

■ Project updates & viewpoints

Bringing the generations together benefits everyone 12

Loneliness and social isolation are common problems among older people with dementia, but a primary school-based project has found a solution. Alex Kerr-Dineen and David Hinchcliffe report on an initiative bringing together the “bookend generations”

How day centres are unlocking lockdown 14

Day centres shut their doors during lockdown, depriving people of social contact and support. But the practicalities of reopening have to be carefully considered, say Katharine Orellana, Kritika Samsi and Jill Manthorpe, who have produced guidance on “unlocking lockdown”

High time to respect carers as equals 16

Government and policymakers must act now on the needs of family carers if they are to meet the many challenges they face. Anna Gaughan says it is time to treat unpaid carers as key workers

How hard is waving? 18

Vamos Theatre was commissioned by the BBC during lockdown to make four short films about communicating with people in care homes. Artistic director Rachael Savage tells the true story behind the inspiration for the films

Arts and dementia: shaping the future 19

It is widely believed that the arts can improve quality of life in care, but more hard evidence is needed. Ruby Swift and Karen Gray discuss research to build up the evidence base and an event to assist with putting it into practice

■ Features

A special safe environment to calm and minimise risk 21

Finding the right response to stress and distress behaviours on a hospital ward requires careful planning. Julie Young and colleagues decided that a specially designed safe environment adjacent to the ward could be the way forward.

How to maximise vision for the best quality of life 24

Poor vision increases the risk of falls and makes it harder to take part in social activities. In the second of two articles on eyesight and dementia, Marianne Piano sets out ways to help people with dementia see the world as clearly as possible

Involvement in meetings and events: tips for good practice 26

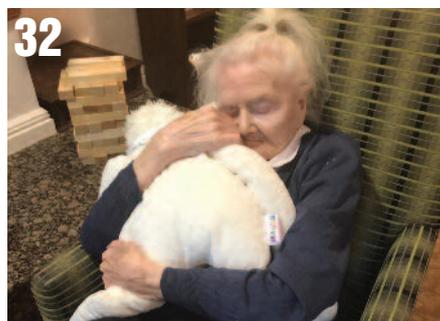
When face-to-face meetings and events resume, there is likely to be a renewed commitment to involving people with dementia and carers. Clare Mason and colleagues reflect on what they have learned from their own experiences and provide some tips for good practice

Why do we need Rare Dementia Support? 29

How can younger people with rare forms of dementia be better supported in health and social care? Emilie Brotherhood and colleagues launch a series of articles focusing on young onset dementia with a look at the role of the Rare Dementia Support network

Sometimes a HUG is all you need 32

Providing emotional comfort for care home residents has been especially challenging during the pandemic. Cathy Treadaway, Jackie Pool and Asa Johnson evaluated a playful object called HUG to find out how it could help



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Front cover: Thanks to all involved in the intergenerational project described on pp12-13