me who has trouble counting their money?" A little girl in Year 4 put her hand up straight away and said "Someone with dementia." Along with others, Miss Galliers, the Head Teacher, was pleasantly surprised by this reply, and it certainly demonstrates that children learn. I call it "A result!"

Since those initial workshops, Elmlea has introduced them into its Year 6 induction programme and consequently run similar workshops for the last four years. We think that is worth celebrating, don't you?

Elmlea is one of seven dementia aware schools in Bristol but, by far, has made the most progress in this area. Is your local school "Dementia Aware?" If you would like to help young people in your school become dementia aware then please contact Tony Hall to arrange a session in your school. Call 0117 968 1002.

Dear Tony,

I hope all is well with you. You may remember my long term friend, who lives in Matlock, Derbyshire was interested in our dementia awareness project and you were happy to let me send her a copy of your "A Guide to Understanding Dementia". Her group the Crich Area Dementia Friends has now produced their own guide.

It has 4 sides and at the bottom of the last page you will see that they acknowledge Bristol Dementia Action Alliance. Crich Area Dementia Friends also got a Co-op grant of £1000. They now have monthly newsletters and my friend, Heather, has started monthly music afternoons at the Wesleyan Chapel. They have musicians playing and serve tea and cake.

So, a great success story you may wish to share with your trustees and supporters.

Best wishes,
Shirley

Girl Guides are Becoming more Dementia Aware

Looking at this year's diary, BDAA have run Dementia Awareness sessions for 29 Guides/Brownies/Rainbow groups this year, as opposed to 5 Scouts/Cubs/Beavers groups. This means that 500 – 600 young girls and their leaders are now dementia aware! On the boy's side, approximately 100 are Dementia aware. Come on lads, shape up!

Photo: After running a session with Westbury Baptist Rainbows, Barbara received four children's puzzles and we both received a "Thank you" card signed by all the Rainbows and Guiders!



Future Events

January

5th Dementia Friendly Church Meeting
5th Happy Days Memory Cafe
7th Victoria Methodist - DF Session
10th Filwood Hope Meeting
12th Watkins Solicitors - DF session

15th Blue Monday - Stall at Cabot Circus
15th Airport DF Session
15th Bristol City Council - Statement
15th St Barts Beavers
16th Airport - DF session
17th All Saints Weston Bath

19th Watkins Solicitors - DF session
22nd BDAA Steering Group - BRACE
23rd Getting Good Support Workshop
25th CDC Meeting
25th Kelson
26th Airport - Access Meeting