



Association for Dementia Studies



THE SOCIETY FOR THE ARTS IN DEMENTIA CARE

'Voices and Vision in creative therapies in Dementia.'

On Thursday 6th September 2012 the [Association for Dementia Studies \(ADS\)](#) at the University of Worcester (UK), in collaboration with [The Society for the Arts in Dementia Care \(Canada\)](#), hosted a one day colloquium entitled *'Voices and Vision in creative therapies in Dementia.'*

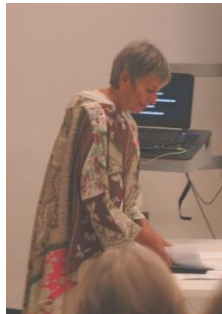
The event took place at [The Hive](#) in Worcester

Following a welcome by

- Professor Dawn Brooker, Director of the Association for Dementia Studies and
- Professor David Green, Vice-Chancellor, University of Worcester



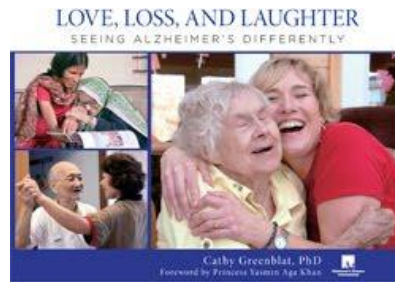
- Dr Cathy Greenblat gave a keynote speech, linked to an exhibition of her photographs



'Arts, Hearts and Minds: Music and Art in Dementia Care' at the Hive during September 2012. This is part of a larger series of images that photographer Cathy Greenblat hopes will help viewers seek ways to make loving care and laughter more frequent, and will help to reduce the fear and stigma

that surround dementia. For further information see

<http://lovelossandlaughterbook.blogspot.co.uk/p/about-cathy-greenblat.html>



The morning also featured a talk by:

- Larry Gardiner - community catalyst for dementia
(<http://www.dementiaadventure.co.uk/about/larry-gardiner>)



and an interactive workshop with

- Bisakha Sarkar - Director for Chaturangan Indian dance company
(<http://www.chezfred.org.uk/chat/>)



all of which were well received by an international audience of artists, researchers, students and health professionals.

The afternoon featured eight presentations of current projects within this subject discipline. These ran concurrently and were chaired by Prof. David Jolley and Rosemary Clarke. ADS were pleased to welcome presenters from the UK,

- Claire Garabedian - University of Stirling (<http://www.dass.stir.ac.uk/staff/Ms-Claire-Garabedian/180>);

- Paula Rylatt - South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust (<http://www.southwestyorkshire.nhs.uk/quality-innovation/sharing-our-knowledge/arts-dementia-access-project/>);
- Ruth Melhuish- Camden and Islington NHS Trust & Music Therapy Works Worcester (<http://www.musictherapyworks.co.uk/ruth-melhuish/>);
- Orii McDermott - University College London, UK (http://www.mt-phd.aau.dk/organisation/current_phd_researchers/orii_mcdermott/) and
- Emma Hewat from Dementia UK – Music for Life (<http://www.dementiauk.org/what-we-do/learning-partnerships-and-training/learning-partnerships/music-for-life/>)

plus those from overseas, including

- Barbara Karmazyn from Canada (<http://www.karmazyn.com/>),
- Belinda McArdle and Sue Hindle from Australia (<http://www.acabellas.net.au/>); and
- Dee Hansen and Susan Hansen Staves from South Carolina (<http://www.hansenpaintings.com/>)

The final session of the day was an audience participatory session chaired by Dr Karan Jutlla (ADS) and Maria Parsons, Director, [Creative Dementia Arts Network](#), Oxford and delivered by the authors and presenters who sought to identify ways of making creative therapies for people with dementia more recognised in research, policy and practice. The discussions and suggestions from participants is sound advice that ought to be shared with the wider audience – in particular, their suggestion of what they termed ‘clever partnering’ as a way of moving through the challenges and addressing existing areas of need within this field. Also evident from the day, in the words of Larry Gardiner, was the importance of “*putting dementia activism and advocacy on a sustainable footing*” to help lead this area.

