

Dear BBL,

Here is our report for Quarter Apr/May/June 2017.

At every session we start by having a cuppa and a biscuit and share any news since last time we met. This is a really important part of the session as it allows everyone to reconnect and feel part of the group.

We were very sad to receive news from Judy, that Reg, a real character of the group, had passed away.



Judy and her daughter came to visit us to say thank you for the good times her and Reg had spent with the Memory Lane group. We hope that Judy will still feel welcome to join the group and we will remember Reg fondly.

12thApril 2017



Today the group enjoyed painting various items that they had made and left to dry from earlier sessions. It's not always possible to finish the pieces in one session, so it's always satisfying to come back and see the pieces finished off completely.



26th April 2017

Carol's session today involved bowls of 'gloop' and a fishy theme.

Everyone made their own papier mache fish. A very messy experience!

10th May 2017

The group really enjoyed a wire art session led by Carol today.

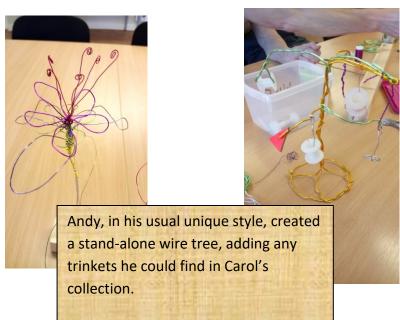
Everyone was amazed how a pile of coloured wire could be twisted and turned to make beautiful flowers. When completed they were secured to a block of wood to create a colourful 'window-box'.

This required focus to hold and twist and secure and so was quite a quiet session, with everyone concentrating on their work. Everyone actually found this very calming and peaceful.









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24th May 2017

Today we had a fun with paint day. Testing out new techniques with textured rollers, paint pads





Rachel created the most beautiful picture with her paints and tools. She said, "I don't know where it comes from. I just got started and it flowed." Her step-daughter is now going to frame it to hang in Rachel's kitchen as the colours match perfectly.

Following the painting session, we took advantage of the beautiful weather and retired to the garden for a picnic. (Picnic kindly provided by Mayfields)







14th June 2017

Carol led the sewing session today, with an extra construction activity for Andy to let his creative juices loose on.



We also had a visit from Fran Taylor BBC. Fran talked to the group about Boston High School Challenge Week and the students who would like to visit Memory Lane as part of their experience in the field of Health and Social Care. Everyone was in agreement that that would be ok.

Fran also came with a brochure for the group to choose art materials - donated by Zion Westside House Group © Thank you so much.



28th June 2017

Today we were joined by 22 High School students with Fran Taylor BBC and Mrs Manson and Mrs Taylor from BHS, as part of their Challenge Week.

The girls are all considering a career in Health and Social Care or similar and wanted to gain some experience.

The group were split into 3 smaller groups. They rotated through three activities; a Dementia Friends session, a tour and talk around Mayfields (our extra care unit) and

working with Memory Lane clients on their art activities.













The Memory Lane group said that it was lovely to spend time with BHS students. They were very open to answer any questions and Marti gave a quick talk about how Andy's dementia had been identified and the progression to now. She also said, as she often does, that Memory Lane threw her and Andy a lifeline.

The BHS students asked pertinent questions and were genuinely interested in finding more about dementia. Four of the girls said that they had a family member with dementia and so it was particularly useful for them to gain more of an insight into the condition and to chat with carers. All of the students have been offered the opportunity to come back for further experience and Mayfields have made the same offer.

We were also joined this week by a new volunteer who wishes to gain more knowledge and experience of dementia whilst supporting the group at the sessions.

We would really like to be able to offer our sessions weekly at some point in the future. These would be offered on a Tuesday so as not to complete with the Dementia Café at the Len Medlock Centre. We are looking to secure funding for this and would appreciate feedback from BBL as to the possibility of funding these extra sessions.