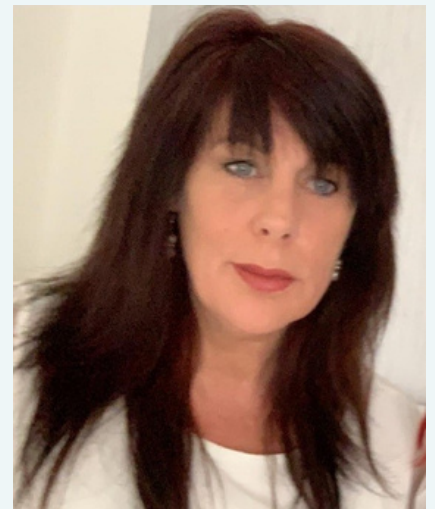




[Sign up to our Monthly Newsletter](#)

Hello and welcome to our October 2024 newsletter from Deepness Dementia Media, I hope you all enjoyed the summer break. I am Anne Scott the Newsletter Editor, and I hope you enjoy reading our latest news. Please share this newsletter with your friends, family and colleagues.

The newsletter contains lots of features and dementia news, including news from Deepness Dementia, the dementia community, dementia activism, in this months edition we have ...



Check out below a list of what is coming up in this newsletter. You can click on the links below and skip straight to that article, or you can keep scrolling down.

[Deepness dementia...Walking the Talk for Dementia Camino Santiago de Compostela 2024](#)

[Deepness dementia media ...Dementia the Musical Tour Dates Announced.](#)

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[Colm McBriarty ...Scotland-wide opportunity from Playlist For Life](#)

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[Deepness Dementia EP...and About Deepness Dementia Media](#)

Please send your feedback about the newsletter, whether you liked it or how it could be better.

If you want to contribute or send in something for the newsletter, please get in touch with me at -
scottanne@live.co.uk

Please do circulate and share this newsletter on social media and if you want to sign up for all our mailings, the buttons above...

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First day of walking over , amazing experience how everyone came together to help Ron his chair , he managed 2 flights of stairs at the beginning with his prosthetic but that was enough so the men carried him up in his wheel chair the next 4 flights then they continued to help him in his all terrain wheel chair over stones and cobbles etc then later as a group of women we helped him finish did 8 KM today but o the week but over hardest part then we had a nice lunch in a family restaurant



Day 2 walk along the Camino

Again shows the amazing camaraderie in the group to help Ron Coleman succeed up and down hills, across quite stony ground, in a beautiful forest. All along the way we were talking to amazing people from around the world , researchers , Doctors & other health professionals , family members , people with dementia, Ron gave me permission to show this film belly and all. Rons prosthetic leg broke as well as he attempted to walk through a stony bit so his wheel chair didn't need



On day 3

We continued through beautiful countryside and across ancient bridges like the one in the picture , there were many bars and places to stop all along the route , at some we would pick up the stamp to add to our camino passport. One amazing Amazonian women wheeled Rons chair at least half the way





The fourth days walk was short & mainly through an urban area into the centre of Santiago de Compostela but we were joined with many people from the Local associations for dementia. Our drivers and tour organiser Antonio, took us to a big DIY were warehouse so we could get the brakes of the wheel chair mended as the screws had bust because of the hard terrain

Because Ron's prosthetic had broke s he couldn't walk the last flights of steps of the journey but we all celebrated the finish in the square some of us went to see the cathedral in the afternoon the evening was spent partying

The whole experience was amazing , if you get the chance go to nexts years Walk the Talk

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DEEPNESS

DEMENTIA MEDIA

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The Musical

Buy your tickets now.

Ron Coleman wrote the script and came up with the concept of this beautiful musical .

Dementia the Musical Tour Dates Announced

As you might know last year I finished writing a new play, It is a musical called Dementia the Musical. The musical has been funded for full production and has a professional and brilliant cast & crew it is going to tour Scotland, starting on October the 12th 2024 in Edinburgh & finishing in Paisley on the 9th of November 2024.

