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**Volunteers’ Newsletter, January 2019**

*Falmouth Age Concern is an independent, local charity working to help the elderly
in Falmouth, Penryn and the surrounding area.*

**Welcome to the February 2019 newsletter.
The days are getting longer and Spring is on the horizon (honest).**

**New appointments**

We had a quite astonishing number of applicants for our two jobs and are delighted to report that we have appointed two new members of staff. The new part-time ‘outreach worker’ is Heather Lawry who will help with the expansion of our befriending service (15 hours per week) into the villages and rural areas. We’ve also appointed Abbie Jones-Walters as our new office administrator (12 hours per week). Abbie will be getting our office and systems up and running smoothly again very soon. Both appointees take up their posts next week.

**Safeguarding**

Safeguarding is an increasingly important part of our befriending work, and so we are planning to run a safeguarding presentation/training session for volunteers in April. It will be on a Saturday morning to enable as many volunteers as possible to attend. Further information will be provided in the March newsletter.

**Handyman help**

Some of you will have met Jack at our Christmas lunch. He is a ‘man with a van’, skilled carpenter and handyman who is keen to help with any small jobs and has already done some garden clearing, path laying and delivery work for one of our staff. Contact the office if you or your client (or friends, neighbours etc) need any jobs doing at very reasonable rates.

**Clubs and Classes**

Details of all the 2019 clubs and classes have been circulated to all of our current clients. We are keen to increase numbers at the fortnightly art class, so if you know any budding Van Goghs (or complete beginners), get in touch.

Sally Pine will be standing down as volunteer leader of the monthly lunch club after the April one. Would anyone like to take over and help run this popular and successful monthly get-together?

**Memory project**

All the interviews from the 2017/18 reminiscence project are currently being edited to leave us with around 20 pieces of spoken audio material of about ten minutes each. We’ve agreed with the local community radio station that we’ll do a series of (about five) hour long radio programmes interspersing our clients’ memories with suitable music. More information on this next month but if your client took part please inform them that they will shortly be a ‘radio star’.

**Befrienders’ meet-up**

The meeting for all (or any) befriending volunteers this Saturday (2nd Feb) will be back at the Courtyard Deli (10.30-12.00). Do come for a coffee and chat and to raise any issues or concerns.

**New clients**

We have a long waiting list of clients to be assessed (ten at the time of writing) so will shortly be advertising for new volunteers to help with befriending. If you are not currently visiting anyone and would like to start again, please get in touch (even if you have already told us before that you are free – we’re trying to get all our information up to date!).

**Memory café**

Falmouth memory café meets on the 5th and 19th of this February.

**'Observations in Nature' exhibition**

Potager Gardens’ dementia-friendly groups have been taking part in an Arts Council funded project 'Observations in Nature'. This work has been collated into a collection of photobooks, and will be displayed at Potager garden in a 3 week-long public exhibition from mid-February to early Potager Gardens, High Cross nr Constantine.

**Committee meeting**

The next committee meeting has been moved to the 25th of February. We’d like to appoint a couple more volunteers to sit on the committee this year, so if anyone would like to help run the charity, please let us know.

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[www.falmouthbefriending.org.uk](http://www.falmouthbefriending.org.uk). CHARITY NUMBER: 259 184

Programme for 2019

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