



**Dear BBL**

**Thank you for your continued support of Memory Lane Creative Arts.**

**Here is our final report which covers the Quarter January, February and March 2024**

We have supported 66 people at Memory Lane this quarter.

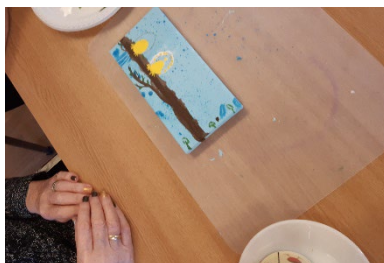
### **Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024**

Rise up this mornin, smiled with the rising sun  
Three little birds, pitch by my doorstep  
Singin sweet songs, of melodies pure and true  
Sayin, this is my message to you-ou-ou.

Bob Marley and the Wailers

We love this song – Don't worry about a thing, 'cause every little thing's gonna be alright, is the message we like to send for our sessions. Just for this short space of time, everything is ok and there's nothing to worry about.

Here are our little birds. Such a joy to paint. Made easy under the direction of our fabulous artist, Debs Oliver.





Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024

At Memory Lane, we measure our success in qualitative not quantitative terms, as I think you all know by now.

Below is a little insight for you from our session held this morning.

J used to attend with her husband until he passed away recently. They loved the sessions and she said the 'old D' came out while he was with us. It took a while before she felt she was comfortable joining us again but says it's the best decision she's made. She has now offered to



volunteer in supporting other attendees. She said the other people attending had 'made her laugh so much, it made her day today'. **WIN**

S used to attend with her Dad, who has moved into a care home in the last few months. She is finding it really hard. Her life revolved around supporting him and, although she knows it was the right decision, it's left a gaping hole in her life. She has continued to attend our sessions as it gives her great comfort and she receives support from other attendees and staff and keeps a much loved connection alive. She chatted for ages today with J and they arranged to meet up outside of the sessions to support each other **WIN**

K & R attend together. K recently had a fall and was in hospital and then recuperating at home for almost two months. Her physical and mental health and have deteriorated but she is back to both our arts group and the day service. When she arrived this morning she looked absolutely miserable. When asked how she was feeling, she said, "I don't know. Well, I feel terrible." and started to cry. After a hug and the promise of her favourite cappuccino and a biscuit, we got her seated and almost smiling. As the session progressed, her mood lifted and she started to make cheeky comments and joke around, making everyone laugh, which pleased her greatly. **WIN WIN**

H & B started today. H had her last session at our day service yesterday, as we are now unable to meet her needs. It's always REALLY sad when we reach this point in the person's dementia journey. We love having her in the sessions and for most of the time, she enjoys being there, but her needs have become increasingly complex. So, in order to maintain the

connection with us, her husband is going to bring her to the art sessions and also to sing with us for a couple of hours each week. H has made a good connection with K at the day service and they kept checking on each other today and waving and smiling across the room. These relationships/connections are really important and make the attendees know that they are with friends; with people who care about them. **WIN**



G, A and R. G brings two residents from a nearby care home, who both have dementia. They both enjoy getting out for a while and taking part in the activities. A is a bit of a 'celebrity' in the town, who used to cycle around and stop to chat with people. The residents at our scheme, where the sessions are held, recognise him and pop in to say hello or wave to him. He LOVES it! R lived at home until very recently and was about to start at our day service when his wife sadly passed away and he had to go into care. By coincidence, we both worked for the same company 40 years ago and this gives us lots to chat about.

**WIN WIN**

P lives in the scheme and we collect her to attend the sessions. She is 95 years young and likes to keep occupied. She loves the activities and makes everyone laugh After each session, when she's created something quite beautiful, she says, "Is that for me?" And when we tell her SHE made it! She replies, "Did I? I'm cleverer than I thought I was! How much do I owe you? Nothing! Bargain!" :D **WIN**

R & B, as mentioned above, both care full time for their wives with dementia. They had several chats today and I'm certain will, in time, gain much from being able to share their experiences and have some time for a 'man chat',

On top of all those wins, we also produced unique and beautiful works of art, supported by our amazing artist, Debs Oliver. Her skill and patience mean everyone can feel successful.





