



Welcome to the first of regular brief newsletters for 2014 that will shine a spotlight on current research activities for the Psychology and CRACKLE team members.

This month we are recognizing the tremendous research effort and initiative shown by Dr. Helen Gregory and her team in developing the ‘*I Will Tell You Something of My Own*’ exhibition at Lansdown Gallery, Stroud that explored “*the everyday lives, selves and art of people with dementia*”. The exhibition reflects Helen’s ongoing and innovative research in dementia and the arts, a topic that fits squarely within the “well-being” theme, an area for research development in the university.

The exhibition was the result of impressive ingenuity, effort and scholarship by Helen and her team and is a major boost for the profile of the Psychology team, our school, faculty and university. Helen secured funding from NHS Gloucestershire and the Arts Council England/ National Lottery and had support from the university, Age UK Gloucestershire, Barnwood Trust, the celebrity patron Jamie Anderson (courtesy of the Alzheimer’s Society) and of course the participants and their families.

The exhibition was highly successful, recording nearly 900 visits with very positive feedback and coverage from local press and radio as well as donations towards future arts/research work in this area. Many visitors were clearly moved by the experience, completing feedback questionnaires with comments such as: “[The exhibition helped me reach] an understanding that there is no barrier to achieving what a person wants to achieve even if they have got dementia.” Helen and her team will be analysing the feedback over the next few months. Stroud TV recorded ten short films about the work (see: <http://stroudcommunity.tv/i-will-tell-you/>) and the songs and poetry-songs from the exhibition can be heard at: <https://soundcloud.com/something-of-my-own>. The artworks will be displayed at *Strike a Light Festival* at the Quaker Meeting House in Gloucester in mid-March (<http://www.strikealightfestival.org.uk/>).

Helen has also published an article about the project in the March/April edition of the *Journal of Dementia Care* (<http://www.careinfo.org/journal-of-dementia-care/>). Her work is at the forefront of the emergent field of arts-based research or performative social science.

Congratulations are extended to Helen and her team for this impressive endeavour.

