



# **The Social History of Learning Disability**

## **30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference Programme**

**The Open University – 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> July 2025**

### **Exhibiting across the conference:**

**Julia Collar, Collar & Cuffs Co.** – Travelling sensory exhibition

**Ajay Choksi**, RIX Inclusive Research Institute: 'My Story, My Way' – Using Rix Wiki to Share My Story – Poster

**Learning Disability England** – Good Lives Photo Booth – Interactive Exhibition

### **Programme – Day 1 – Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> July**

**9:30 – 10:00 Registration**

**10:00 – 10:10 Welcome, introduction and housekeeping**

**10:10 – 10:50 Keynote – Corali, icandance and Magpie Dance – Past Present**

*Future – telling our stories through dance*

*There are many ways we can tell our stories and share history. It does not always have to be the written and spoken word.*

*This keynote session will hear from the artistic teams of three leading London dance companies – Corali, icandance, and Magpie Dance. They will talk about their experience of finding creative and inclusive ways to interpret and share history and tell people's stories. The session will include video clips of some of their inspiring work.*

**10:50 – 11:20 Owen Barden, Ian Davies, Nathaniel Lawford, Sola Ólafsdóttir, Gudrun Stefansdottir, Liz Tilley, Steve Walden:** *'Emotions in the history of learning disability'*

**11:20 – 11:40 Break**

**11:40 – 12:40 Noel Fagan**, Future Directions CIC: Life Stories Project

**Jackie Reeve, Annie King and Liz Sage**, Grace Eyre's: *Archiving Project* – sharing stories and objects from the archive.

**12:40 – 13:45 Lunch**

**13:45 – 13:50 Welcome back/getting to workshops**

**13:50 – 15:15 Workshops**

**United Response: Our Life Stories Project (workshop) + This New Ground The Groundwork Project** (Video and posters)

**CORALI, Magpie Dance, icandance** – Telling our story through dance

**Sólveig Ólafsdóttir, Simon Jarrett, Nathaniel Lawford, Eliph Hadert & Kyle**

**Jordan**: *'Is this allowed?'* How can we respectfully research disability history?

**15:15 – 15:30 Break**

**15:30 – 16:30**

**Paul Christian with Sue Ledger and Liz Tilley**: *'A missing piece of history. Exploring the lives and experiences of Black people with learning disabilities admitted to long stay institutions in England and Wales between 1960–200'*

**Dr Steve Walden**, University of South Wales: *'Hearing the Collective Voice of Learning Disabilities Through History'*

**16:30 – 17:30 Finding Ivy** Exhibition w/ drinks reception

**Dinner at MK Buffet from 7pm**



## **Programme – Day 2 – Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> July**

**9:30 – 9:50** Tea, coffees and registration

**9:50 – 10:00** Welcome back and introduction

**10:00 – 11:00**

**Jan Walmsley, Liz Tilley, Ian Davies and Craig Hart**, SHLD Group: *'30 years of the SHLD group – sharing our memories'*

**Anikó Sándor**, ELTE University Bárczi Gusztáv: *'We teach together! The participation of people with learning disabilities as lecturers in Hungarian higher education'*

**11:00 – 11:20** Break

**11:20 – 12:30** PMLD panel presentation

**Hazel Morgan** – *'The Joy of Knowing Pete'*

**Eve Develyn** – *'My personal history counts too'*

**Catherine de Haas** – Joyful memories of Johanna and our friends of being in our communities

**12:30 – 13:30** Lunch

**13:30 – 13:35** Welcome back

**13:35 – 14:35**

**Liz Tilly**, Building Bridges: *'Remembering the bad from the good'*.

**David Stewart**: *'Education for All: Fifty Five Years On – Memories of a Joyous Journey'*

**14:35 – 14:50** Break

**14.:50 – 15:50**

**Anne-Marie Callus, Cristina Grech, Isabel Portelli & Sandra Borg**, Research team from Malta: *'Telling People's Stories Through Video CVs'*

**Steve Hardy**, Practice Development Nurse, Adult Learning Disability Directorate: *'Peter and friends – life through the ages'*

**15:50 – 16:00** Close and goodbyes