

Armagh Charity Ball

Alzheimer's Society Armagh & Dungannon

The Alzheimer's Society is pleased to announce the appointment of a new Community Support Worker for the Armagh & Dungannon area. Martin Mc Crory will be providing information, education, signposting of services and support for people with dementia, their families and carers living in the Armagh and Dungannon area. Martin will run the branch community support service from the Ozanman Centre, Barrack Street, Coalisland.

Danny Mc Quillan, Area Manager for the Alzheimer's Society, welcomed Martin to the Society:

"This is great news for the local South Tyrone and Armagh Upper Bann Branches of the Alzheimer's Society. Martin will deliver a comprehensive service to all affected by dementia in the Armagh and Dungannon area"

The branch also carries out home visits to people with Dementia and their carers and will be providing carer information programmes as well as Carer Support Groups. Talks in the community to raise awareness of dementia are also carried out on a regular basis. Carers are welcome to telephone or make arrangements to call into the office to find out more about how the branch can help them. All of the above are aimed at decreasing the feelings of fear and isolation someone diagnosed with dementia and their carers can feel.

The Armagh Carer Support Group runs on the third Thursday of each month and provides an invaluable source of support for the carers of those with dementia. Attendees find this group very helpful as it allows them the opportunity to speak to others in a similar situation to their own

and seek support and advice. During each CSG, we try to have someone of interest in to speak to the group e.g. a pharmacist, on something the group may find interesting, such as challenging behaviour or dementia medication. To also make the group a more fun and relaxing place to be we will sometimes organise classes such as flower arranging etc. Activities such as these allow the carers to interact on a less formal level and to enjoy a break out of the house.

The Alzheimer's Society also assists carers in obtaining more flexible care for their loved ones by operating a 'Take a Break' scheme. This means the carers can be given a non-means tested grant of up to £250 over a 12 month period to enable them to obtain care at short notice or for respite. This has proven very popular and any money raised to further assist in this scheme is invaluable to the branch and the local Armagh community.

The branch also has some exciting developments for the future, such as piloting a befriending scheme in the area for those with dementia and the continuing support of carers. The branch provides an invaluable service to the local Armagh community and with the help and support of volunteers and fund raisers we can continue to provide this high level of support and build for the future.

For further information on the community support service, please contact Martin Mc Crory on Tel 02887749911. Office hours are 9am - 4pm Monday to Friday.

Editorial notes:

1. The Alzheimer's Society is the leading care and research charity for people with all forms of dementia, their carers and families.
2. In Northern Ireland, through our network of branches and volunteers, we provide comprehensive information resources, a regional Dementia Helpline, a counselling service for people with dementia, community outreach services, domiciliary care, day care and emergency respite care, monthly carer support groups, education for carers, and a training initiative for professionals.

Dementia UK report, Northern Ireland supplement, published by the Alzheimer's Society in May 2007, states that there are currently 16,000 people with dementia in Northern Ireland. That figure is projected to increase to 20,500 by 2017.

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