

November 2008

Newsletter No. 9

# Brain Waves



**A monthly newsletter from Innovations in Dementia CIC**

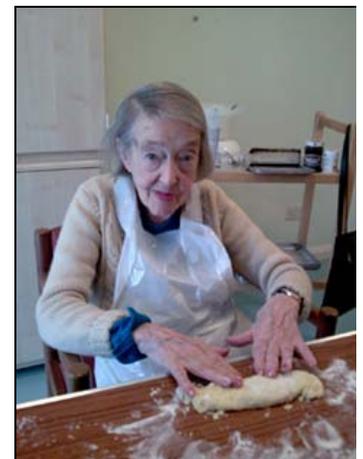
The aim of these newsletters is to keep people with dementia and their allies informed about the work of Innovations in Dementia Community Interest Company.

## **People with dementia at Innovation Live event**

People with dementia tell conference delegates about their work with computers.  
Read more on page 2

## **A plea for genuine care**

Penelope has dementia and wants to use this newsletter to challenge others to think about how people with dementia are viewed and treated.  
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## People with dementia at Innovation Live event

Innovation Live took place at the QEII Conference Centre in London on 12 November 2008. The event was attended by around 500 people from within the NHS and from external organisations interested in transforming healthcare.

The event was jointly run by NESTA and the NHS Institute for Innovation & Improvement. It was the first event of its kind to take an in-depth look at exploring and stimulating innovation in health.

Among the exhibitors were three people with dementia supported by three care workers from Tresham day care centre. The day centre is run by Housing21 and has been part of a project funded by NESTA.

The people with dementia were there to tell delegates about the computer project that has been running their day centre this year.



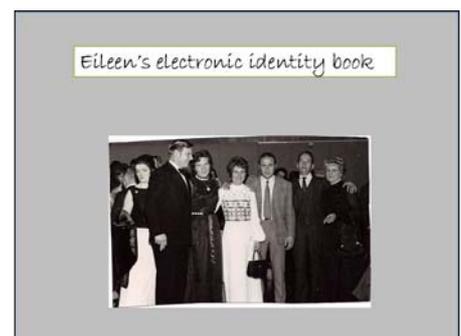
Each pair has prepared a presentation using PowerPoint. The presentations explained how they used the computers at the day centre.

They showed how they took pictures of activities such as a baking day and trips. They used these pictures to make slide shows or write an article for the day centre newsletter.

They also showed how they used PowerPoint to create life history books and the internet to search for information and

pictures of favourite places. They also used the internet to search for music from the past.

The delegates were very interested to hear from people with dementia about how they used the computers. And the staff and people with dementia enjoyed the day too.



If you are interested in this work, please contact Nada

[Nada@innovationsindementia.org.uk](mailto:Nada@innovationsindementia.org.uk)

## A plea for genuine care

*Penelope has dementia and wants to use this newsletter to challenge others to think about how people with dementia are viewed and treated.*



There are many problems for people with dementia. The memory erodes and this has an unfortunate impact on daily life. It is quite possible to find oneself without food or to be able to find the necessary equipment to heat your home or bed.

In order to help with these predicaments a service of 'carers' is provided. 'Carers' may be voluntary (friends or neighbours), statutory and professional.

Among those who suffer from dementia are some, like myself, who still have the ability to do most things for themselves and within their homes without assistance - but genuine assistance is always mightily welcome!!

The problem is that sometimes friends and 'carers' take advantage with property or in the way they act. They can leave people feeling violated and vulnerable - particularly when those with dementia are less likely to be believed than those who protest that allegations are untrue.

It is possible also that people with dementia being nursed in hospital and care units are treated with a similar lack of respect.

**The challenge to our readers is this**

How do we protect those with dementia, who have lived very useful lives, but are now themselves in need of genuine care and respect?



## Tell us what you think

Please contact us if you have any views about this article and we will pass them on to Penelope.

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**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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