

## **November's independent living technology news**

Here's what's new in the world of independent living technology this month.

### **Public policy, legislation and campaigns**

#### **Proposals for digital reform to the courts promote inclusion**

A new report commissioned by the government to advise on [digital reforms to the Courts and Tribunals Service](#) has emphasised the importance of ensuring that online court services such as virtual hearings do not disadvantage groups at risk of exclusion, including disabled people.

#### **The Design Council announces Home Innovation Challenge winners**

The Design Council has named the winners of its [Home Innovation Challenge](#) which recognised products that help people live at home independently. Among the products that won a share of the £150,000 prize were an easy-change duvet cover, post-surgery underwear and a universal clamp that can be used to temporarily fix things together.

#### **Researchers publish practical guide to technology in dementia care**

A team of academics has published a practical guide on ['Using Technology in Dementia Care'](#). The book combines the latest research with practical advice on how to use mainstream and specialist technology at home, outdoors and for fun with people living with dementia.

#### **Think tank argues for inclusive rather than age-specific products**

The Centre for Ageing Better's Jemma Moulard has [published a blog](#) arguing that the technology sector's recent interest in targeting products specifically at older people is misguided and would do better to focus on making products more inclusive for everyone.

### **Technological developments and innovations**

#### **Tobii Dynavox releases its latest eye-gaze communication aide**

Tobii Dynavox has launched the latest generation of its flagship eye gaze-controlled communication devices the [I-Series](#), which a range of new features including a second screen that mirrors the phrases being typed for listeners, the ability to be switched on at a glance and a desktop control tool.

#### **Amazon Echo adds Show and Tell feature for blind and visually impaired people**

Amazon has unveiled a [show and tell accessibility feature](#) for the Amazon Echo which allows people with visual impairments to identify grocery items by holding up a food or drinks product in front of Alexa's camera, allowing the device to recognise and say the name of the object.

#### **Dementia device makes it easier to stay in touch with smartphone app**

A new version of the MemRabel dementia aid that allows family, friends and carers to set up reminders for users has been released. The [MemRabel 2i](#) comes with a dedicated smartphone app that allows carers to set video, photo or voice reminders remotely.

## **World Health Organisation produces smartphone app for health and social care professionals**

The World Health Organisation has [launched a smartphone app](#) to help health and social care workers to provide better support to older people. The WHO ICOPE handbook app provides practical guidance on a range of health conditions and impairments.

*These stories were originally published in the dispATches newsletter – a free monthly e-mail about assistive technologies that empower disabled and older people to live more independently. [Click here to sign up for dispATches.](#)*