People with dementia and computers

Nada Savitch

Innovations in Dementia CIC

www.myid.org.uk

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Quick word about me

- Information and website work
- Innovations in Dementia
  - Test new projects that demonstrate what people with dementia can do
  - Involve people with dementia in everything we do

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What comes to mind when you hear the word dementia?

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What I’d like to cover today

- Things that can help people with dementia use computers
  - Adaptive technologies
  - Design
  - People
- People with dementia in these digital times
- What next? – how can we ensure people with dementia aren’t left behind?

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Access to digital technologies is a right not a luxury

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1959

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1991

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2011 ?

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Before

If there are any points on which you require explanation or further particulars we shall be glad to furnish such additional details as may be required by telephone.

After

If you have any questions, please phone.

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Disability Discrimination Act 2005

Rights in respect of:

•employment

•education

•buying or renting land or property, including making it easier for disabled people to rent property and for tenants to make disability-related adaptations

•functions of public bodies, for example issuing of licences

•access to goods, facilities and services, including larger private clubs and transport services

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1.— Meaning of “disability” and “disabled person”.

(1) Subject to the provisions of Schedule 1, a person has a disability for the purposes of this Act if he has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long-term adverse effect on his ability to carry out normal day-to-day activities.

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For the purposes of the Act:

substantial means neither minor nor trivial

long term means that the effect of the impairment has lasted or is likely to last for at least 12 months (there are special rules covering recurring or fluctuating conditions)

normal day-to-day activities include everyday things like eating, washing, walking and going shopping

a normal day-to-day activity must affect one of the 'capacities' listed in the Act which include mobility, manual dexterity, speech, hearing, seeing and memory

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Reasonable adjustments

Under the DDA, it is unlawful for service providers to treat disabled people less favourably than other people for a reason related to their disability. Service providers now have to make 'reasonable adjustments' to the way they deliver their services so that disabled people can use them.

Direct.gov.uk

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The DDA also means that you have a right to information about healthcare and social services in a format that is accessible to you where it is reasonable for the service provider to provide it in that format.

Direct.gov.uk

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Dementia is a living death for 700,000 Britons.

Observer Feb 18th 2008

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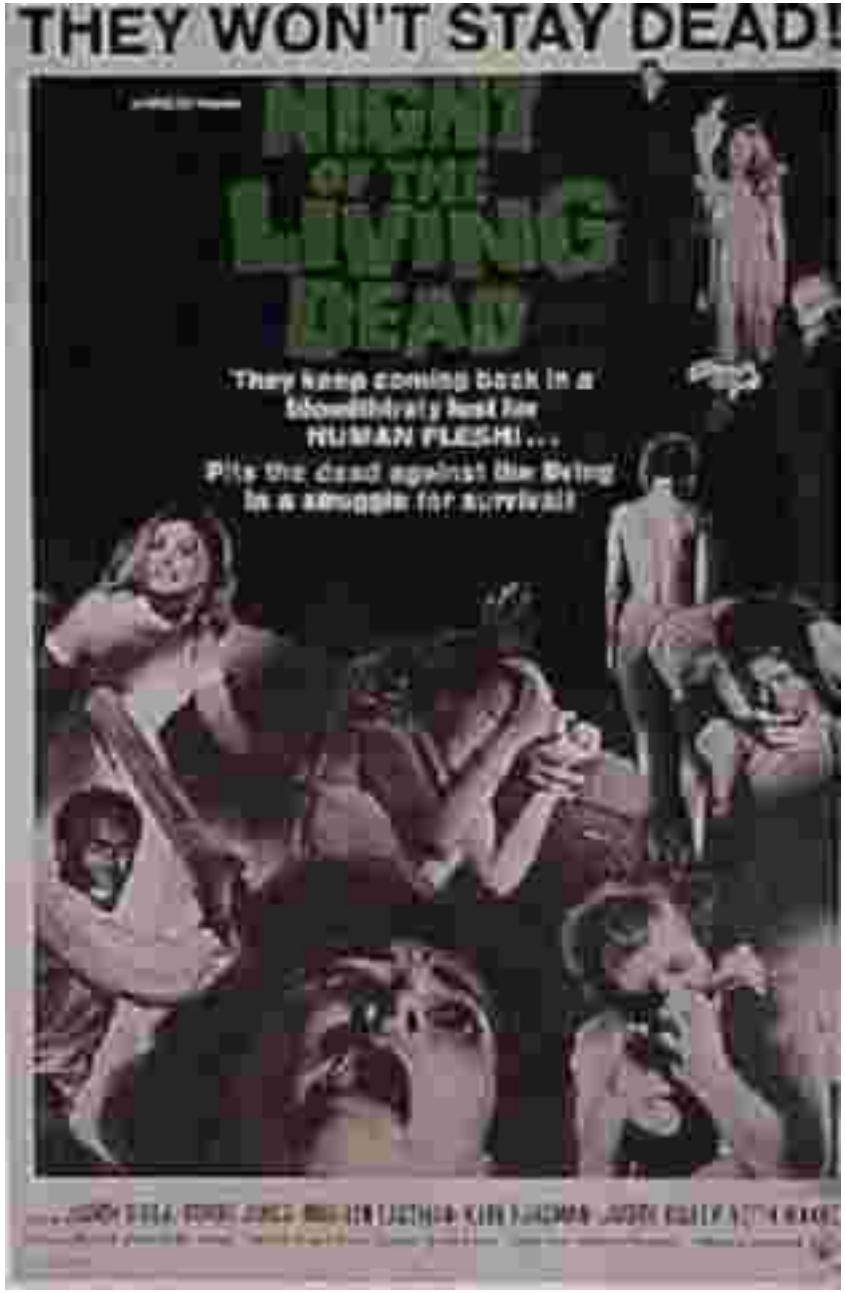

