

Shared tribute to Peter Ashley

Daphne Wallace

“I have known Peter for many years. I first met him when I became a Trustee of the Alzheimer's Society in 1994 (I think!) and I saw him more frequently. At that time there was not a limit on tenure!

Although there was resistance to having People With Dementia on committees at this time Peter was very involved in the work with Rachael Litherland to establish a working group on the lines of the successful group in Scotland. After this Peter did much work to assist in spread of ideas that led to the European Group. The inaugural meeting was 3 years ago and I was honoured to be representative member from UK for 2 years.

I was diagnosed with vascular Dementia in 2005 and subsequently the present rules about trustee tenure were clarified. I continued to be involved with the Society and the DAA and DEEP and met Peter at meetings frequently. I will miss his cheery greetings from his wheelchair.”

Keith Oliver

“First Peter always referred to people with dementia and their carers' as being the 2 sides of the same coin. I'm afraid that my wife and I need to leave the conference after this tribute in order that she can attend an event which is important to her this evening and I am meeting a friend. Enjoying life outside of dementia is as Peter would agree also very important for us both.

I am honoured and pleased, though rather humbled to have been asked to contribute to this tribute today to our dear friend Peter. I would like my piece to be seen as a thank you to him.

Firstly, I have known Peter really well for four years and I wish to express my thanks for his humour, intellect and wisdom which is always a powerful combination especially when found in a friend and ally.

Secondly, to say thanks to him for asking the questions many of us thought about but lacked the confidence to ask, and for those questions which never occurred to us because we didn't have the benefits of his insight or experience.

Thirdly, thank you Peter for holding the professionals to the tasks they needed to address by teaching them what it really is like to live with A dementia. A, though a short word was a big word when used by Peter, and he was A big star. A pioneer, an advocate in the truest sense of the word and the first to pick up the baton, move forward with it and as a part of his

legacy to pass it on. Many aspire to leave the world a better place than when we arrived, although few achieve this. Thank you sincerely Peter for giving hope to us all who follow on from you that through your efforts and success, maybe we can also achieve this. I am proud that along with George, Lorraine, Tommy, Trevor and Peter Dunlop who are here today to pick it up and to build upon his lasting contribution.

Once again, thank you Peter. Thank you everyone.”