Dementia the Musical Tour Dates

**October 12th, 2024, Capital Theatres Studio Theatre performances 2pm
Matinee, 7.15pm evening**

October 16th An Lanntair Stornoway 7.30pm

October 18th Dundee Rep 7.30pm

October 22nd The Byre Theatre St Andrews 7.30pm

October 23rd The Lemon Tree Studio Aberdeen 7.30pm

October 25th Mareel Arts centre Shetland Isles 8pm

October 30th Macrobert Main house Stirling 7.30pm

October 31st Cumbernauld at Lanterhouse 7.30pm

November 3rd The Barn Arts Banchory 7.30p

November 5th Eden Court Inverness 7.30pm

November 7th Universal Hall Findhorn 7.30pm

November 9th Paisley Arts Centre 7.30pm



About the Musical

Dementia the Musical! is a radical new musical theatre production by Ron Coleman, Scottish poet and writer living with dementia, in collaboration with renowned director Magdalena Schamberger and one of Britain's top jazz musicians Sophie Bancroft as composer and musical director. Additional music is by esteemed songwriter Andrew Eaton-Lewis and design by Karen Tennent.

Written for and with those living with dementia this brand-new musical is based on the campaigning work of three of Scotland's longest serving dementia activists James McKillop, Nancy McAdam & Agnes Houston, and the fight they have led to ensure people with dementia have a voice in what happens in their lives. Dementia the Musical is a funny but moving production telling the history of Scottish dementia activism and their role front and centre of it.



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**Arts holiday in Scotland. limited spaces remaining.
must be people living in Scotland with dementia
and their care partners.**

DEEPNESS DEMENTIA
Media

2024 THE GATHERING

An open space for people living with dementia to discuss and use their expertise

12 NOVEMBER 2024

REGISTRATION FROM 09:30AM TO 10:00AM

AUGUSTINE UNITED CHURCH
41 GEORGE IV BRIDGE
EDINBURGH
EH1 1EL

This year's discussion - 3 questions about the support we want around diagnosis: pre- and post-diagnosis

Plus a "look after yourself" session for accompanying carers/family members

TO BOOK, CONTACT [KAREN@DEEPNESSDEMENTIARADIO.COM](mailto:karen@deepnessdementiaradio.com)

A limited bursary is available for accommodation - please contact Karen at karen@deepnessdementiaradio.com

deepnessdementiaradio.com



The gathering is for people living in Scotland funding is available to attend with overnight accommodation provided from, about dementia, if family members/carers are attending them they can't go to the gathering but could attend a looking after yourself workshop being held in the same building.

Living with cognitive impairment or dementia?
Join us for a week-long creative getaway, designed with you in mind!

A creative escape, in a safe and homely space
Accommodation and all meals covered - relax and create!

21st-28th September
A week's stay at the Tullochwood Lodge near Forres
Some accessible cabins available
Arrival time 5pm, departure Saturday @ 10am

28th-5th October
Stay at the Marl House in Whithorn, Dumfries - limited accessibility as rooms accessed by stairs
Arrival time 5pm, departure Saturday @ 10am

Easier to attend with a loved one or care partner? Space is available!

To book, contact karen@deepnessdementiaradio.com
If you're struggling with travel costs, please get in touch - some help may be available





Colm McBriarty

**Community Development Officer (Dementia)
Scotland-wide opportunity from Playlist For Life**

Information on one Scotland-wide opportunity from Playlist For Life, as well as three additional regional opportunities, so it might help if I introduce them here:

National:

National Playlist Day (Playlist For Life) 20th September 2024

Regional:

**Edinburgh Leisure 'Your Health Is For Life' exhibition 20th September 2024
(Edinburgh)**

Jack McPherson Music Therapy (Aberdeen and surrounding area)

**Dementia UK and Nationwide Admiral Nurse Clinics (Glasgow, Edinburgh and
Inverness)**

National Playlist Day (Playlist For Life) 20th September 2024

From Pam at Playlist For Life:

**Friday 20th September is National Playlist Day: a celebration of the power of
meaningful music for dementia.**

**This year's theme is 'the soundtrack of your life'. We want to encourage everyone
in Scotland to make their own personal playlists while raising awareness of how
personally meaningful music can improve the lives of people living with dementia,
their families and carers.**

Edinburgh Leisure 'Your Health Is For Life' exhibition 20th September 2024

From Sam at Edinburgh Leisure:



National Sporting Heritage Day, Edinburgh Leisure's Active Communities, in partnership with the Sporting Memories Foundation, will be hosting a FREE special event at the Royal Commonwealth Pool themed around cherished memories of the Commonwealth Pool and its five Victorian pools. This is a wonderful opportunity to explore photos, memorabilia, and videos of some of Edinburgh Leisure's historical buildings while sharing stories about the pools, the Commonwealth Games, and even the thrilling "flumes." Join us for a fun and relaxed session filled with conversation over tea and coffee, as we reminisce with fellow sports enthusiasts.

