To Absent Friends, a people’s festival of storytelling and remembrance

Mark Hazelwood
Scottish Partnership for Palliative Care
Royal Scottish National Orchestra working with schools and care homes.
Meet the Parents by Colin Gray
An exhibition at North Edinburgh Arts Centre

Get Organised
An organ recital by John Kitchen at the Usher Hall, Edinburgh
She used to call me “my little bird”.
I grew up with her.
She grew old with me.

Words and picture: Eleni Thomaidou
Community Events
Balmer Care Homes

Balloon release and memory tree.
Waverley Care

Live music, poems, candles to light and a remembrance wall.

PAMIS

Ceremony and storytelling for people with learning disabilities
Remembering the Light – for people who have struggled with mental health and/or traumatic loss

Time of Reflection for People Bereaved by Suicide

Falkland Estate

St Columba’s Church, Glenrothes
Beer Festival

Napier University,
Pilot Brewery, Stockbridge Tap
a people's festival of storytelling and remembrance

1-7 November 2014

Because dead ordinary people live on in the memories and stories we share.
Lynn Griffin @LynnMrsgriffin · 13 hrs
Changed profile pic in honour of Nannie, my amazing grandmother, #love #miss @2AbsentFriends @LifeDeathGrief

Sue Ryder @Sue_Ryder · Nov 2
We have changed our profile image to Sue Ryder for #toabsentfriends week. Who do you remember?

P Em @polymacnicol · Nov 1
@2AbsentFriends It's my sister's BD on Tues & me & my kid will light candles & look at pictures of us in happier times. #ToAbsentFriends
To Absent Friends…….

**Is……..**

- Owned by nobody (and everybody)
- Unencumbered by a logo
- Created by its participants
- Broad and inclusive
  - Individual/private
  - Public/collective
  - Grief, bereavement, loss, celebratory, memorialising
  - Unbound by place
- Built on Scottish culture

**Isn’t………..**

- Defined by an organisation
- An awareness week
- A fundraiser
- Prescriptive
What have we learned?
Who do you remember?