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Dementia is more than a vile and vicious condition. It robs people of their identity, spirit and soul like no other does.

Celebrity statement used by dementia charity to launch awareness campaign

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“How dare they talk about me like that.

I might be a bit confused, but saying I have no spirit, that I have no soul?

Shame on them. Shame on them. I’m a good person.

Sorry - I‘m a bit upset”

Member of the Swindon “Forget me not group”

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Rosa Parks

February 4, 1913 – October 24, 2005

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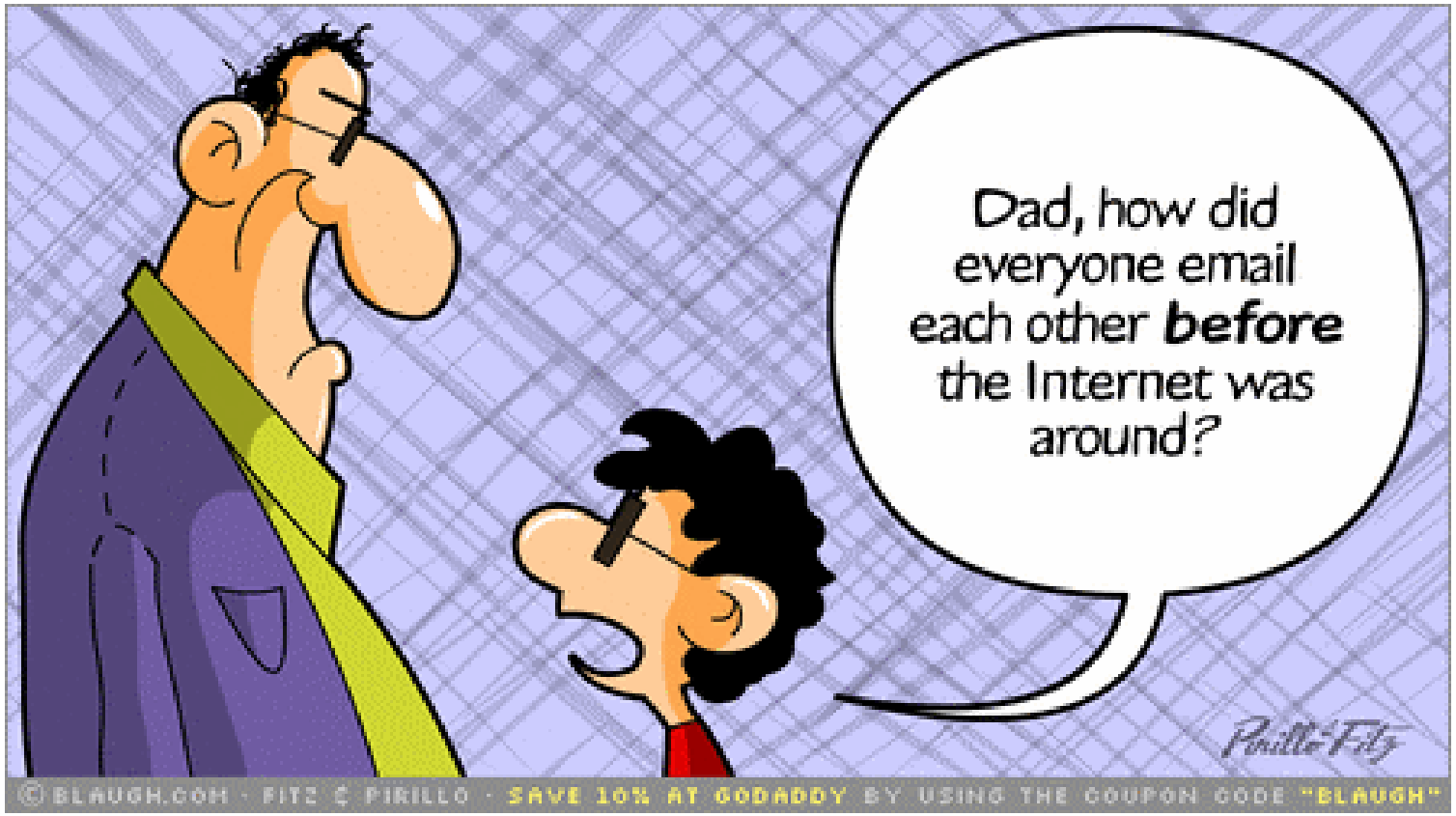