Details of the event:

Date: Monday, September 30, 2024

Time: 10:30 AM – 12:00 Noon

Location: Sir Peter Heatly Room, Royal Commonwealth Pool, 21 Dalkeith Road, Edinburgh EH16 5BB

Everyone is welcome, including individuals living with dementia and their caregivers. While booking is not necessary, we encourage you to express your interest by emailing: samscott@edinburghleisure.co.uk or call me on 07974 174363 or 0131 458 2209



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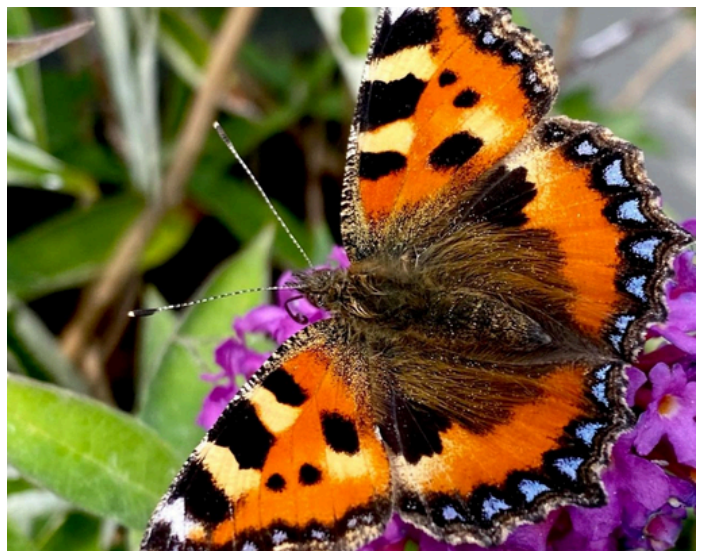


Gail Gregory...Photography, Butterflies and Bees.



Butterflies are not only beautiful to look at, but they are also important pollinators. As they move from flower to flower in search of nectar, they transfer pollen, allowing plants to reproduce. This process is essential for the production of fruits, seeds, and flowers. Without butterflies, many plant species would struggle to survive.

Now Bees are perhaps the most well-known pollinators. Without bees, our food supply would be severely impacted, bees of course also produce honey, beeswax, and royal jelly, all of which have various uses and benefits for us humans. Bees are truly remarkable creatures that contribute to our environment. Let's appreciate the beauty and importance of butterflies and bees



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Rights and Howard Gordon ... Are you creative., boom saloon.



boom saloon.

Are you living with dementia?
Are you creative?

Let's collaborate to showcase what
people with dementia can do!

As part of our work to rewrite the story of dementia, we showcase the creative talents of those undertaking their dementia journey. This highlights what people with dementia CAN do as opposed to focussing on what might now prove more challenging.

Whether you're a writer, painter, photographer, poet, doodler or just have a story to share – please get in touch with us at boom saloon to share your talents. Together, let's rewrite the story, celebrate your talents and provide inspiration and hope for others with a diagnosis of dementia.

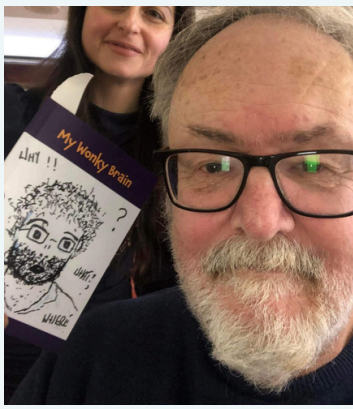
☎ 07921139704

✉ rachel@boomsaloon.com

📍 boom saloon, 2F2, 3 Comely Bank Terrace, EH4 1AT

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Willy Guilder news

Thoughts from the plane, back from Spain.

Ron coleman , karen taylor, graham and I went to the walk the talk camino in the spirit of experimentation, wondering if we could recommend it to others . I think there is little doubt about that.

