



DUNFERMLINE ADVOCACY

Dunfermline Advocacy Bulletin

Winter 2016

This Bulletin is for you - our Citizen Advocates! In it you will find Dunfermline Advocacy news and events, along with a regular feature on a Citizen Advocacy Partnership. We hope that you will share this newsletter with your Advocacy Partners when you meet up. Please also forward it on to any friends or family who may be interested. We can provide paper copies on request. If you would like to contribute, or if have any requests for content, please email us at admin@dunfermlineadvocacy.org.

friendship changing lives

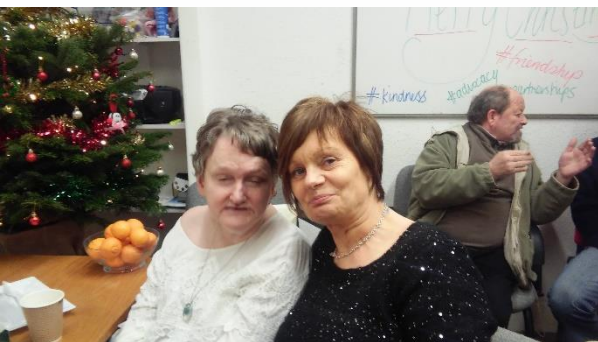
2016 at a glance...

Festive

blether

(ble-thir) Dialect, chiefly Scot. ~n. 1. person who chatters incessantly; one who babbles on and on ("That wee yin o' yours is an awfy blether gettin'"). ~v. 2. to engage in conversation, long-winded or idle talk (as in "Ah met yer granny doon the toun, we hud a richt guid blether the gither")
[See also sweetie-wife]
© Spruce Design

Thank you to the 50+ people who managed to come along to our last partnership event of the year! It was an amazing afternoon and just fantastic to catch up with you all. Here are just a few of the snaps taken on the day...



AGM

2016

We held our Annual General Meeting on Tuesday 4th October 2016 at The Sanctuary within Gillespie Church with almost 40 people in attendance. The venue was absolutely beautiful given its recent refurbishment.

As well as general AGM business, a range of short video clips were shown and a Panel Question & Answer session also took place. Many questions were taken from the floor and we thank you for your participation in this.

Summer BBQ

Our Summer BBQ was also a hit with Advocates & Partners. Over 45 were in attendance on the day including our Patron, Provost of Fife Jim Leishman.



Preparation Courses

We ran a total of six Preparation Courses for potential new advocates.

**Unless someone like
you cares a whole
awful lot,
nothing is
going to get
better.
It's not.**



Fashion Show



DA was one of four charities chosen by the Rotary Club of Dunfermline Carnegie to benefit from funds raised from this event. The evening went very well and was also attended by two of our Trustees, Hazel and Lana! Thank you for assisting with this event.

Total funds received have yet to be confirmed.

M&S

Bag Pack

Thank you to everyone who gave up their free time on 24th & 25th November to help us bag pack at the Dunfermline M&S Store. We raised a total of **£818.08** from both days in addition to the £380 already raised by Dunfermline M&S Staff. Thank you to Marks & Spencer Dunfermline for picking DA as their Chosen Charity of the Year!

You can keep track of the progress being made to our overall target goal of £5000 via the Neighbourly Website. Simply go to www.neighbourly.com and search for "Dunfermline Advocacy"

A special thank you to...



TimberShack.biz

The Staff at Timber Shack in Charlestown (Harbour Road) for their kind donation of printed t-shirts used for our bag packing days.

<http://www.timbershackcards.co.uk/>



Dalgety Bay Probus Club for their generous donation of £ 76.00

<http://www.dalgetybayprobus.co.uk/>



Datel Solutions of Dunfermline who have, yet again, generously donated in kind a "one year maintenance plan" to provide support and assistance in relation to our telephone system.

Thank you very much to Douglas and Ross at Datel!

