

Inclusive Design for Getting Outdoors – Top 12 News Stories of 2012

2012 was a landmark year for Inclusive Design for Getting Outdoors (I'DGO), as we launched the findings from our second phase of study and shared our knowledge at key events and in journals. Here are our 12 highlights...

I'DGO TOO paper in British Journal of Sports Medicine

December 2012

A paper on the second phase of Inclusive Design for Getting Outdoors - I'DGO TOO - has been published online in the British Journal of Sports Medicine. Reporting on the work undertaken by the OPENspace research centre on pedestrian-friendly neighbourhoods, the paper is entitled "Do changes to the local street environment alter behaviour and quality of life of older adults? The 'DIY Streets' intervention". With Prof Catharine Ward Thompson as lead author, the text focuses on findings related to the effects of street improvements on older people's activity levels and health, aiming towards a better understanding of how environments support physical activity, especially across the life course. The paper includes in-depth information on the background to, and methods of, the study, as well as the findings and discussion of their implications.

More info: <http://bjsm.bmj.com/content/early/2012/12/13/bjsports-2012-091718.full>

Catharine Ward Thompson greets Princess Royal at OT showcase

November 2012

I'DGO Director, Professor Catharine Ward Thompson, has introduced a group of established and early-career researchers to the Princess Royal (pictured). The meeting took place at a London showcase for world-class occupational therapy research involving leading experts, policymakers and professionals from across the UK and North America. Hosted by the College of Occupational Therapists, the showcase was organised by KT-EQUAL, the EPSRC-funded knowledge transfer group of which Catharine is a Co-Investigator. Focused on bringing research into practice, it involved a number of discussions on meeting the ageing population's needs, including a talk by Catharine on Age-Friendly Outdoor Environments.

More info: <http://blog.kt-equal.org.uk/305/#more-305>



Having been introduced to a group of gerontological researchers by Professor Catharine Ward Thompson, HRH The Princess Royal addresses delegates at the Headquarters of the College of Occupational Therapists in London (November 2012). In her speech, she highlights the value of well-designed outdoor environments and the importance of good access to them, particularly for older people.

Photo courtesy of COT / KT-EQUAL



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Lynne Mitchell addresses House of Lords Select Committee

November 2012

I'DGO researcher, Dr Lynne Mitchell (pictured), has been called as a witness by the House of Lords Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change. As one of four experts on planning and design giving evidence to the Committee, Lynne addressed the question of whether enough is being done to make services user-friendly for older people in the United Kingdom. The session focused on the role of both government and industry in addressing the needs of an ageing population and the way in which society perceives older consumers. It took place on the same day as the Committee heard evidence on the sustainability of current pensions and personal care funding models, with witnesses including Richard Humphries of The King's Fund and Joanne Segars OBE of the National Association of Pension Funds.

More info: <http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/lords-select/public-services-committee/>



Lynne Mitchell at the presentation of the I'DGO findings in Europe House. In November 2012, she gives evidence to the House of Lords Select Committee on Public Service and Demographic Change. In December, she has a blog published on The Guardian Online on outdoor design and quality of life (<http://tinyurl.com/ahpxmlk>)

Photo courtesy of Chris Hutton, CHP

I'DGO PIs at invited DCLG research roundtable

October 2012

I'DGO Principal Investigators, Professors Catharine Ward Thompson and Marcus Ormerod, have contributed to an invited research roundtable discussion at the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG). The informal event was hosted by Jeremy Watson, Chief Scientific Adviser at DCLG, and Richard Harral, Principal Architect and policy lead on Part M of the Building Regulations - Access to and use of buildings. Fostering a better understanding of the ways in which research and development can feed more effectively into policy formulation, the discussion focused specifically on inclusive design, considering how Government could do more to set out its evidential needs. Other attendees included Catharine's KT-EQUAL colleague, Professor Leela Damodoran, as well as representatives from funding councils, Design Council CABE, the BRE, the BSI and seven other universities.



