



*Welcome* to the April 2023 ADS newsletter!

Spring has sprung (though you might not know it by the weather!) and it's been an extremely busy one for ADS.

We have had two projects 'finish', but that doesn't mean the work on them stops, as you can see from our articles on **Dem-ECH at the House of Lords** (right) and our planned **Get Real with Meeting Centres celebration** (page 2).

It has also, amazingly, been a whole year since ADS founder **Professor Dawn Brooker** officially retired and became our **Professor Emeritus**. She gives us an update on page 3 – like research projects, it seems retirement also doesn't mean the work stops!

Thanks for reading – **the ADS team**.



**Dr Becky Oatley, Teresa Atkinson, Prof Dawn Brooker and Jeremy Porteus at the House of Lords**



### ADS at the House Of Lords

The findings from Dem-ECH, our recently completed project exploring the benefits and challenges of Extra Care Housing (ECH) for people living with dementia, were unveiled at the House of Lords in March. Our project found people with dementia can live well in ECH but this is very much based on the individual being in the right place, at the right time and with the right level of support and a good understanding the factors that impact on this.

The event was hosted by Lord Best, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group Inquiry on Housing & Dementia. Findings were shared with guests representing the funders, Alzheimer's Society, Dementia Carers Count, Platform Housing, local authority commissioners, local government, Housing Learning & Improvement Network, Order of St John's Care Trust, Methodist Homes Association, Housing 21, and people living with dementia who were part of the project advisory board.

Guests enjoyed afternoon tea whilst hearing about the research and Jeremy Porteus (HousingLIN) unveiled our three Key Insight Booklets: one for adult social care providers, one for housing providers and one for people living with dementia and their families. All three booklets can be found at <https://adsdementiablog.wordpress.com/2023/03/16/demech-launch-at-the-house-of-lords/> and are free to download.

### Last call for PhD applicants!

There is still time (just!) to apply for a **fully-funded PhD studentship with ADS** at the University of Worcester. The full-time PhD post is to research the following topic:

#### Development and evaluation of a "best housing" assessment tool for people living with dementia in Extra Care Housing.

This PhD will seek to understand the reasons and circumstances that lead to people with dementia moving out of Extra Care Housing, and to develop a tool to help in making decisions about what would be in those residents' best interests in terms of accommodation and care. Detail of the project, including methodology, will be up to the successful candidate to develop.

**Closing date: 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2023. Interview date: 26<sup>th</sup> May 2023.**

**For further information** visit:

<https://www.worcester.ac.uk/documents/phd-adverts/SoAH-Barrett-Jan-2023.pdf> (or contact Dr Julie Barrett, Director of Studies, via email at [j.barrett@worc.ac.uk](mailto:j.barrett@worc.ac.uk)).

**Applications** can be made at:

<https://www.worcester.ac.uk/research/research-degrees/phd-studentships.aspx>

Contact  
Us

Twitter: [@DementiaStudies](https://twitter.com/DementiaStudies) Website: [www.worcester.ac.uk/dementia](http://www.worcester.ac.uk/dementia)

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# The Get Real with Meeting Centres project ends – and a celebration is in store!



Our Get Real with Meeting Centres project officially ended on March 3. All the data collection and analysis is done and dusted, conclusions drawn and a full and detailed report on what we have found submitted to our funders (the [NIHR's Research for Social Care programme](#)).

The two-year project has been looking into the problems faced by community groups who support people and families living with dementia (such as Meeting Centres) – specifically how to keep such groups going in tough times, when there is so little funding and support out there.

But the work does not stop there - the focus is now on getting the word out. We're in the process of creating videos and booklets covering the different topics that arose in this research, to let people know what we've learnt – and we're holding an **end-of-project celebration event at the University of Worcester Arena on July 12<sup>th</sup>**.

Dr Shirley Evans, Interim Director of ADS, said: "Our Get Real with Meeting Centres project was designed to learn as much as we can about the

challenges facing Meeting Centres and similar community groups so that we might find ways to overcome those challenges and help make Meeting Centres a stable and valued part of the support out there for people with dementia.

"Over the past two years we have talked to dozens of people attending, running, and supporting three case-study Meeting Centres in England and Wales to help us find out how things work and what the challenges are. We have also conducted a UK-wide survey to help understand what elements of Meeting Centres people most value.

"At this end-of-project event we will thank everyone who took part and reveal what we have learnt. We will also discuss how this might inform next steps for Meeting Centres in the UK."

