What an incredible two days at the European Reminiscence Network (ERN) conference in Dublin (2-3 May), where experts from 15 countries came together to share what they were doing and learn from each other. It seemed particularly timely, given our rather depressing Brexit limbo, to celebrate the richness of collaboration across so many countries in Europe and beyond.

Kate White, a family carer who is a participant in the Remembering Yesterday Caring Today (RYCT) projects showcased at the conference, sums it up nicely: “I have been to many conferences, but this was just the best! I loved the variety of presentations, singing, dancing, theatre, art, the walks and the enthusiasm and team work with which Karen Meenan from Making Hay Theatre and Pam Schweitzer from European Reminiscence Network curated it all.”

A wide breadth of presentations showed how much we have in common in our efforts to find imaginative ways of living well with dementia and that we have much to offer to one another by way of ideas and inspiration. The focus was on restoring relationships and emotional wellbeing to the heart of dementia care, refreshingly far removed from the dominant discourse of illness, deterioration, fear and segregation.

We heard about a hospital reminiscence project in the Czech Republic, a Catalunyan initiative to bring reminiscence into everyday life, an intergenerational arts project in Canada, a Finnish workshop dramatizing childhood memories, and Swedish and Danish reminiscence theatre projects, among many other things.

Pam Schweitzer, who helped organise the conference and originated RYCT, shared the story of the creation of memory boxes which are now being used by drama students at the University of Greenwich to create performances which are now being used by drama students at the University of Greenwich to create performances which are now being used by drama students at the University of Greenwich to create performances which are now being used by drama students at the University of Greenwich to create performances which are now being used by drama students at the University of Greenwich to create performances which are now being used by drama students at the University of Greenwich to create performances which are now being used by drama students at the University of Greenwich to create performances which are now being used by drama students at the University of Greenwich to create performances which are now being used by drama students at the University of Greenwich to create performances which 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