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Semantic dementia gives rise to its own distinct care needs as words are slowly erased. Clare Cooper-Raine describes her mother’s “shrinking world”

Connection Point Worcestershire  14

Worcestershire’s Connection Point is an all-too-rare NHS-funded project just for people with young onset dementia and their family carers. Jo Scarle says it’s a great place to get advice, share problems and have fun

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How can you engage the emotions of care staff to achieve the best outcomes for people? Jan Zietara and colleagues, in the fifth article of our series on hospital-based dementia care, consider a simulation-based approach to “training the trainers”.

‘Why don’t we go into the garden?’ A new poster  18

Debbie Carroll and Mark Rendell collected a mountain of data to find out what makes a good care home garden. They explain how it was turned into an infographic poster, inspiring staff to take a fresh look at their outside spaces

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Ahead of our Creative Arts and Dementia conference, Maria Parsons reviews the ever-expanding role of the arts in dementia care. “The arts may not help you get up in the morning,” she says, “but they do give you something to get up for!”

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Care homes frequently use Dementia Care Mapping to assess the quality of their care, but new research has raised serious questions about it. Claire Surr, Barbara Woodward-Carlton and Alys Griffiths explain the findings from the “EPIC” trial

Diversity and inclusion in dementia research  28

Care interventions to support people with dementia from ethnic minorities must be evidence-based to receive funding, but what if research is lacking? Lucy Whitman investigates whether minority ethnic groups are being overlooked by the research community

Challenging behaviour: BPSD or a form of distress?  32

It is time to throw down the gauntlet once again and recognise that certain forms of behaviour by people with dementia are a reaction to distress, says Caroline Baker. She points out what can go wrong and what to do about it.

Front cover and photographs on pp20-22: sincere thanks to all residents, staff, artists and musicians involved in the projects described.