In this cramped seat
Arms only moving from elbows
Surviving the roaring engines and distant
chatter
I contemplate my inflight meal deal
The synthetic panini with cardboard ham
Mocking every Italian
The reasonable coffee in its plastic prison
Entombed in its own way as we are in these
tiny seats
Somewhere over the Bay of Biscay
Where once people sailed for months
Fearing tide and tempest
Now we glide over, concerned at most about
moderate turbulence
And whether we should have paid in pounds or

euros

I look back on the past week
Our modern day pilgrimage to community and
enlightenment
Looking for answers to our diseased brains
Bringing them in supplication
To the supposed bones of St James
Placing our faith in the sciences of pharmacy
or sociology
Bewildered at the gaudy gilt altar
The bright pink cherubs
Telling of what we now think as superstitions
Blind to those we have as our own

We walked, we wheeled, we talked, we drank
We ate octopus, trying not to think of their
gardens
Hoping not to get that one fiery pepper
Bewildered by another course brought out
The flowing wine, the unforced smiles
The sense of being in some new wondrous
family

Above all we laughed
Lost in the wonder
Of meeting fellows from the other side of the
world
Travel is so easy now, but communication can



still be so hard

I came from grey Edinburgh
Hewn from volcanic rock
In a land of monochrome dreich weather
Leaving behind the Festival thousands
Discovering another medieval town
This one with sun dappled colours
Where crowds clap and roar in the streets
Welcoming people on the last few steps
Of their scallop and gourd journey
Fortified by floppy hats and Factor Fifty
Desperate to get that final stamp
That holy 'well done'

But why do they still come?
Does anyone really expect salvation,
After blistered feet and rocky steps?
Or is it some pull of tradition

Some knowledge that this is what was always
done
So there must be something good?

Our party is young and old
We are mixed in age and profession
Some here because of the faults in our heads
Some to cure, some to counsel
All to support

In my wheelchair, inadequate to the task
I am propelled literally by Will power
The young man, here because of his mother
Guiding me over rocks and ditches
Running our own race against dementia
Contemplating diagnose and adios
Laughing in the face of futility

I give him and Grania one of my paintings
They promise to hang it on the wall of their
new home
Setting up together as a couple for the first
time
Hearts full of love and hope
Their lives stretching out ahead
Whilst mine is starting to close

Another picture goes to Argentina
For the lawyer's office
For Martin and his Dad whose name and
illness I share
We cannot join in conversation
But he taught me the value of ice in red wine

Further north Brother John hangs one up
A portrayal of snaking sinuous bodies
That he christened Awakening to the Rhythm
As it reminds him of learning to dance again
I pray he never stops

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Michael Chueng

What does Japan's ageing market look like?



Japan is home to the world's second largest healthcare market, with almost a third of individuals in Japan being aged 65 or over and with 2.1 million being over 90. The country's elderly population remains to be one of the most significant globally.



Making Japan one of the most viable markets for new innovations in the Japan agetech sector. Initiatives including a digital healthcare system are being put in place to make patient data more accessible for insurers and developers of tech solutions.



The overall aim of this is to limit the burden on the institutional care system, carers and family members through various streams of technology including AI and Virtual Reality. There is also a trend towards more inclusive, community-led programmes that encourage being on the lookout for elderly citizens in need.

The life expectancy of women is disproportionately higher for those over 100 years old with 88% of Japan's estimated 71,000 centenarians being women. Centenarian swimmers like recently retired. Then comes the question of single-person households, a trend unravelling on a global scale, particularly in cities.

By 2040, it's expected that more than 9 million people will be living alone in Japan (39.3%)—whether by personal choice or due to the circumstances they happen to find themselves in. According to figures released by the Ministry of Health, one in five senior citizens in Japan will be living with Dementia by 2025—that's around 7.3 million people (up from around 4.6 million now), and with life expectancy being so high, it's remains to be a problem that technological developments can help provide a solution for.



Japan agetech in the fight against Dementia

Keen to push non-drug therapy forward, Aikomi (1) uses technology to create solutions for Dementia patients through customised content. This is designed to stimulate the senses, ease anxiety associated with cognitive decline, and aid memory recall. The service also gives caregivers peace of mind and enables them to communicate more clearly with patients.

A trial, conducted with 60 people living with dementia who are living at care homes in Japan, found that more than half responded positively, even those who had not spoken in a long time. Aikomi partners with leading drug company Takeda Pharmaceutical, electronics manufacturer JVC Kenwood, and innovation and startup accelerator firm INDEE Japan.