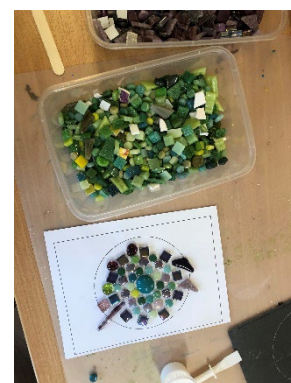
Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> February 2024

Valentines day.

We didn't celebrate as it can be really sad for those without their loved one and also for those with them but who don't know it's Valentines Day.

We did, however, have great fun creating our beautiful mosaics. And some people were remembered in name on these.

K, one of our newer attendees, really comes out of her shell when she's here and quips and comments with such humour, it makes us all laugh out loud. She thoroughly enjoys this and when we told her how much she amused everyone last session, she said, "I'd better pick up where I left off then!" And she did :)





These then went away with Debs to be grouted.

Here are some of the finished results. We are very happy with them :)





**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024**

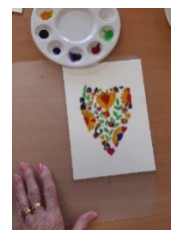
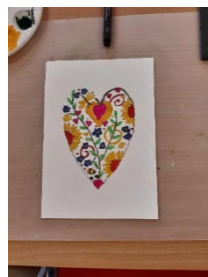
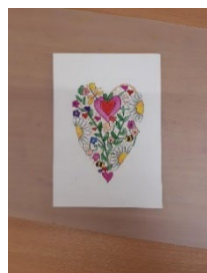
'Spring has sprung, the grass is riz.  
I wonder where the boidie is.'

Anon

We can see signs of Spring everywhere, so we created a bit of our own today. We used pen and watercolours, to create these beautiful pieces, which Deb is going to frame for us.

We were expecting two new members today. They didn't make it. Their son-in-law called to say that they had been so excited to come and join us, but this morning, anxiety took over and it just wasn't happening.

Such is the nature of dementia. We've reassured them that the group is so friendly and welcoming, that if they can just get through the door, the anxiety will disappear. Fingers crossed for next time.





**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024**

Here are some of the framed pieces from our last session:



Today we welcomed two new people to the group. J was so nervous on arrival that she was shaking like a leaf. We had a walkaround so we could have a chat and she could see what the building looked like. Then we got settled for a coffee and a biscuit. 10 minutes in and she was calm and ready to 'play'.

We got in the Easter spirit today and, aprons at the ready, we got very messy working with clay.

We rolled out some balls of clay and carefully cut round an oval template to create our basic egg shape. Then using all sorts of different mark-making tools, we crafted our designs onto the clay.

These will air-dry and be ready for painting at the next session.

Observant readers will notice that each egg has a small hole carefully pushed through, ready for hanging, so we'll be stringing them with some lovely Easter ribbon too.







## Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> March 2024

Today we painted our Easter eggs and shared some Easter treats.  
Any and EVERY excuse for cake. No cake shame here :)







Well, how did that happen so quickly? Boston Big Local have funded our Creative Arts sessions, for those living with dementia and their carers/family, since 2015! We have loved every minute of it. We have been supported by fabulous artists and have created 100s of beautiful pieces of art.

We are still looking at all options for funding to be able to continue these sessions.

If we are unable to do this, the legacy of Memory Lane Creative Arts is our Memory Lane Dementia Day service, which was born out of these creative sessions. This service has grown from two days per month, to two days per week, with a permanent waiting list.

Please accept our thanks, to all of Boston Big Local, for supporting our little service over the years. We know just how grateful our clients are.

“This club is my lifeline. It keeps me going.”

“It’s the only place we go where he’s happy.”

“I love it here. It’s my happy place.”

“It’s so comfortable being around people who understand.”

“I don’t know what I’d do without you all.”

PS

I’ve been in discussion with Boston Brough Council about one of our first projects...





It's going to need a new home and they're going to work with us to make sure it gets one :)