Dementia and the Imagination: Arts and Design for Health

With the numbers of people with dementia rising and the costs of care spiraling, dementia remains a challenge that the UK cannot overlook. Tackling dementia is now a priority for the NHS. This includes helping people and their carers live well with dementia after diagnosis. Dementia can have a devastating effect on people’s cognitive abilities and with no ‘cure’ on the immediate horizon, there is a real need to think more innovatively about how we can best support individuals and families currently living with dementia in ways that will actively enhance their sense of self and identity and contribute to an improved quality of life. Interestingly, the creative, imaginative and emotional parts of a person often remain relatively strong. Arts and design may thus have an important role to play here – one that is often overlooked in the race for more effective clinical and biomedical interventions.

This year’s Town and Gown event run by Lancaster University Centre for Ageing Research is designed to bring to you some of the most cutting edge research and practice that draws on knowledge and expertise from the worlds of arts and design. From music and theatre to participatory art and design, this event showcases the work of researchers from the university together with that of their collaborators from the health, the voluntary and community sector and academia.

The following invited guest speakers, who are experts in this field and who will draw on some of their latest research to talk about these issues, will be speaking at the event:
Prof John Keady, Manchester University, “Participatory arts and dementia: an overview from Manchester”
Prof Paul Rodgers, Lancaster University, “Disrupting Dementia by Design”
Pam Schweitzer MBE, “Making Theatre from Memories”
Prof Christine Milligan, Lancaster University and Gil Graystone, the Dukes Theatre. ALMO: “A Life More Ordinary”

The full programme is available on the C4AR website, please click on the following link - http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fhm/research/centre-for-ageing-research/#newsampevents

These talks will be interspersed with short 10 minute presentations from a range of researchers from Lancaster in order to showcase their work around dementia, the arts and design as well as short films, exhibitions, posters and other interactive events.

Though the event will be of interest to other academics, the event is primarily aimed at members of the public, practitioners from health and social care, and the worlds of arts and design. Attendance at this one day event is free but places are limited, so you MUST register for a place at this event.

To reserve your place to attend please e-mail Jan Lyons at: c4ar@lancaster.ac.uk
Alternatively you can telephone Jan on: 01524 593309