Nippontect (2) and GE Japan have formed a partnership to build a platform for the early detection, diagnosis and treatment of dementia with the aim of supporting happy and healthy lives as citizens age. The idea is to compare results from neuropsychological tests with other dementia detection screeners in order to detect patients even more accurately before symptoms of cognitive decline start to set in.

**Interesting you-tube video
Japan's technology leads the way in caring for the elderly
(youtube.com)**

Notes

Aikomi is start-up company spun-out from Japanese Pharma Takeda to develop digital therapy for dementia.

Nippontect Systems is an ICT company focused on the dementia medical field.

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Michael Chueng

Recipe of the month Tomato and Tofu Miso soup 味噌汁 V.

Tomato and Tofu Miso soup is a traditional Japanese soup made with a base of miso paste, tomato, and tofu. Additional ingredients may include mushrooms, onions, carrots, edamame, seaweed, and spices such as ginger, garlic, and chili pepper. This soup is a major source of protein and a flavourful way to enjoy a variety of vegetables.



Ingredients:

- ½ block (150 g.) of firm tofu, cubed 1 cm sizes
- 2 large tomatoes, diced.
- 2 teaspoons of miso paste
- 1 teaspoon of sesame oil
- ½ dessertspoon of ginger paste
- ½ dessertspoon of garlic paste
- 1 teaspoon of sugar
- ½ tablespoons of soy sauce
- 400 ml. of vegetable broth
- 1 medium carrot diced.
- 100 g. of diced mushrooms
- 3-4 spring onions of chopped.
- 100g. of frozen peas
- Packet of pak choy – optional

Method:

Heat a large pot over low-medium heat, add in the sesame oil and stir in the ginger, garlic, and diced tomatoes.

Cook until the tomatoes are soft and fragrant, about 5 minutes.

Add the miso paste and sugar, stirring to combine.

Pour in the vegetable broth and soy sauce and bring the mixture to a simmer.

Add the tofu, carrots, mushrooms, green onions, sweetcorn, and peas.

Simmer for 10 minutes or until the vegetables are cooked through.

Taste and season with salt and pepper.

Serve hot.



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Howard Gordon

**Book review by Mo Stewart – Independent Disability
Studies Researcher**

**The Department: How a Violent Government
Bureaucracy Killed Hundreds and Hid the
Evidence Author John Pring, - Published by
Pluto Press**



Ridicule, persecution and punishment

For far too long the chronically ill and disabled community who are unable to work and are dependent upon the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) for their financial and physical survival have been ridiculed, persecuted and punished for claiming disability benefit by the very government department originally created to support those in greatest need in the UK.

As the editor of the Disability News Service, critically acclaimed journalist John Pring spent over ten years reporting and researching in meticulous detail what is a government-induced public health crisis masquerading as social policy. In 'The Department', Pring's years of research exposed the human suffering endured by ten disability benefit claimants who died, with their suffering described by their families, as examples of this relentless government neglect. There have certainly been hundreds – but most probably thousands – of deaths linked to the brutality of the

DWP, with no-one held to account.

Social policies to restrict welfare costs at any price

The book exposes the adoption of social policies designed with a fiscal priority going back over thirty years, with every administration since Thatcher primarily concerned with restricting welfare costs regardless of human consequences, which were always destined to be fatal for some of the most vulnerable people in society. During this time, successive administrations gradually increased the level of bureaucratic violence.



**They dismissed all attempts to have the identified flaws in the social security system redressed. The suffering created by the adoption of the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) – designed to disregard clinical diagnosis and prognosis – to limit access to long-term disability benefit was dismissed, and every effort was used to conceal the preventable harm and public health crisis their social policy agenda created.
Disabled claimants “killed by the state”**

The removal of care, concern, compassion, dignity and humanity from any disability assessment is, by definition, the creation of tyranny. The British public didn't grant any administration permission to starve to death anyone who is too ill to attend an assessment, yet the excessive use of benefit sanctions leaving claimants without any income guaranteed starvation for some of those in greatest need who are, quite literally, killed by the state

**The DWP culture is relentlessly hostile, with an identified brutality towards disability benefit claimants whose integrity is challenged by a presumption of guilt, as demonstrated by extreme past commentary by politicians and the media. This press hostility was linked to an increase in disability hate crimes during the Coalition government's term in office, when Iain Duncan Smith was the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions who spent every opportunity discrediting disability benefit claimants by creating 'a climate of fear'.
Suicides linked to WCA**

As demonstrated in 'The Department', a disturbing number of chronically ill disability benefit claimants committed suicide, linked in no small measure to persecution by the DWP, and to the fear instilled by the relentless threat of sanctions that meant the total loss of their only income which guaranteed destitution.