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I'DGO Director at Canadian Association on Gerontology conference

October 2012

The Director of the I'DGO consortium, Professor Catharine Ward Thompson, has spoken at the 41st Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting of the Canadian Association on Gerontology in Vancouver. As part of a symposium on Translating Research on the Built Environment to Policy & Practice, Catharine presented on how the quality of neighbourhood environments impacts on older people's activity and quality of life. She was in Vancouver at the invitation of Dr Heather McKay, Director of the Centre for Hip Health and Mobility at the University of British Columbia, with whom I'DGO has maintained strong links since hosting a KT-EQUAL Anglo-Canadian study tour in March 2010. While in Canada, Catharine also caught up with Louise Plouffe, Anne Martin-Matthews and I'DGO international expert, Gloria Gutman, who features on the project's promotional film.

More info: <http://www.cagacg.ca/page.aspx?menu=86&app=336&cat1=818&tp=2&lk=no>

41st Annual Scientific and Educational Meeting / 41^e Réunion scientifique et éducative annuelle

Aging in a Changing World

Vieillir dans un monde en évolution

Canadian Association
on Gerontology
VANCOUVER 2012



Association canadienne
de gérontologie
OCTOBER 18-20 OCTOBRE



Rita Newton addresses Cross Party Group of National Assembly for Wales

October 2012

I'DGO researcher, Rita Newton, has addressed a special meeting of the National Assembly for Wales' Cross Party Group on Older People and Ageing. Exploring how the built environment can affect the wellbeing and quality of life of older people, the presentation took place at the request of the Group's Chair, Mike Hedges, AM for Swansea East. Held in Cardiff Bay, it was facilitated by Age Cymru and attended by around 30 invited representatives of key stakeholder groups, as well as members of the National Assembly. It took place one week after I'DGO was represented at Cardiff University's Independent Living seminar held annually to mark UN International Older Person's Day.



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I'DGO launches new design guidance at British Science Festival

September 2012

I'DGO has taken part in the 2012 British Science Festival, the UK's largest public access celebration of science. At an event opened by Councillor George Adam, Lord Provost of Aberdeen City Council, the

Panellists debate age-friendly places at the British Design Festival. From left to right: Robin Harper; Catharine Ward Thompson; Betty Milton; Suzy Gentle; Rowena Statt.

Photo courtesy of Gordon Stables



team launched new design guidance on tactile paving and revised editions of guidance on public seating and bus stops. Following an introduction to I'DGO by Professor Catharine Ward Thompson, the researchers were joined by Suzy Gentle of Age Scotland, Betty Milton of the City of Edinburgh Council and Rowena Statt of

architectural practice, Anderson Bell Christie, for a debate chaired by Robin Harper (pictured). Joining in the discussion on 'Age-friendly places: does one size fit all?' were audience members from local authorities, architectural practices, universities and the general public.

More info: http://www.idgo.ac.uk/design_guidance/streets.htm

I'DGO at the World Congress on Active Ageing

August 2012

I'DGO has participated in the 8th World Congress on Active Ageing, which this year took place at the Scottish Exhibition and Conference Centre (Glasgow) and was attended by 900 delegates, including over 300 people aged 65+. Researchers Angela Curl, Lynette Robertson and Professor Marcus Ormerod presented recent I'DGO findings at the event; the latter giving an invited lecture on 'engaging environments for active ageing' and chairing a session on the Impact of the Built and Natural Environment. I'DGO also had a stand in the exhibition hall and conducted, with partner Living Streets, an outdoors walkshop on supportive environments for older people (pictured). The week-long congress included a symposium on new project Go Far, involving, among the team, three I'DGO researchers and Professor James Goodwin of Age UK.

More info: <http://www.wcaa2012.com/>



Rita Newton (l) and Marcus Ormerod (r) of I'DGO, with Keith Irving (c) of Living Streets, at the World Congress on Active Ageing. Having participated in a BSI Stakeholder Forum the previous month, Marcus chairs a session at the congress, presents findings from I'DGO TOO in an invited lecture and hosts, with Rita and Keith, an outdoor walkshop for delegates, exploring the accessibility of the local street environment.

Photo courtesy of I'DGO



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I'DGO profiled in Department of Health report to UK parliament

July 2012

I'DGO has been profiled in the annual report by the Department of Health to Parliament on current UK research and development projects in Assistive Technology. Featured in the 'Active, older and included' section of the publication (pages 39-44), the project was chosen to be detailed in depth, with information on the methods used, as well as preliminary findings (please note, the text predates our final report of April 2012). The review is based on a free online database managed by the Foundation for Assistive Technology (FAST), which highlights innovative technologies to support older and disabled people to maximise their independence. As well as 30 project profiles and a comprehensive listing section (of over 300 projects), it also includes details of the key policies, service reviews and service innovations relevant to the delivery of assistive technology services over the period April 2011 - March 2012.