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Having dementia can dramatically reduce community networks, access to learning activities, and involvement in day-to day experiences

There is a misconception that people with dementia cannot learn new skills

Work with people with dementia and computers is its infancy.

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Preaching to the converted?

People with dementia are making use of computers

- At home
- In day care
- With help and support
- At different levels
- In different ways
- For different reasons

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Some of our projects

- Introducing computers and the internet as an activity in day centres
- Looking at different adaptive technologies
- Designing a new interface for the www.atdementia.org.uk website

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Proving that people with dementia can engage with the internet

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Getting started

"I'm not interested in computers"

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" I thought I had broken it but I see what you have to do now"

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A helping hand – the right equipment to do the job!

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Design that helps – not hinders

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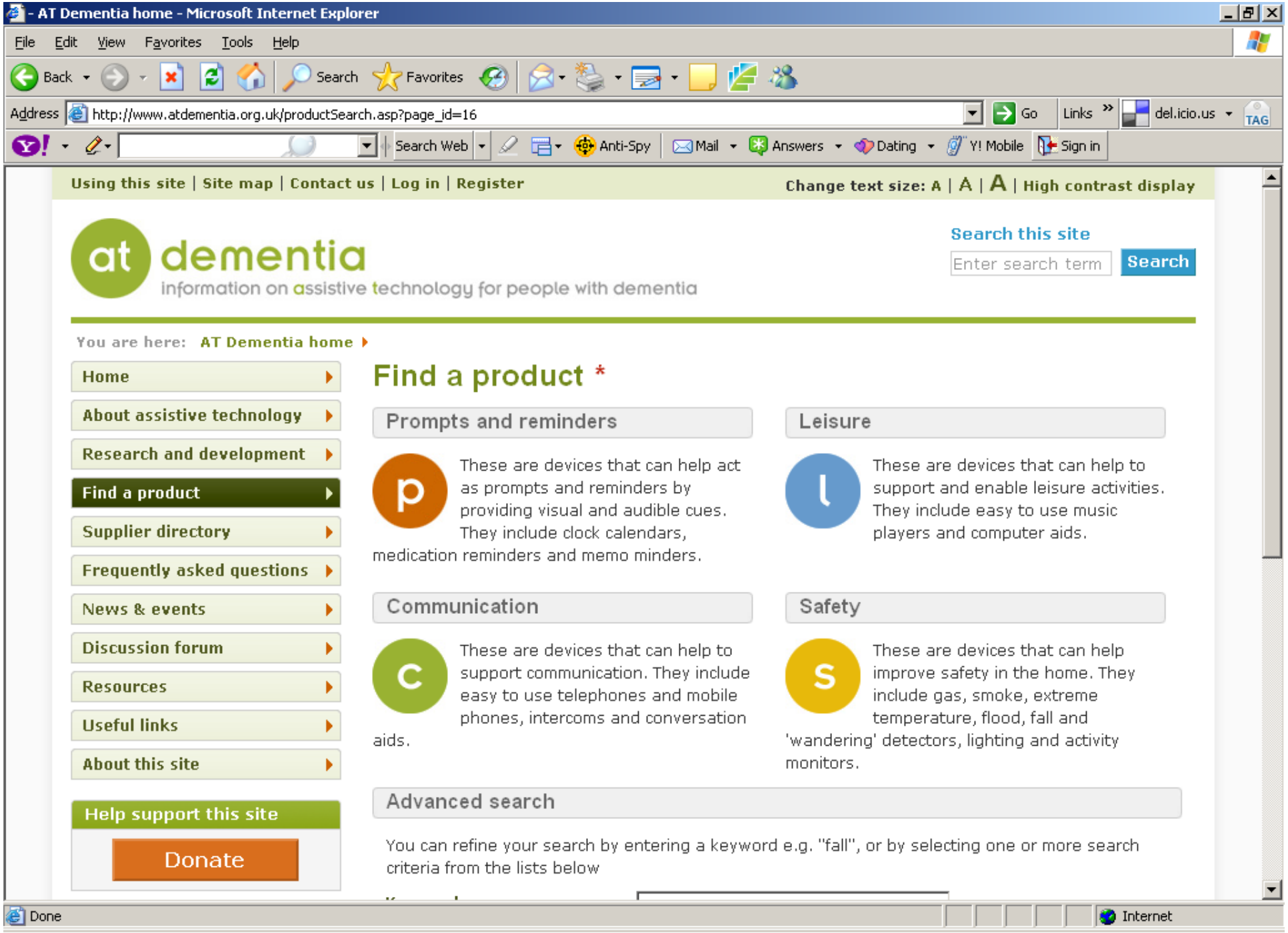
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Research and development
Find a product
Supplier directory
Frequently asked questions
News & events
Discussion forum
Resources
Useful links
About this site
Help support this site
Donate
Find a product *
Prompts and reminders
p
These are devices that can help act as prompts and reminders by providing visual and audible cues. They include clock calendars, medication reminders and memo minders.
Leisure
l
These are devices that can help to support and enable leisure activities. They include easy to use music players and computer aids.
Communication
c
These are devices that can help to support communication. They include easy to use telephones and mobile phones, intercoms and conversation aids.
Safety
s
These are devices that can help improve safety in the home. They include gas, smoke, extreme temperature, flood, fall and 'wandering' detectors, lighting and activity monitors.
