



Cross-Channel: Dementia Action Alliance staff host their French visitors at the Phoenix's dementia-friendly screening.

Pioneering ways to deal with dementia in the community

By Diana Cormack

In mid-February a delegation from France visited London to learn from innovative services for people living with dementia. One service was a Cinememories session at the Phoenix Cinema.

These free dementia-friendly screenings for the over 60s and two guests of any age are well attended.

Patrick Gray, Dementia Friendly Communities Organiser for Haringey, Barnet and Merton invited Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) members to join them at the cinema to talk about work going on in the borough. Unfortunately on the day Patrick was ill and unable to attend, but was ably represented by service manager Monique Gardiner and new group coordinator Despina Pilavakis.

They were able to tell the visitors about the support services and activities available in Barnet, such as the dementia clubs and cafes and 'Singing for the Brain' groups,

along with the proposal for a system to support those with young onset dementia. Liz Kon, of The Reader Organisation, came along to explain how shared reading can bring people together and improve their well-being.

The French contingent of Anne-Berénice Simzac, Isabelle Donnio and Karine Chauvin put plenty of probing questions to them and seemed impressed with their answers. We would appear to be amongst the more advanced European countries in our dealings with dementia in the community.

Inspiring projects

Anne-Berénice Simzac told *The Archer*: "Fondation Médéric Alzheimer and Fondation de France are joining forces to promote concrete initiatives in

order to make French society more supportive, inclusive and enabling for people living with cognitive disabilities. Therefore, they are looking for the most inspiring initiatives in other countries.

"In the UK, the French Foundations are especially interested in the activities run by Alzheimer Society and Barnet Dementia Action Alliance aimed at creating dementia friendly communities. We are grateful to Alzheimer Society and Barnet Dementia Action Alliance for helping with our visit and explaining these inspiring projects."

The Archer is a member of Barnet Dementia Action Alliance. For more information visit: www.dementiaaction.org.uk

RICKY SAVAGE ...

"The voice of social irresponsibility"

Welcome to the pandemic

As you dodge the coughers in your place of work or notice the empty chairs of colleagues struck down by the so-called Aussie flu, consider what a good time it is to mark one of the weirdest centenaries so far.

There's been a stack of flu pandemics down the years, normally one about every ten years, and they've all done their bit to spread panic and kill a serious number of people. The 1957 one killed around 2,000,000. But what arrived in 1918 was the big one.

It all began at an army camp in Kansas in March 1918 and didn't take long to spread as the GIs were shipped out to fight on the Western Front. It hit the soldiers at the army camps in France and by the time the war ended in November it had got control. By then they were calling it Spanish Flu. Which was a bit unfair on Spain seeing as it was an American import.

As each demobbed army came home it brought a little viral gift. And, boy, what a gift. This flu bug didn't kill the old, young and the infirm, this one targetted the young. If you were between 18 and 30 you were as much in the firing line as you had been during the war, with one difference: it went for men and women. And it killed them.

The stronger your immune system, the harder you fought the bug until your body went into overload and you either recovered or died. You could get it in the morning and be dead by dinner time. By the time it ran out of steam in 1920 it had killed around 50 million people across the world. Pretty good for a virus, at least from the virus' point of view.

So, as we fight off the latest flu fad just be grateful that it's not the big one, take aspirin, stay warm and you'll be fine. Oh, and by the way, man flu does not exist, just as woman flu does not exist. How can something that can be cured with a box set binge, hot chocolate or a pizza be flu? Flu is flu, and dangerous; anything else is just a day off work.

Hermine Dauker, 1938-2018

Hermi Dauker was the second of four children born and educated in Saarbruecken, Germany, where she qualified as a teacher in 1965. She went on to study psychology at the Universities of Marburg and Mainz.

In 1967 she came to London as a supply teacher in the French and German languages before moving into foreign language books and then journalism where she collaborated on the research and writing of reports on industrial relations in Europe.

Her final 18 years of work were spent as a partner in an editorial services company responsible for a number of research journals in psychology, working first from home in East Finchley's county roads and then from a small office in Church Lane, N2.

When she retired in 1998 she became a familiar face as a volunteer in the North London Hospice shop in the High Road. She was a friendly, cheerful person, always ready to have a drink and a chat and always willing to help out with what-



Hospice shop volunteer: Hermi Dauker

ever needed doing.

Retirement also allowed her to indulge her keen interests in music, gardening and art. She took piano and painting lessons and travelled widely, visiting mountain gardens in Cuba and spice plantations in India, watching puppet shows in Vietnam and listening to a variety of instrumental and vocal music.

Hermi will be sorely missed by her family and friends. She is survived by two brothers, Herwig and Helmut Dauker, and their children and grandchildren and by her work-partner, travelling companion and friend Michele.

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Corbyn book talk

Alex Nunns will be talking about his book, *The Candidate: Jeremy Corbyn's Improbable Path to Power*, at The Black Gull bookshop, High Road, N2, on Thursday, 15 March, at 7.30pm. Entrance is free.

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