More info: <http://www.dh.gov.uk/health/files/2012/07/Research-and-development-work-relating-to-Assistive-Technology-2011-12.pdf>

I'DGO completes UK parliamentary tour

May 2012

Inclusive Design for Getting Outdoors (I'DGO) has held the last of three parliamentary receptions to present findings from the second phase of the project, I'DGO TOO. The event in the Senedd, Cardiff, followed earlier receptions in Holyrood, Edinburgh and Stormont, Belfast; all held jointly with the knowledge exchange consortium, KT-EQUAL. Attracting a mix of delegates from government, industry and the not-for-profit sector, the events were addressed by leading politicians in each location: Ieuan Wyn Jones AM in Wales; Jackie Baillie MSP in Scotland (pictured); and Jonathan Bell MLA in Northern Ireland. The official launch of the research findings took place in April in the UK headquarters of the European Commission, London, addressed by Baroness Greengross.



"I am delighted to be involved in an event that evidences the importance of ageing-in-place and the links between the design and planning of towns and cities and older people's health and wellbeing. The important findings of the I'DGO project have added significance at a time of great public interest in standards of living and care in older age and are an important touchstone for those of us in policy development, which can bring real benefits to Scotland's growing number of people aged 65+."

Jackie Baillie MSP speaks at the presentation of the I'DGO TOO findings in The Scottish Parliament, Holyrood, on 16 May 2012

Photo courtesy of Tricia Malley Ross Gillespie www.broaddaylightltd.co.uk



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I'DGO co-hosts Ending Isolation Through Design

May 2012

Inclusive Design for Getting Outdoors (I'DGO) has co-hosted an event on the links between the planning and design of the outdoor environment, active ageing and older people's social engagement. Ending Isolation Through Design was held jointly with Age Scotland and Planning Aid for Scotland and attracted a full house of around 50 delegates, half of them from older people's groups across Scotland. Showcasing Age Scotland's 'Walk in our Shoes' toolkit, and opened by Sarah Boyack MSP, the event included presentations by the three host organisations, as well as Professor

Sarah Boyack MSP pictured with I'DGO findings in Holyrood on 16 May 2012. Earlier in the day, she opened Ending Isolation Through Design (co-hosted by I'DGO, Age Scotland and Planning Aid for Scotland) saying "Getting outdoors and getting active is absolutely central to people's physical and mental health and wellbeing. We need to think about designing places that are welcoming to be in all year round, all hours round. We're living longer, but not necessarily with all our faculties at 100%. Planning must address this".

Photo courtesy of Tricia Malley Ross Gillespie
www.broaddaylightltd.co.uk



Dawn Skelton from Glasgow Caledonian University. It was followed by a reception in the Scottish Parliament to present the latest I'DGO research findings, hosted jointly with KT-EQUAL and opened by Jackie Baillie MSP.

More info:

<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/scotland/professional-resources/publications-and-research/>

I'DGO TOO findings launched in Europe House

April 2012

The findings from I'DGO TOO, the second phase of Inclusive Design for Getting Outdoors, have been launched in Europe House, home of the European Commission and European Parliament in the UK. In celebration of the European Year for Active Ageing, the event was addressed by Baroness Greengross, crossbench member of the House of Lords and Chief Executive of the International Longevity Centre - UK, who described the research as "phenomenally exciting" for the development of places where "we can bloom as people from when we are very young to very old". The morning session included a social networking Q&A, with followers discussing the headline findings via Twitter and LinkedIn, while the afternoon meeting was a chance to find out in more detail about methodology and new evidence. Delegates attended from industry, government, the research community and older people's groups, including representatives from 12 I'DGO partners and our host, the European Commission.



Catharine Ward Thompson (top) and Baroness Greengross (below) address delegates at the presentation of the I'DGO TOO findings in Europe House. The Baroness describes I'DGO as "phenomenally exciting research on how we can bloom as people from when we are very young to very old"

Photo courtesy of Chris Hutton, CHP



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