



## 31st International Conference of Alzheimer's Disease International

21-24 April 2016, Budapest, Hungary

Dementia: Global Perspective - Local Solutions



**Agnes Houston MBE**

**Dementia Advocate**

**DEMENTIA  
IS AN ORGANIC DISEASE  
OF THE BRAIN**

**CLASSIFIED AS A MENTAL HEALTH  
CONDITION**

**With  
PHYSICAL SYMPTOMS  
And  
SOCIAL IMPLICATIONS**



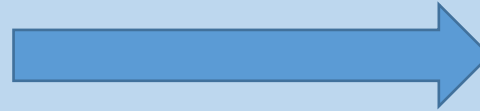






**This is where I first heard from a person with dementia of Hyperacusis and Neurological Vision Impairment in 2011.**





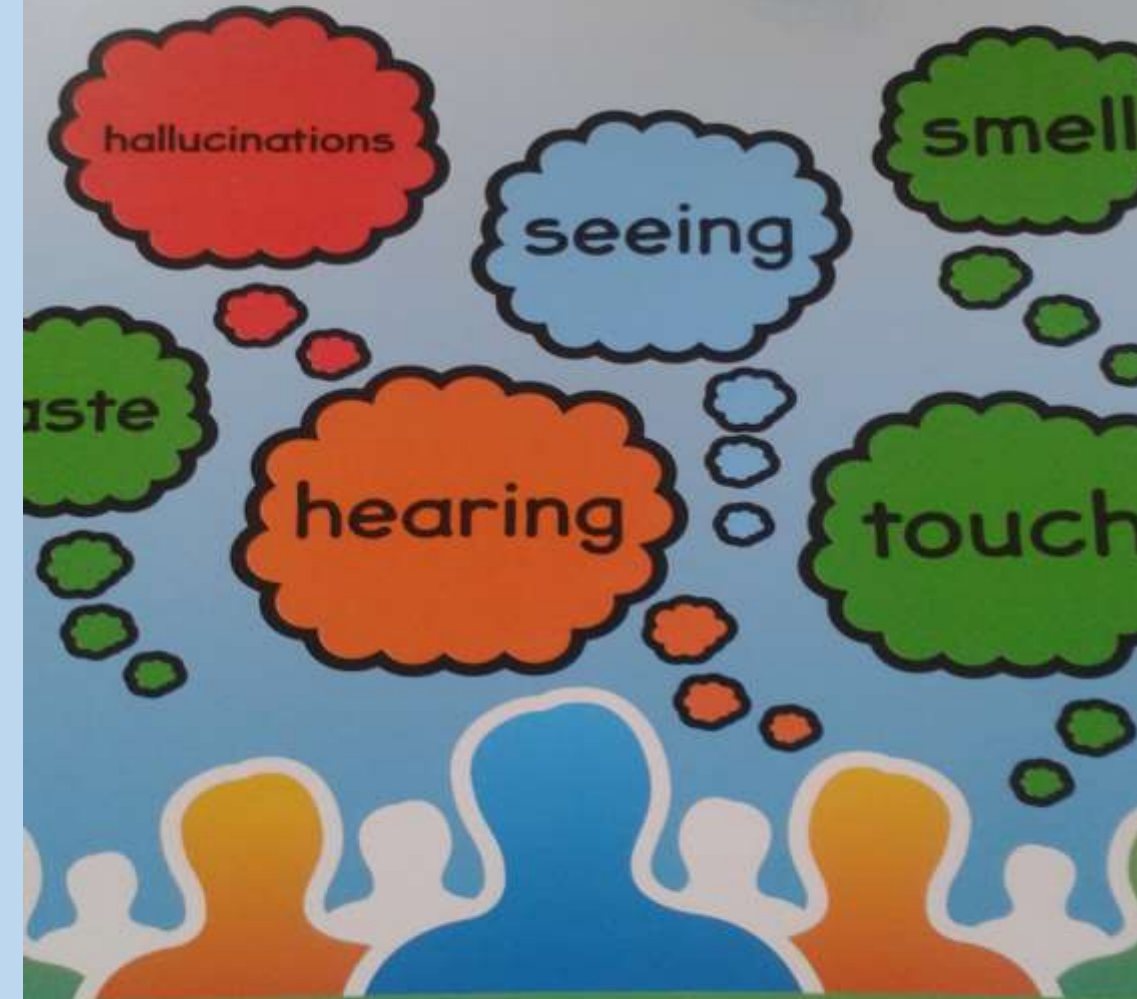
**Glasgow 2014**  
**35 persons with dementia**  
**Attended funded by Life**  
**Changes**  
**Trust**  
**Discussed Sensory Challenges**

**Slovenia 2015**

**Dementia and Sensory**  
**Booklet**  
**Presented**  
**Poster voted best in category**

# *Dementia & Sensory Challenges*

*Dementia can be more than memory*



Inspired by and created with the words of people with dementia

## **Dementia Can Be More Than Memory**

- **Seeing / Spatial awareness**
- **Hearing/Hyperacusis**
- **Touch/Taste/Smell**
- **Hallucinations/Misperception**
- **Balance/Spatial Awareness**
- **Sensory Overload**

