



November 2009

Newsletter No. 21

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.

Innovations in Dementia changing attitudes

We gave talks at two conferences this November.

Find out more on pages 2 and 3



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Penelope gives an 'inspirational' talk in London

Penelope is a ThinkTank volunteer with Innovations in Dementia. She has dementia and she also cared for her mother.

Penelope has helped us with our project about an information resource of equipment.

She spoke at the National Telecare Conference in London. She answered questions from the audience as part of a workshop run by Stephen Wey.

Stephen is an occupational therapist. He also does research at York St John's University.

The workshop was about how important it is to include people with dementia in decisions about equipment that might help them.

The audience included equipment makers and occupational therapists.

Penelope talked about:

- How important it is to listen to the views of people with dementia.
- How difficult it was for her to get information
- How important dementia training is.

And most importantly Penelope stressed that:

- "It is vital that we change attitudes towards people with dementia."

Penelope certainly changed the attitudes of the conference delegates who heard her speak.

One member of the audience told us that Penelope had made her look 'beyond the disease and to see the person'.

Another person in the audience told Penelope that her talk had been inspirational.

Our reflections from the Dementia Congress

The Dementia Congress is a big conference organised by the Journal of Dementia Care.

This year it took place in Harrogate over three days.

More than 900 people interested in dementia attended the conference.



This year Steve talked about his work with an organisation called Pictures to Share. In this project Steve trains care home staff to encourage reading among the residents of the care homes.

There was a good feeling at the conference, and lots of talk about the government's National Dementia Strategy.

Professor Simon Lovestone of King's College London gave a very up-beat talk about new drugs being developed for dementia. He hopes they will be available in five to ten years.

ThinkTank film causes a reaction

The Congress also saw the first airing of the film made by ThinkTank members.

It was part of a session called 'A good life with dementia'. In the film, people with dementia who work with Innovations in Dementia talk about what is important for them.

We hope that the film demonstrates that people with dementia work with Innovations in Dementia as equals.

Delegates at the conference were very impressed with the film.

We gave away twenty copies of the film at the Congress - and you can download it from our website - www.myid.org.uk.

John responds to the 'Our House' project proposal

John is another ThinkTank volunteer with Innovations in Dementia. John read about the 'Our House' project in September's issue of BrainWaves. 'Our House' is about finding ways to involve people with dementia who live in care homes.

John was inspired to write a poem:

We want to be active on budget
To involve ourselves and to nudge it
We seek opportunities to decide
And on gardens and meals to take pride
To prove to the world we can do it and not judge it

We are still seeking funding for this project. Let us know if you think of any funders who might be interested.



**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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