

## **The Aldersea Lecture 2017**

### **“Change: good, bad, or ugly?”**

**Lone Rose**

National Spinal Injuries Centre, Stoke Mandeville

Being invited to present the Aldersea lecture at this very special 25<sup>th</sup> PMG conference is a huge honour and privilege. Inevitably, it also tempts a look in the rear-view mirror – which made me realise how a succession of changes at national and local level can lead to completely accidental meetings with people who go on to shape the path we take.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to some of the people who have influenced my professional development, reflect on a few events that have had a huge impact on my career, and outline what I learnt from these experiences, which may still be relevant to practitioners today in view of the ongoing challenges facing our services.

#### **Why “Aldersea” Lecture?**

Some of you may wonder why the special guest presentation at PMG is called the Aldersea Lecture; others of you will know that it was named in honour of one of PMG’s founder members, Patsy Aldersea. In 2016, Ros Ham, a friend and colleague of Patsy Aldersea, and herself a previous member of various PMG committees, wrote of Patsy’s contribution to the field which led PMG to honour her in this way. We have published Ros’s homage to Patsy again here.

*Patsy Aldersea, an experienced occupational therapist, was instrumental in the development of the NHS wheelchair and special seating services following the McColl report of 1986. Services had previously been located at Artificial Limb and Appliance Centres (ALACs) but, following the report, management of the ALACs moved to the Disablement Services Authority (DSA) which ran the project of transferring services to the NHS regions by 1991.*

*The role of the therapist increased in this clinical area with work-based ‘tools’, training - both local and at higher education level - job opportunities, scientific meetings, texts, papers, references and, in 1992, the birth of PMG.*

*Patsy was key to these developments, working with the ALACs, the Department of Health (DH), professional bodies, academic departments, and multidisciplinary team members. She was senior therapist at the Roehampton service when seconded to the DH as part-time coordinator for the two DSA project committees, which had direct responsibility to the Minister of Health. Patsy thus gained an overview of services as they expanded nationally, and was always willing to help in their development. She was a delightful person to work alongside, and highly regarded by all members of the multidisciplinary team.*

*We have to thank Patsy Aldersea for all her hard work in getting us to where we are today, and it is fitting that her contribution to the field is recognised annually through PMG’s guest lecture.*

**Ros Ham  
June 2016**