# The 4 A's

- Awareness –
  - Talking and sharing lived experience, informing others with dementia, their carers and the wider community
- Accepting –
  - This is my experience of Dementia (and this can be different or similar to others)
- Adapting –
  - What helps and just getting on with life
- Avoiding –
  - If nothing else works



# **Slovenia Alzheimer Europe 2015**



**Feedback –**

**Was asked permission for booklet to be translated into other languages**

**Already been taken to GPs and Opticians to explain symptoms**

**People with Dementia recognising their own experiences within the booklet**



**Just six of the people interviewed out of 24 persons with dementia for this sensory project**



**Delighted to see the end result**



# **Neurological Vision Impairment**



**Eyes are healthy  
it's a  
Brain/Dementia  
Issue**

**Partially Sighted Register  
in early 2016**



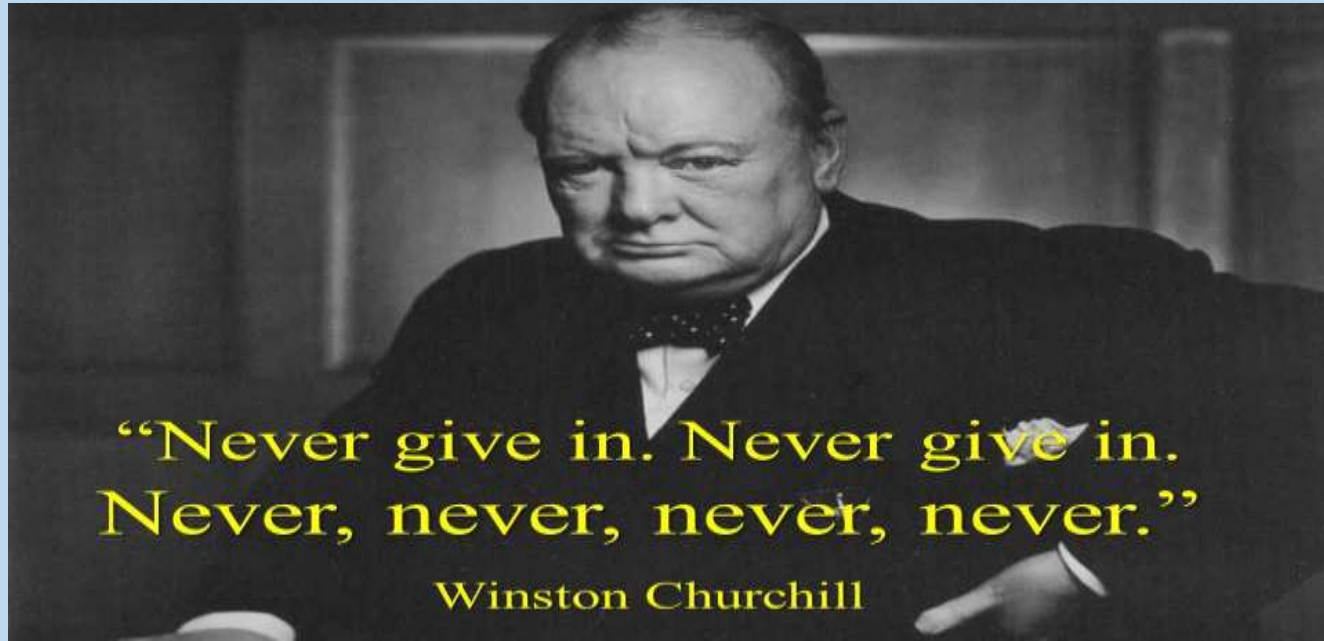
# Hyperacusis



**In April 2016 My Ear  
Nose and Throat  
Consultant said**

**“Hyperacusis was  
caused by my  
dementia and this  
was a well known  
fact”**

# Winston Churchill Memorial Trust - 2016



**You can follow my journey in  
2016 on my Blog**

**dementiacanbemorethan  
memory.wordpress.com/**

Travel to learn -  
Return to inspire



**Ross Campbell from  
Falkirk**

**Who said**

**“There have been a lot  
of people videoed for  
this booklet – we can’t  
all be wrong?”**

**So look at it and take  
something out of it.**



# THANKS TO

**24 people with dementia who gave us their time and personal experience They are named at back of booklet**

**Family and friends who listening to us talk about sensory challenges for a full year**

**All the people with dementia and their carers who supported us via Facebook and e-mail**

**(you know who you are)**

## **The Legacy of this Dementia and Sensory Challenges Project**

**<http://www.lifechangestrust.org.uk/sites/default/files/Leaflet.pdf>**

**The DVD can be viewed on**

**You Tube under the Life Changes Trust Channel**

**Title - Dementia and Sensory Challenges**