**Perhaps more disturbing is the number of coroners' 'Prevention of Future Deaths' reports, warning of the potential risk to life of the WCA, which were routinely disregarded by the DWP.
Evidence of an ongoing national scandal**



John Pring has provided indisputable evidence of an ongoing national scandal and a human tragedy, which the DWP cannot dispute and cannot possibly justify.

The time for an independent inquiry into these deaths linked to the social security system and a fatally flawed disability assessment is long overdue and, following the publication of this book, the UK government should be called to account. Acknowledgements

Deepness Dementia Media would like to thank Mo Stewart for allowing their review to be published in our newsletter, thanks also go to John Pring, the books author and Frances Leckie, editor, Independent Living.

Further reading and resources

John Pring is a disabled journalist who has been reporting on disability issues for nearly 25 years. He established the Disability News Service (DNS) in 2009 (external link will open in a new browser tab or window).

Mo Stewart is a former healthcare professional originally trained in the NHS, and she's also a disabled veteran of the Women's Royal Air Force medical branch. Since 2009 Mo has worked as an independent disability

studies researcher, exposing the influence of corporate America since 1992 with the future reforms of the British social security system, on route to the eventual demolition of the UK welfare state. <https://www.mostewartresearch.co.uk/> Mo Stewart's Cash Not Care: the planned demolition of the UK welfare state reviewed here

Book review: A Shattered Nation by Danny Dorling

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Teepa snow...Medical Appointments When Dementia is Involved.

By Kathy Tuckey

The nurse said, “Good morning, I will be taking your blood pressure first.”

“No!” Betty said. “You are not!”

“It will only take a minute.” the nurse said.

“No!” Betty repeated. “You will not.”

“Betty,” I said. “She only wants to take your blood pressure.”

“No!” Betty, looking at the nurse, repeated more sternly. “You will not.”

“I will come back in a minute.” the nurse said.

After she left the room, I said, “Betty, why won’t you let her take your blood pressure?”

Betty said. “What if she doesn’t give it back?”

The year was 1996 and this was the first medical appointment that Betty, my mother-in-law, had with a new primary care physician after she had come to live with my husband and me. It was about two years after Betty’s diagnosis of Alzheimer dementia. In that moment, I knew communication was taking on a whole new language and I was going to have to learn it. What an eye opener, and if only I knew then what I know now. I do look back at Betty’s interaction with the nurse and I chuckle, “Way to go Betty – in one encounter you taught your nurse and me to focus on you and not the task at hand!”

I had to become the expert navigator and advocator for Betty, and learned many lessons along the way. How can we make medical appointment less stressful when someone is living with dementia?



First, ask yourself – what time of the day is best for the person living with dementia? If I am the person living with dementia, what time of day tends to be best for me? In Betty’s case, early afternoon was best. It was not the preferred time for my work schedule, but I learned quickly that what was best for Betty would be best for all!

Of course, not all appointments can be pre-planned, as emergencies do arise, but whenever possible, I picked early afternoons. Also, I quickly learned that keeping a few water bottles and Betty’s favorite snacks in my car was essential, because we both did much better when we weren’t hungry or thirsty!

I cannot emphasize enough how helpful it is to come to the appointment with written questions. Put those questions in priority order. And, before you leave the appointment,

look at the list and see if your priority questions have been answered. A major challenge I see in medical appointments is when the care partner and/or patient is asked by the doctor “do you have any questions?” and they have no response. Of course, they leave the appointment and kick themselves later for not asking what they should have.

It is recommended that you get a calendar/notebook just to keep notes of changes that occur between appointments. It would be great to write a synopsis of the calendar/notebook and share it with the nurse so that the clinician has time to review before they enter the room. If your loved one is residing in a community, be sure you have notes from the staff.

