

Tavistock Dementia Alliance: creating a dementia-friendly community



Newsletter: February 2018

Welcome to the New Year and all our supporters and readers!

First an update on national matters and then on to our local news.

National News: There are now 352 local dementia alliances in the UK – and these alliances have now over 6,500 members/supporters. Under the national scheme remember that Tavistock was the first local community to be registered five years ago.

[Key commitments as part of the 2012 challenge to create dementia friendly communities were:

- By March 2015, up to 20 cities, towns and villages would have signed up to become dementia-friendly
- Support given from leading businesses for the PM's Challenge on dementia
- An awareness-raising campaign
- The Dementia Friendly Communities programme in partnership with Dementia Action Alliances would develop evidence on what makes a community dementia-friendly.]

What is a Dementia-friendly community?



The response to the commitment made in 2012, of course led by Tavistock, has been overwhelming around the country which has led to the creation of

many communities, greatly surpassing the original target of 20 by March 2015.

Recognition process: A process was needed to enable organisations and communities to be part of an officially recognised group working towards becoming dementia friendly. It also ensures that organisations and communities are working towards common standards that are based on what we know is important to people affected by dementia and will truly change their experience.

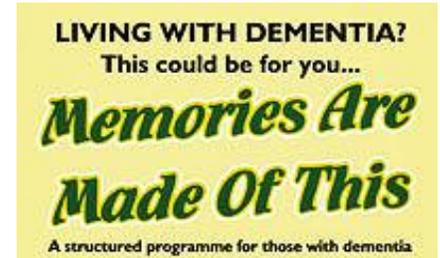
The British Standards Institute, as previously reported, have now published agreed standards which Tavistock is working towards.

What then is a Local Dementia Alliance?



A Local Dementia Alliance is an easy and proven structure for creating a dementia friendly community. It is a group of people who have come together in a voluntary and charitable capacity to create such a community.

A Local Dementia Alliance can now be established at any level, be it a village, city, county or even a region. They can overlap geographically and member organisations are encouraged to participate in more than one community.



We have advised many other communities in Devon, most recently in January at Barnstaple, launching their Memories are Made of This programme.



Technology can improve lives:

(British Assistive Technology Association and Alzheimer's Society)



Technology can offer huge potential benefits for people living with dementia, their families and care providers. Although not a solution for everyone, technology can work in a variety of ways to empower and support independence, manage risks, improve health, be enjoyable and aid loved ones.

Working with the Dementia Friendly Technology task group, (which includes local input from Amano Technology and Tavistock Memory Café through Graham Coiley), the Alzheimer's Society have developed a series of information sheets dedicated to specific audiences such as people living with dementia; their families and friends; GP's; hospitals; and care providers.

The information sheets cover the challenges faced by people living with dementia and their carers, answering questions such as, how can technology help me? Examples of how technology can help are available (free) to download from our website: www.tavistockdementia.org.

Local News: story so far

To date we have provided awareness training to almost five hundred people in Tavistock representing a wide variety of groups and businesses. Thirty-six organisation in town are now recognised as 'dementia-friendly' within the national scheme - with a few more in the pipeline.

We still wish to encourage more local businesses to become involved. There is a newly published "Dementia-Friendly Business Guide", again freely available from the Alliance website.

What's new?

Honestly, it's just a few weeks since December 2017(!), when we had the official opening of the Community Sensory Garden in Tavistock. We have been initiators and partners in the concept from the outset. This project perfectly illustrates what a variety of local statutory, voluntary and charitable organisations can achieve if they work together. Realistically and pragmatically, as a team, we can achieve anything we wish!

The start – all hands on shovels and picks! (Rotary; Lions; Councils; Transitions Tavistock.)



The finish - patron Angela Rippon opens the Garden with Memorial Wall.



Dementia-friendly walking

Also in December, facilitated and enabled by TASS, we launched our dementia-friendly walk starting at the Wharf. Ski poles 'r' us!



The next walk is on Tuesday 27th March at 10.30am

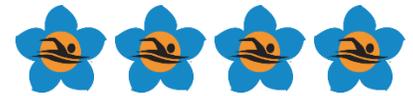
And then it was Christmas!

Another illustration of the value of partnerships and collaboration was the free Christmas Lunch at the URC Tavistock. Rotary, TASS and many others contributing to a very special Christmas Day.



Dementia-friendly swimming

With the support of Mount Kelly Swim Centre we launched dementia-friendly paddling or swimming for those with a dementia and their carers.



These are now regular sessions on the 3rd Saturday of every month starting at 1pm. From March 17th sessions will include, for anyone who wishes to take part, mild aerobic activity in the pool.

Latest organisations recognised as dementia friendly

Our core work continues with the latest organisations recognised as being dementia-friendly pictured below:

Abode, The Property Agents, West Street.



And ABC Services, North Street.



Congratulations to both.

And finally.....

We will soon be formally registered with the Charity Commission as a Community Interest Organisation.

More details in next newsletter.