Support for rights and voices heard

Innovations in Dementia has done a great deal in its short life. Steve Milton celebrates the achievements of a social enterprise whose purpose is to make sure people with dementia are heard.

Dementia-friendly Brent: a model of community

Seldom heard ethnic minority groups played a vital role in making one London borough dementia friendly. Mary Tilki and colleagues report on Brent’s dynamic social movement.

Marking his final hours, with sadness and love

Joanne Hill and her family cared for her dad Derek during his last days in hospital. She shares her memories of that final journey.

Telecare: addressing the problems and challenges

Telecare has a growing role in the care of older people with dementia, but has its potential been fully exploited? John Woolham reports on findings that, if telecare were better used, outcomes could improve.

Comfort care, peace and dignity at the end of life

Good end of life care is essential in dementia, but not always delivered. Angela Liddament explains her role as an advanced nurse practitioner in a Norfolk care village.

Remembering yesterday, caring today: 20 years on

As director of the European Reminiscence Network, Pam Schweitzer is a pioneer of reminiscence work, particularly in dementia care. She looks back at 20 years of the international Remembering Yesterday, Caring Today project.

Paramedics and dementia

Paramedic students are learning more about dementia care, but how many intend to work in the field? Joanne Brooke and Marlon Stiell’s study produced some worrying findings.

Dementia care in A&E: how to avoid admissions

How can people with dementia in hospital emergency departments be assessed effectively? Jo Nicholls and Helen Oldknow discuss their project to reduce unnecessary inpatient admissions.

The Paro seal: weighing up the infection risks

The PARO robotic seal can improve the wellbeing of people with dementia, but is it safe for use on hospital wards? Kathy Martyn and colleagues carried out research and found that it passed hygiene tests. But Carlene Rowson and her collaborators claim that infection control concerns have not been adequately answered. In this debate, they argue the case for and against PARO on hospital wards.

Colour photographs on the front cover and pages 25-27 are from the current Remembering Yesterday, Caring Today project in Camden, north London. They were taken by Alex Schweitzer, a long-term volunteer on the project. Grateful thanks to all involved.