Do make certain to bring along a pen and notebook to take notes at the appointment. This might be challenging for some of us to do since it distracts us from listening, so some people like to have a third person along to be the note-taker.

Try using reflective listening with the provider – “so what I hear you saying...” This helps any misunderstanding. Stop the physician/clinician if they are using words you don’t understand. Ask them to clarify and explain.



If you know there are certain things that are very helpful or unhelpful for yourself or someone you are supporting, don't be afraid to call the staff ahead of time to let them know. They are usually interested in helping the appointment go as smoothly as possible.

What if you have concerns about how the appointment went afterward? Address them with the staff/office manager. The medical staff is now part of your team. Yes, you can change physicians and find another provider. But, don't rush to change. Many times, the concerns can be addressed and resolved. Taking a few deep breaths does help!

With appointment times often being very limited, we must make the most of the time we do have. Being prepared can certainly help with navigating the medical experience.

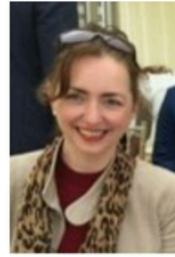


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Louise



Stress Monkey Club CIC
DanceMovementGyrotonic

Music and movement

Music &
Movement



[PLAY VIDEO](#)

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Howard Gordon

Windrush information from the Home Office

If you or your parents came to the UK from any Commonwealth country before 1973, or you came to the UK from any country before the end of 1988, then the Windrush Staff at the Home Office could help you get documents to show your legal status.

They can also help you claim the compensation you're entitled to.

Who can get help?

- You may be able to get help if you are confused or unsure about your legal status in the UK.**
- You may also get help if you have suffered losses because you could not prove your legal status.**

This applies if:

- you or your parents came to the UK from any Commonwealth country before 1973**
- you came to the UK from any country before the end of 1988**
- Some grandchildren and close family members may also be able to claim compensation.**



How can you get documents to show your right to live in the UK?

Some people who settled lawfully in the UK years ago do not have the documents to show their legal right to live and work here.

The Government's Windrush Help Team supports people to get these documents free of charge.

What can you claim compensation for?

The Windrush Help Team also helps people claim compensation. If you have lost out on things like jobs and healthcare because you could not prove your right to live in the UK, you may be able to claim compensation.

You may be able to claim compensation if you:

- lost access to employment, housing, healthcare, education, banking, benefits or driving**
- incurred costs because of an unsuccessful immigration application**
- were detained, deported or removed, or your daily life was impacted.**

Contact the Windrush Help Team to find out more.

Call the free helpline: 0800 678 1925 Visit:

www.gov.uk/windrushhelpteam

Anything you tell them will be treated with sensitivity and your information will not be passed on to Immigration Enforcement.

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News

HAAS Health Assessment Advisory Service has taken over all PIP and WCA assessments

Published: 07 September 2024

There has been a major change to who carries out benefits assessments, including for personal independence payment (PIP) and the work capability assessment (WCA) for universal credit (UC) and employment and support allowance (ESA). The Health Assessment Advisory Service (HAAS) have taken over providing assessments from 7 September 2024.

The DWP say that if you have received a letter from your previous provider with an appointment date after 7 September, you should follow the instructions on your letter and attend your appointment. If you need further information, new providers' telephone lines will be up and running from 1pm on Monday 9 September.

HAAS is part of the DWP. (Confusingly, HAAS was the name used solely by Maximus up until 6 September, when they carried out WCAs as CHDAUK). HAAS provides training, guidance and software for assessors. But the assessors themselves work for private sector companies. There are four companies involved in carrying out benefits assessments:

Maximus cover Northern England and Scotland (though PIP has been replaced by ADP in Scotland and is not part of the contract)

Capita cover the Midlands, Wales and Northern Ireland

Serco cover South West England and South Central England

Ingeus cover South East England, London and East Anglia

In addition, a small number of assessments are now done directly by the DWP. You can find a full list of all the postcodes and which HAAS provider covers them on the .gov.uk website



These private sector companies carry out all benefits assessments in their geographical area, including for:

Personal independence payment assessments

Work Capability Assessments (WCAs) for universal credit and employment and support allowance.

Disability living allowance (child)

Industrial injuries disablement benefit

Veterans UK

The assessments remain entirely separate, however, there is no joint assessment that combines both PIP and the WCA at a single meeting. All the providers offer face-to-face, video and telephone assessments. But Capita appears to be something of an outlier amongst the service providers.

