

■ Project updates & viewpoints

Support for eating and drinking at end of life 10

A new booklet tells family carers what they need to know to help a person living with dementia who has eating and drinking difficulties towards the end of life. Yolanda Barrado-Martín and colleagues say why it is needed

Have I told you about my blackbird? 12

Intensive Interaction is a communication approach attending primarily to an individual's social and emotional needs. Jules McKim illustrates it from a very personal perspective by describing conversations with Helen and Frank, his own mum and dad

Bus stops in care homes: all aboard? 14

Fake bus stops in care homes may be reassuring to some residents but are they ethical? Toby Williamson used to be a critic, but explains why he had a change of heart

Social prescribing: a vital means of access to the arts 16

Social prescribing can help to combat feelings of fear and loneliness in the often prolonged periods leading to a diagnosis of dementia. Veronica Franklin Gould discusses arts prescribing and how it can best be timed to nurture resilience in the community

A new picture book explores the landscape of dementia 18

Positive examples of how to live well with dementia can be hard to find, but John Killick and Claire Craig have found a creative solution in the form of a picture book which they believe will counter the negative images

■ Features

Friendly Faces: volunteer companions in hospital 20

Volunteers can provide companionship and mental stimulation for people with dementia in hospital, but how effective are they? Menaka Jayasekera and colleagues describe their evaluation of the "Friendly Faces" project in Bath to cast light on the benefits that volunteers can bring

GREAT CR – a potential new service in dementia care 24

A personalised cognitive rehabilitation approach for people with dementia has had promising results in helping them to regain and maintain everyday skills. Jackie Pool and Aleksandra Kudlicka assessed the feasibility of extending the GREAT CR programme to care homes

Better Living with Rare Dementia: digital support 27

Given that people with rare forms of dementia are widely dispersed, digital interventions as a means of providing them with support could be a way forward. In the fourth article of our rare dementia series, Joshua Stott and Aida Suarez-Gonzalez report on their digital support platform Better Living with Rare Dementia

The role of doulas in dementia care 30

End of life doulas work with people who have had a terminal diagnosis, including those with dementia in their final months. Aly Dickinson and three end of life doulas talk about the role and present a selection of dementia-related case studies



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