**Dementia Friendly Rossendale**

**2019 to 2023 Report**

The 2019 AGM saw very little support for Dementia Friendly Rossendale with only Carole Watchorn attending outside of group members.

We decided to continue with our plans for the next 12 months, spring and autumn events, East Lancs railway steam train trip, supporting dementia cafes and groups and raising awareness of dementia with the organisations and businesses in Rossendale whilst trying to raise awareness of our organisation and encourage interest from others to join us. We would then assess how the year had gone and what the future looks like for DFR at the 2020 AGM.

We ran a successful afternoon tea event at Marl Pits in November 2019 where we had over 120 attendees with live entertainment and Lancashire Fire Service in attendance to advise about safety in the home.

We bought dementia friendly resources, jigsaws, colouring and painting activities, games etc which we shared amongst the dementia groups and cafes to be rotated between them every 3 to 4 months.

Then we were hit by Covid-19 and the rest of our plans for the year had to be shelved. We discussed ways of reaching those living with dementia in the community in a safe way and as Christmas approached we donated to and worked with the Shine Project at Kay Street Baptist Church to get Christmas dinners and a friendly message out to those in the community living with dementia.

As we moved through 2021 we continued trying to reach out to those living in the community with dementia by sending out afternoon tea treats, to try and include as many as possible we advertised the afternoon teas and asked people to request the afternoon tea treats for family or friends who were living with dementia in the community. To make sure as many as possible benefitted from a treat we also sent ice cream vans (and some afternoon tea treats) to Rossendale care homes.

We supported groups and cafes as they tried to reopen and get back to normal, sending the ice cream van for a treat, providing materials for art day celebrations, local food and drink for Lancashire Day celebrations and bulb planting equipment and resources for Easter celebrations.

As we neared the back end of 2022 we got back out into the community with two successful Christmas Flower Arranging Workshops, making Christmas Wreaths and Table Arrangements and we work with a ukulele group ‘Ukulele Buddies’ who are going into Rossendale care homes twice a month to entertain the residents.

Then at the start of this year we heard that Rossendale Hospice were starting a weekly dementia group and in need of donated activities so to get them started we bought for them the same dementia friendly activities and games that been a success in the groups and cafes.

In 2019 we welcomed two new trustees, Neil Frazer and Gill Chapman, Neil took over as treasurer and Gill ran the monthly dementia café at the Library café in Waterfoot. Unfortunately Gill had to step away for personal reasons and Neil retired to Yorkshire by the sea.

Paula Bond has taken a back seat, family commitments and a new job taking up most of her time and Sue Helmsley is passing on the job of treasurer as retirement will see her away a lot more.

We were very pleased recently to welcome Suzanne Craven into the fold as a new trustee and will be actively seeking others to join her.