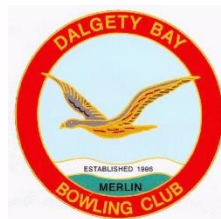
<http://datel-solutions.co.uk>



Carnock and Oakley Guild who made a donation of £30



Dunfermline Ladies Probus Club who made a £30



Dalgety Bay Bowling Club for their very generous donation of £186.00



Your Conveyancer (Dunfermline Branch) for their kind donation of £877.74

We are extremely grateful to you all as we do rely on donations to support our work across West Fife. Thank you!

Partnership in the Spotlight

Short-term Advocate David



David has been a short-term advocate for four years now and has been matched with over 10 people in that time. That may not sound very many for four years but David's partnerships have lasted anywhere between one month and eight months! David has also helped people in a variety of different situations such as family conflicts, care needs being assessed, benefit assessments, children panel hearings and social work engagement issues.

David has always been excellent at really understanding someone's situation from their perspective and trying to find the best way he can help them without being intrusive. David will always encourage someone to have the confidence to speak up for themselves wherever possible but is also happy to speak on anyone's behalf when they felt they couldn't.

I'm sad to say that David will be leaving DA in the New Year as he is moving to be closer to his sons. David has always given a helping hand to DA in various ways and we will still be able to show new short-term advocates our DVD which features David talking about being an advocate. Recently I asked David what he had enjoyed about being a short-term advocate;

"My work as a short-term advocate has had a positive effect on peoples' lives. It has also been rewarding for me, knowing that I have been able to assist others to overcome difficulties and make a positive contribution to their life. Short-term advocacy, without long term, regular, commitments suits me as, although retired, we travel regularly to see relatives and abroad for holidays often at short notice. I would advise anyone wishing to make a voluntary, positive contribution to our community to consider helping with the excellent work carried out by Dunfermline Advocacy."

From all the staff at DA thank you for all your hard work and good luck for the future David.

By Hannah Brennan, Development Worker

What will you be doing this Christmas?

...Looking forward to it? Making plans? Getting together with friends and family?.... For many of the vulnerable people we work with the festive season can be difficult – daunting, confusing, lonely – a struggle on many levels. If you have no close family or friends, are struggling to make ends meet, are unhappy where you live, or simply don't understand what is happening, 'tis maybe not ' the season to be jolly'.

Their Citizen Advocate might be the one person who makes a difference to a vulnerable person around Christmas time. Many of our Advocacy partnerships choose to enjoy some time celebrating together in December : a meal out; a trip to the panto; coming to our office Festive Bletcher; exchanging cards or small gifts (it may be the only card or gift someone receives). Last year one of our Citizen Advocates took a festive meal for his advocacy partner on Christmas Day, as he knew he would otherwise have been alone all day, others made sure their advocacy partner was included in their Christmas Eve or Christmas morning visits. The time taken by our Advocates to do this is freely given, because of the rewards they get from being part of the advocacy partnership.

In their Christmas message this year Volunteer Scotland pointed out that "2016 has been a divisive year in many ways, one where society's differences have been laid bare.

Volunteers...join communities and connect society." So if you're looking forward to this Christmas and have a little time to spare and heart to give, why not think about becoming a Citizen Advocate in 2017?

– and next Christmas you could be making a difference for a vulnerable person in your community.

By Barbara Mackenzie, Development Worker

Video - the best highlights of 2016!

Here is what our advocates and partners felt were their best highlights of 2016!

[Click Here](#)

Finally...

Office Closure over Festive period



The Dunfermline Advocacy Office will be closed from Friday 23rd December 2016 until Tuesday 3rd January 2017 inclusive. Normal hours of business resume on Wednesday 4th January 2017.

**We would like to take the opportunity to wish you
a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year 2017.**

Should you or anyone you know require assistance over the Festive Period please refer to this "Surviving Christmas" booklet which contains contact details for key services in the Fife area.

[Click Here](#)

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