

## **Review of the Alzheimer's show at London Olympia 9 -10th June**

A small group of us from the FMN's of Canterbury, supported by DEEP, including Keith and his wife Rosemary, Melvin, my husband Michael and myself, went to London to attend the 2017 Alzheimer's show at Olympia.

Rachel Niblock had organised a warm and inviting stand for DEEP which was very busy for the two days of the show.

On Friday morning I joined a group of about half a dozen people with dementia from various other groups associated with DEEP.

Each person read out a personal piece, either in prose or poetry, relating to their own story about living with dementia.

This was followed by a question and answer session run by Rachel. There was a large audience and we were well received.

On Friday afternoon at the Olympia Theatre, Keith gave a powerful over-view of his "Walk-the-Walk" book which was much appreciated by a large audience.

On Saturday Melvin joined us at the DEEP stand where we were very busy answering questions about DEEP from a large number of visitors.

Another moving presentation at the Theatre was Angela Rippon (Alzheimer's Society Ambassador) interviewing Peter Berry and his wife, from Suffolk.

Peter had been diagnosed with Alzheimers at the age of 52 and spoke very eloquently about how it had affected their lives and how he continued to work in his business with the help of his family.

His wife Therese related a story about the time a friend, in Peter's presence, asked her "How is Peter doing?"

She replied

"Ask Peter, he is right here!"

I declare Therese Berry the carer of the year!

The DEEP stand happened to be next door to a Carer's area in which there was an entertainer all set up with huge speakers...an exceptionally good reincarnation of Roy Orbison, who had people "dancing in the aisles", including Rachel and Francesca from DEEP and myself dancing with Peter to 'Sweet Caroline'.

My friend Melvin and I finished the day by taking a walk around the stalls and having a talk with a very busy Admiral nurse. We agreed that aren't enough of them in East Kent.....

As usual in these meetings, we felt at ease in the company of others with dementia and learnt a lot about our disease.