It was the last to get its website online today, by some hours.

In addition, whilst the other three providers have published details of all their face-to-face assessment centres, Capita has not done so, at least as yet.

For video assessments, all the providers are using the DWP's version of "Attend Anywhere" software, which is also used by the NHS for video consultations.

But while the other providers all have a simple direct link from their websites to a waiting room for claimants, Capita has no such link and requires claimants to read through long, complex instructions or watch two videos before typing in a web address to get to the waiting room.

Although all the assessment providers are covering all the benefits listed above, for the time being most assessors will only carry out either PIP assessments or WCAs, depending on which they have been employed to do up until now. Only after they have undergone training in other assessments, will they be able to carry them out.

So, from a claimants point of view, although the company making the profits may have changed, there will be virtually no difference in the experience of being assessed for PIP, ESA or UC.

However, with the DWP now having complete control over training, software and guidance it will be more straightforward for changes to be rolled-out in the future.

Possibilities include changes to the WCA as Labour push to get more disabled claimants into employment, changes to PIP activities which may be unveiled in the coming months in order to cut the benefits bill and a combined PIP and WCA assessment to cut assessment costs.

But for the moment, it's simply business as usual.

How much is personal independence payment?

The current weekly rates of PIP (from April 2024) are:

PIP daily living component

Enhanced £108.55

Standard £72.65

PIP mobility component

Enhanced £75.75

Standard £28.70

This means that the lowest award you can get if your claim is successful is £28.70 a week, if you just get the standard mobility component or £72.65 if you just get the standard daily living component.

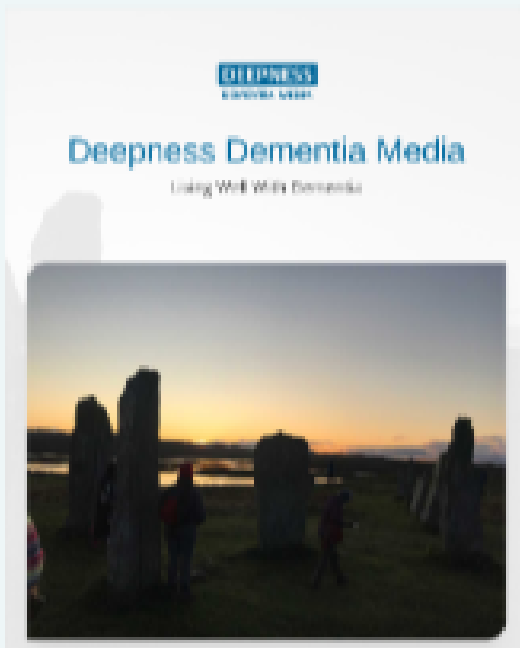
The maximum you can get is £184.30 a week if you get the enhanced rate of both the daily living and the mobility component.

The enhanced rate of the mobility component also gives you the option of getting a Motability vehicle instead of the cash. And remember, PIP is paid on top of pretty much every other benefit you might get.

Plus, if you do get an award of PIP, you may get other premiums and benefits on top.

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Dementia Media is a platform that gives people tools for living well with dementia designed collaboratively with those with dementia leading the process. By coming together in a supportive, energetic common space makes up a huge difference to the well-being of those going through dementia. As opposed to providing a cure, our goal is to help people become autonomous and get the most out of life. We bring a series of innovative projects - such as our radio station, online education courses, and much more - that use technology and music in a way that keeps people connected and stimulated.

“I didn’t want to die without leaving something for my family to enjoy and remember my strengths,” he says of the thinking behind the EP. “The whole concept was to create something that was a legacy for the person, and as soon as I thought about wanting to do that for myself I knew it was something other people would want to do, to leave our mark on society. It’s almost like leaving our families a gift.”

The Demented Poets EP is on sale now via Bandcamp iTunes and other outlets:

Bandcamp - <https://thedementedpoets.bandcamp.com>

Spotify - <https://open.spotify.com/album/6pngYVybZ3qUf6XMhOOFuK>

Deezer - <https://www.deezer.com/en/album/258048592>

iTunes / Apple Music - <https://music.apple.com/us/album/the-demented-poets-ep/1585080810>

Amazon - <https://www.amazon.com/dp/B09FRVYQ1F>

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