



September 2013

Newsletter No. 66

# 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.

## Supporting people with dementia from diverse backgrounds

This month's quarterly meeting of the Dementia Action Alliance focused on dementia within BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) communities.



Find out what some people with dementia at the meeting thought on page 3

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## Shared Lives for people with dementia – next steps

Innovations in Dementia and Shared Lives South West recently completed a three year project investigating Shared Lives for people with dementia.

Shared Lives is a form of social care that offers permanent or short breaks in the home of a local family. In summary, people with dementia and their family carers responded very positively to receiving a Shared Lives short break service.

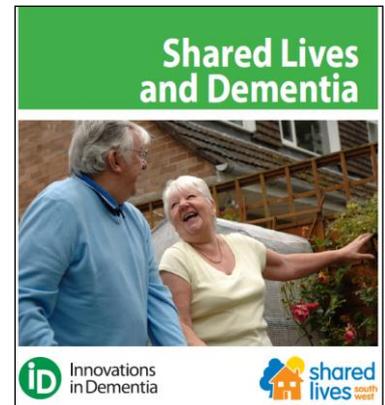
We are now seeking funding for a second stage to this work in South West England. We hope to work with eight Shared Lives schemes to create a 'demonstration site' for the development of Shared Lives opportunities for people with dementia.

We would provide training and support to schemes and track outcomes for people with dementia and their families.

Some of the things we would hope to measure include:

- Any positive health benefits
- Costs or savings to the public purse
- Evidence of avoidance or delay of hospital or residential care

We hope to be able to present a business case for why there should be local investment in Shared Lives services for people with dementia.



## The People's Book Prize – you be the judge

The People's Book Prize is a national competition aimed at finding, supporting and promoting new and undiscovered works.

The latest book from Pictures to Share – Proverbs and Saying in Pictures has been entered in the non-fiction category.

### You be the judge!

You can vote for Proverbs and Sayings at the People's Book Prize website.

Go to: <http://www.peoplesbookprize.com/book.php?id=982>



## Supporting people with dementia from diverse backgrounds

This month's quarterly meeting of the Dementia Action Alliance focused on dementia within BAME (Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic) communities. The day included a number of interesting presentations.



In the afternoon a workshop challenged us to think of ways in which we could all take action to support people with dementia from BAME backgrounds.

A group of people with dementia who are affiliates of the Dementia Action Alliance came up with the following thoughts:

- The shared experience of living with dementia brings people from different backgrounds together.
- We can all learn from different cultures.
- We need to celebrate diversity – every person with dementia is different.

The members of the group also work as part of the Dementia Engagement and Empowerment Project (DEEP).

They recommended that we think about the following if we are to hear the voices of people with dementia from diverse backgrounds:

- We need role models – people with dementia from BAME communities who will inspire others.
- We need to make sure that we are offering the right type of engagement – can we do things differently to attract different people?
- We need to ensure that people are supported locally.
- We need to ensure that ideas and initiatives come from people with dementia from different communities themselves, and are not imposed on people from outside.

## Find out more about dementia within BAME communities

In July 2013 the All-Party Parliamentary Group on Dementia published their report “Dementia does not discriminate: The experiences of black, Asian and minority ethnic communities”. You can download the report from the Alzheimer's Society website.

Go to:

[http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/documents\\_info.php?documentID=1583&pageNumber=2](http://www.alzheimers.org.uk/site/scripts/documents_info.php?documentID=1583&pageNumber=2)

## Jenny Neal

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Jenny Neal.

Many of you will recognise Jenny as the face of the Joseph Rowntree Foundation's York Dementia Without Walls project.

Along with her husband Tony, Jenny was a key part of that work, and we are very grateful for the enormous contribution they made.



Jenny lives on not only in our hearts, but through the work that she and Tony did. You can see Jenny and Tony on YouTube. Go to:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hM9KOYWajnA>

You can find out more about the Dementia Without Walls project at the JRF website. Go to:

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/work/workarea/dementia-without-walls>



**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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