

Dementia – Plain and Simple

Donna McCallum

8 February 2024

We had a unique meeting on Thursday 8 February, with many wives present at a thoroughly interesting and informative afternoon. Our speaker Dona McCallum passed on her experiences and knowledge after forty years hard, but enjoyable, work with patients from all walks of life. She explained that apparently there are over 100 types of dementia, most of which can be treated but not cured. Life expectancy varies from 8-10 or even 15 years after diagnosis, but is irreversible.

Dona explained that Dementia could be explained as a filing box with one or two leaves removed. It is a problem of your brain, but is not heritable in families in her experience. She gave us many instances, experiences and resulting after-effects. It is a very sobering experience and illustrates the huge amount of love and support Donna and her staff give on a daily basis, each individual patient requiring personal care. She impressed us all with her dedication and love for the work she and her staff carry out.

This meeting was a complete eye opener which left us with a broader and more complete understanding of Dementia.