



April 2011

Newsletter No. 37

# Brain Waves



## A monthly newsletter from Innovations in Dementia CIC

The aim of these newsletters is to keep people with dementia and their allies informed about the work of Innovations in Dementia Community Interest Company.



### Our House – a new project

We are delighted to announce the start of a new project called Our House.

Find out more on page 2

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## Our House - a new project

We are delighted to announce the start of a new project, called Our House. The project will aim to answer the following questions:

- How can we best engage older residents with dementia in the life of their care home?
- Is it possible for people with dementia to feel a sense of ownership in the running of their care home?
- What kind of methods and approaches can help care home staff to engage with people with dementia?



The project will run for two years in two care homes for people with dementia: Charnwood House in Coventry (run by Methodist Homes Association) and Lennox House in London (run by Care UK).

The “Our House” project came out of some previous work with care home residents who have dementia.

There was an incredibly strong feeling from people about the importance of “home” – that home is not just a physical place, but somewhere that you feel you belong, where you have a role and a contribution to make. This might be making big decisions within the care home about budgeting or menu planning or smaller decisions that keep people engaged in day-to-day life such as deciding how to spend time or being involved in household activities.

All too often in care homes, involvement of residents is centred on residents’ meetings and surveys. With this project we want to try out some more innovative ways of engaging with people with more advanced dementia.

Innovations in Dementia will provide training, support and mentoring to staff around the best ways of engaging with people with dementia. Most importantly, residents with dementia will be supported to determine the kinds of activities and approaches that they would like to get involved in.

## Thinking Differently about Dementia in Essex

20 May 2011

Chelmsford, Essex

This event aims to inspire, challenge and provoke better thinking about what it takes to enable people to live well with dementia.

People with dementia have the right to live a full life with people they can trust.

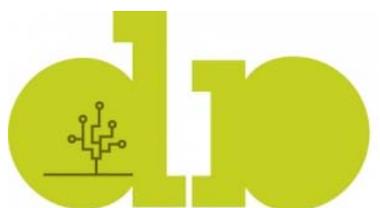
The National Dementia Strategy, 'Living well with dementia' invites us all to rethink the way we respond to the challenge of maintaining a good quality of life for people with dementia and their families.

Care and nursing homes for people with dementia receive relentlessly negative media coverage and there can be no doubt that too many people with dementia and their families are expected to settle for a poor quality of life. However we know that residential care can be a rich family and community oriented experience.

### Come and join us at this event

This unique event combines inspiring filmed talks with time to think and time to listen to others who care about the lives of people with dementia.

Each delegate will be invited to make a personal commitment to take action to improve the lives of people with dementia and their families as well as the care workers who are in the front line of caring.



dementia adventure®

Find out more and book your place through the Dementia Adventure website  
Go to [www.dementiaadventure.co.uk](http://www.dementiaadventure.co.uk)



## Do you know of examples where older people with high support needs both give and receive support?

The National Development Team for Inclusion and Community Catalysts are exploring alternative approaches for older people with high support needs.

As part of this work they are asking people about their experiences, aspirations and views of support that is based on reciprocal relationships, rather than traditional services provided by professionals or organisations (which tend to be more 'one-way').

Follow this link to find out more <http://www.ndti.org.uk/news/ndti-news/call-for-information-examples-of-giving-and-receiving-support/> and to fill in a simple template



**Innovations  
in Dementia**

Innovations in Dementia is run by three directors - Rachael, Steve and Nada. We are a Community Interest Company. This means that any profit we make is put back into the organisation.

We do not offer services for people with dementia. Instead we work with other organisations to make sure that people with dementia can continue to take part in their communities and have active lives.

Please share your ideas, experiences and positive stories with us.

### Contact us

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