



Living well with dementia

Shibley Rahman
Radcliffe Press

Book Review from **Dr Michael Taylor, FRCGP**

Clinical Lead for Mental Health Services, Heywood Middleton and Rochdale CCG [Buy the book here.](#)

This book is a part of the drive to dispel the notion that “*nothing can be done*”. It is meant primarily for “*immediates*”, those with whom dementia rubs shoulders, either carer for a loved one, or an organiser of dementia services, a professional with a specialist interest in dementia, anyone wishing to write a paper or thesis on dementia. All of these people and others need to have a copy on their book shelves.

That said, most carers in my practice would struggle to understand a fair part of the book, but having read *Living well with dementia* would know what questions to ask of the great statutory services. Tucking a copy under the arm when visiting departmental heads in Social Services would I imagine raise an appropriate eyebrow.

As for all others they would be advised first to read from cover to cover which is not an easy task or even that enjoyable but later to dip in and use as intellectual refreshment for those aspects of dementia of most current concern.

There is much that is commendable. The author conveys his enthusiasm for the subject, which helps the reader through the 18 chapters and 309 pages. There is scrupulous and comprehensive reporting of evidence, including references from late 2013; yes, it is very well referenced, so before any discussion or committee a re-reading of relevant passages with enhance the reader’s

contribution and power. Also the author is qualified in both medicine and law which enables him to talk with personal authority about all of the medical and legal aspects of dementia; there is none of the usual swift changes of style of a multi-authored work.

For me its greatest strength is the reminder that the patient, the one who suffers dementia, is the central player in the final act of life’s drama; how often do we practitioners succumb to the temptation to talk to others whose thoughts and speech are quicker? This centrality is closely followed by the delivery of what the sub-title, *the importance of the person and the environment for wellbeing*” tells, the consideration of wellbeing, positive mental and emotional health.

This is an important and topical work, readable and well-priced. It is not a classic; but I am left with the thought that this author is capable of writing just such if he stays with this topic. It will be greatly to the benefit of those with dementia if he does.

This is an important and topical work...



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 @legalaware FOLLOWS @ROYLILLEY
 dementia, business, law, Cats Queen's Scholar; BA (very high 1st), MA, MB, BChir, PhD (all Cantab); MRCP(UK); GDL/LLB(Hons), LLM(Commend); MBA; FRSA; DipPLP
 Shibley "no advice here" · livingwelldementia.org



Living well with dementia
The importance of the person and the environment for wellbeing

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 **Living well with dementia: Happy by Pharrell Williams**
 May 26, 2014 | In [Book](#) | tagged [Living well with dementia](#), [Shibley Rahman](#) | [Leave a comment](#)

My close friend and colleague, Kate Swaffer, wrote an article this morning in Australia on being diagnosed with dementia vs 'suffering'. I strongly recommend it to you here. This was an exchange of ours this morning on Facebook. This topic has always caused heated exchanges for all of us. I hope you can bear with [...]

 **The Purple Angels' Dementia Awareness Day, founded by Norman McNamara, on September 20th 2014!**
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I'm looking forward to the Purple Angels' Dementia Awareness Day to be held on September 20th 2014. This year's chosen charity is "YoungDementia UK", and here is the link to the 'Just giving' page which has been set up. Dementia is considered 'young onset' when it affects

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