This is an account of the care the author’s mother received in a care home, and how he and his family fought over many years to ensure standards were upheld.

Astute observations are made of the home’s poor leadership and culture, while the involvement and responses of the regulators and local authority safeguarding team are detailed.

The title, and the assertion that all care homes are like this one, will cause unease. But this must not detract from the importance of the book, which expresses the pain, frustration and anguish of a family well.

For those who offer good quality care, the book could be a useful aid for training, education and quality assurance.

The nurses who should read and reflect on it are those who deliver services in an abusive manner; sadly, however, they are neither likely to buy it nor recognise themselves in the text.

Reviewed by Lynne Phair, independent nurse consultant, adult safeguarding and older people

Dementia care is complex and can involve multiple morbidities, a myriad of services and competing demands on resources. This book explains how to achieve integrated, person-centred care for people with dementia and their families in this context.

It examines a broad range of policy, evidence and best practice for each step of the dementia pathway, from preventing illness to dying well, and offers a critical analysis of progress. It explains how to uphold the rights of those affected by dementia as well as developments in holistic care provision.

As the book provides an overview of the complexities of dementia care, it can be difficult to follow at times. It would be useful for nurses who want to further their knowledge, but I don’t recommend they read it in one sitting.

Reviewed by Rachel Thompson, professional and practice development lead, Admiral Nursing, Dementia UK

Laughter, friendship and dementia

A project enables people with dementia to collaborate with artists and share their experiences with the public

I recently had the pleasure of joining Age UK Exeter’s Budding Friends group and three artists collaborating on A Life More Ordinary, a project led by Linda Clare at the University of Exeter.

The project is part of a study called Improving the Experience of Dementia and Enhancing Active Life, a national survey of people with dementia and those who support them. This research has grown out of the recognition that we need to find ways to help people with dementia lead better lives.

Photographer Ian Beesley, cartoonist Tony Husband and poet Ian McMillan held a series of workshops with a group of individuals with dementia and those who support them. This research has grown out of the recognition that we need to find ways to help people with dementia lead better lives.

The group reflected on much-loved photos from the past, showing that memories or emotions associated with them have ‘stuck’ in their memories. The booklet also expresses the ‘allotment of time’ by showing how the group live each day with dementia.

Individual experiences

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The Allotment of Time is available free at tinyurl.com/y9g8rk3k