Advanced search
You can refine your search by entering a keyword e.g. "fall", or by selecting one or more search criteria from the lists below
Done
Internet

Do you sometimes forget to turn off the oven, cooker or hobs? - Microsoft Internet Explorer

File Edit View Favorites Tools Help

Back Search Favorites

Address http://www.asksara.org.uk/questionnaire.php?topic_id=480&question_id=1351&answer_id=1

Go Links del.icio.us TAG

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DLF

AskSARA

Guided advice about daily living

Home Topics Help

Home > Memory > Memory in the home

17% of questions completed

Do you sometimes forget to turn off the oven, cooker or hobs?

Agree

Disagree

© 2009 AskSARA. By Disabled Living Foundation - Registered Charity No. 290069. | User policy | Privacy policy

Done Internet

People with dementia at the heart of the project

- Member of the reference group
- Informing the focus of the project
- Testing
  - Language
  - Questions
  - Layout
  - Design

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Making sure people are involved

- Meetings that suit individuals
- Using existing groups and supporters
- Focussing on people's strengths
- Using a variety of methods
- Adapting existing protocols

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Language is important

- “Wandering”
- “Forget”
- “Sometimes/usually/often”
- Clear questions
- Exact words
- Meaningful examples

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Images are important

- Illustration?
- Decoration?
- Distraction?

“It’s the wrong door!”

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Using the experiences of people with dementia

- Using a calendar
- Tying keys around my neck
- The importance of PEOPLE

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What next?

Other people with similar issues?

Alliances?

Technology that works with people with dementia?

Using the internet to bring people together?

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Issues that came out of the workshop discussion – Out of the Box 22 June 2010

- Talk to the people with dementia you already work with
- The concept of co-design
- Problems with focus groups
- Listening – and being open to different ways of working
- Time and iteration of designs

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