The Get Real celebration event is open to anyone who is involved with, or has an interest in, community-based support for people affected by dementia, including people who are living with dementia and those that support them. If you are interested in attending, please email Thomas Morton at [t.morton@worc.ac.uk](mailto:t.morton@worc.ac.uk) for more information and registration details.



## Meeting Centres UK family blanket!

We're also inviting Meeting Centres from across the UK to work with their members and carers to create squares that represent their Meeting Centre and send them to us, to create a Meeting Centre's family blanket – and the July celebration will be the perfect opportunity to display the blanket and celebrate how far Meeting Centres have come - please see our flyer [Meeting Centres blanket flyer!](#)

## ADS Travels!

March was a busy month for ADS. We were invited to speak from a UK perspective at the Fundacion Ramon Areces conference in **Madrid**, discussing Long-Term Care: International Trends and Challenges in Spain.

We also went to the **Lake District** for a three-day event, with others from around the UK, to develop new social care-related research project ideas with the National Institute for Health and Care Research's (NIHR) Research Design Service.



**Teresa Atkinson (fourth from left) with other presenters at the Madrid conference**



**Lake Windermere (in the rain and mist!)**



**Teresa Atkinson & Thomas Morton with Terryann Shaw of Kirklees Council**

## Prof. Dawn Brooker: A year as Professor Emeritus...

It's been just over a year since I stepped down as the Director at ADS. The University granted me the status of being a Professor Emeritus. This is an honorary title usually bestowed on esteemed retired profs. Its not paid but it provides the opportunity to continue contributing at a high level without all of the headaches of strategic and operational management. As an aside, female professors are usually called Emerita rather than Emeritus but as a lifelong feminist I opted not to be defined by my sex in my standing as a prof!

I have got involved in all sorts of projects. Together with Keith Oliver, I am editing a new book series called the Reconsidering Dementia Series. Two books have already been published and we have a further eight in the pipeline. A website by Open University Press will be launched in Dementia Awareness Week.

I am a judge on the Longitude Prize on Dementia <https://dementia.longitudeprize.org/> This funding, worth over £4 million, supports innovators globally to develop breakthrough technologies to really have a big impact on people affected with dementia. I have also been working with Alzheimer's Disease International in accrediting dementia training around the world <https://www.alzint.org/what-we-do/accreditation/> and in chairing the scientific committee for the ADI Conference in Poland April 2024 <https://www.alzint.org/what-we-do/adi-conference/adi-conference-2024/>. Closer to home I have been doing some teaching, supervision and research with the outstanding team at ADS.

What I have loved most this year has been seeing the ADS team continue to do such a fabulous job. Weathering the storm of transition takes a lot of work. I am so proud of their achievements and pleased as punch to be their Emeritus.



**Dawn (centre right) being made Professor Emeritus, with (L-R): ADS Administrator and Secretary Zuleika Sankey; ADS Interim Director Dr Shirley Evans; and recently retired ADS Senior Administrator Mike Watts**

### Teaching Team Award

We're proud to announce that our Module Leads on the [Postgraduate Certificate \(PGCert\) in Person-Centred Dementia Studies](#) have received the Teaching Team Award from the University of Worcester. This award celebrates excellence and recognises outstanding practice in teaching and in supporting and leading learning. Our next modules begin in September - please [see our website](#) for details of our modules and how to apply.

## Say hello to...

### Dr Chris Russell, Senior Lecturer



Chris has worked at the University of Worcester for 10 years. He joined to lead the new Foundation Degree in Dementia Studies. He is now course lead for the fully online Postgraduate Certificate in Person Centred Dementia Studies, which aims to empower students to lead positive change for people affected by dementia in whatever setting they have influence. In between Chris completed a PhD exploring the experience of people living with dementia as they engaged in physical activity within their local community. This showed that regular participation strengthened the ability of individuals to sustain their identity, enabled them to hone existing skills and interests, and build new ones.

Since, Chris has worked alongside other colleagues to develop the Championing Physical Activity for People Affected by Dementia course with much of the content based upon Chris' PhD research. Chris says:

"So much good work is going on exploring what works well for people affected by dementia in health and care settings. However, it is essential to remember that people have lives beyond being patients and people to be cared for. I hope that the research and teaching I contribute to enables people to be seen as whole human beings with interests, likes and aspirations."

To find out more about the **Championing Physical Activity** course, visit: <https://www.worcester.ac.uk/documents/CPA-flyer-v2.pdf>  
**Post Graduate Certificate** details can be found at: <https://www.worcester.ac.uk/courses/person-centred-dementia-studies-pg-cert>  
There is also a new **short film** to watch which explains more: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r-y-utQOFCQ>

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