

Patient Voices

Dangling conversations:
stories of dementia

Møte med minner
Meeting memories conference

10th December 2012 Oslo City Museum

Pip Hardy and Tony Sumner
Pilgrim Projects/Patient Voices




Forgetting



*'You're a stranger now
unto me
Lost in the dangling
conversation
And the superficial
sighs,
In the borders of our
lives.'*

Paul Simon




Remembering



*'Remembering is not
the negative of
forgetting.
Remembering is a
form of forgetting.'*

Kundera, 1995




The pasts we tell ourselves

*'An important challenge
to humanity is to
recognise that lives are
the pasts we tell
ourselves.'*

Ochs and Capps, 1996





'Stories are always true...'



*'While telling surely
assists the
construction of a
tale, the tale
necessarily lies
beyond the telling.'*

Young 1987, cited in
Ochs and Capp, 1996




Creating ourselves



*'Narrative is radical,
creating us at the very
moment it is being
created.'*

Morrison, 1994



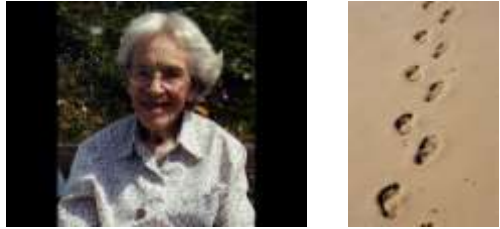

Life changes stories



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Stories change lives



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Eva's story

From darkness into light: new worlds

www.patientvoices.org.uk/flv/0345pv384.htm

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A 'typical' Patient Voices workshop

1 Introductions	7 Storyboarding
2 Seven elements of digital storytelling	8 Video editing tutorial
3 Story circle	9 Assembling the video
4 Script development	10 Premier of stories
5 Image editing tutorial	11 Debrief and reflection
6 Recording the voiceover	

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A typical Patient Voices workshop

- 7-10 storytellers
- 2-3 facilitators
- 2-3 days
- 7-10 stories

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Dangling conversations workshop

- 8 storytellers
- 4 facilitators
- 4 days (8 half-days)
- 8 stories

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Preparation

- Facilitator induction
- Storyteller briefing session
- Liaison with Dementia Centre
- Liaison with carers
- Collecting photos
- Alleviating anxiety!



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Prompt: Who are you?

Under my bed was a dress box
spilling old pictures,
a sift of lost faces
to drift beneath my dreams.
I am from those moments—
snapped before I budded—
leaf-fall from the family tree.



Where I'm from by George Ella Lyon



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Making (sense of) stories

'If you never get to the end, how do you know what the story is?

'I try to make the best of things.'

'Is emotion the glue that holds the story together?'

'Remember to breathe.'



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Rob's story

It's a different world

www.patientvoices.org.uk/flv/0551pv384.htm



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'You've made my day!'



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Developing the stories

- 1-1 facilitation
- Chauffeur rather than coach
- Individual approaches to
 - prompts
 - scripts
 - photos
 - recording





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What storytellers said

‘It’s been great.’
 ‘I feel like me again.’
 ‘It was brilliant.’
 ‘Everybody’s story meant so much.’
 ‘We’ve been learning from each other, and supporting one another.’
 ‘I’d like to do it again someday.’







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Passages past dragons

‘People reach greater maturity as they find the freedom to be themselves and to claim, accept and love their own personal story, with all its brokenness and its beauty.’

Jean Vanier

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Storytellers








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‘In my end is my beginning’

‘Each affects the other and the other affects the next, and the world is full of stories, but the stories are all one.’

Mitch Albom

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Dangling conversations

All the *Dangling conversations* stories can be seen at

www.patientvoices.org.uk/dc.htm




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Thank you

pip@pilgrimprojects.co.uk
www.patientvoices.org.uk

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