

January 2009

Newsletter No. 11

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 and computers - a successful project completed

We are very happy to say that our computer project with Dementia Voice - Housing 21, which finished in December 2008, was very successful.

Read more about our conclusions on page 2



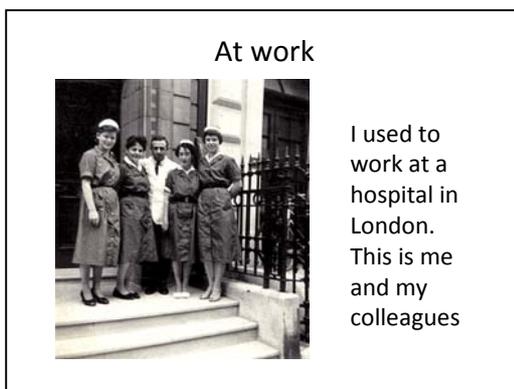
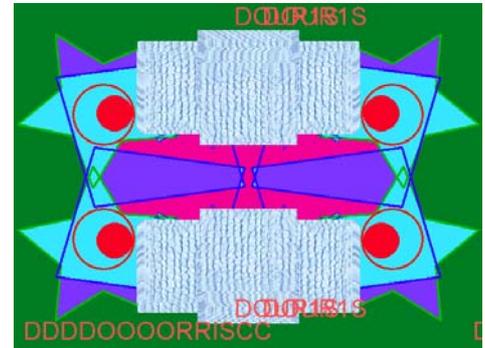
In this newsletter:

People with dementia and computers - a successful project completed	p2
Start making sense - what do we mean by information?	p3
Contact us	p4

People with dementia and computers - a successful project completed

In November 2007, Innovations in Dementia and Dementia Voice-Housing 21 received funding from the NESTA Mental Health Innovation challenge to run a project around computer use.

Two projects were run at day centres in London and Manchester. We trained and supported care staff to increase their skills and confidence with everyday software such as PowerPoint, Word and Internet Explorer.



The project ended in December 2008, and has shown that people with dementia can engage in computer work at many different levels.

The computers were used in activities such as reminiscence and art, and for making records of activities such as outings and parties.

People with dementia and staff had fun:

- creating artwork,
- searching the internet and using YouTube to find their favourite songs,
- creating presentations in PowerPoint about their lives or activities at the day centre,
- and using Word to create cards for friends and relatives.

The project found that the skills and sensitivity of staff are the most important factor in encouraging people with dementia to use computers.

What next?

Innovations in Dementia is keen to encourage more care staff to think about using computers with people with dementia.

If you are interested, please get in touch.

Email: nada@innovationsindementia.org.uk. Telephone: 01392 420076
Innovations in Dementia CIC, PO Box 616, Exeter, EX1 9JB

Start making sense - what do we mean by information?

We have started work on our 'Start Making Sense' project around making information easier for people with dementia.

The initial work on this project is funded by a Big Lottery development grant.

The first thing we have done is to look at what we mean by **information**.

For us, information is any way of ensuring that a message is received and understood. In our complicated world we receive information in lots of ways.

For example a simple shopping trip involves understanding lots of bits of information:

- Signposts on the street.
- Displays in shop windows.
- Signs about shop opening times.
- Labels on supermarket aisles and shelves.
- Instructions for paying.



But there are many other ways to 'go shopping'.

Shopping may also involve looking at advertisements in newspapers, looking at a mail order catalogue, or searching the internet.

Recent research by the government's Office for Disability Issues found that many people have trouble understanding or making themselves understood when trying to access goods and services.

Help us to investigate this issue

We think everyone should be able to go shopping, use public transport and follow hobbies and leisure activities. But for many people everyday activities like these can be made too confusing by poorly written information.

If you would like to help us with this project, please get in touch.

Telephone: 01392 420076

Innovations in Dementia CIC, PO Box 616, Exeter, EX1 9JB

Email: ideas@innovationsindementia.org.uk.



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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