

The Ear Foundation News



hearing and communicating in a technological era

Destiny of a Child's Kilimanjaro Climb

They DID it! Annie Martin's amazing team of 60 climbers successfully completed the hugely demanding challenge of climbing Kilimanjaro for The Ear Foundation – and for Generation Cochlée in France and two orphanages in Tanzania. The photos show the extent of the challenge – a life-changing experience for them – and we are so grateful to them all.

Read all about it inside...



Belinda Rattray, Annie Martin and Carolyn Collyer



Center Parcs Family Weekend 2011



The Ear Foundation descended on Center Parcs in Sherwood Forest on Friday 25th to Monday 28th March for our annual family conference and all agreed it was another great event.



The Ear Foundation provides independent information, education and support for deaf children, young people and adults with cochlear implants and other technologies, their families and their supporting professionals. We also carry out child and family-centred research in the field of cochlear implantation and other hearing technologies.

Family Education



Center Parcs Family Weekend 2011

We got together on Friday Night for the 3rd 'The Ear Foundation's Got Talent Show'. Colin Wells of Hollyoaks, Hotel Babylon and Casualty compered the evening and started the show with a great tribute to our Chief Executive Sue Archbold. The children then proved once again that The Ear Foundation does have lots of varied talents. There was singing, dancing, acting and some very bad jokes!

This year the Saturday morning started with workshops for family's and users to attend, these included a Leaping on with Language workshop for Parents with primary aged children, Cochlear trouble shooting sessions, Cued Speech talked people through their system and application, NDCS explained how parents can fight for essential services, The Ear Foundation demonstrated accessories for your implant and Richard Reed delivered a jamming session for the teenagers. There were also various stands to look round and learn from.

In the afternoon the children and teenagers went off to enjoy themselves at their various activities. While the parents and adults settled in to learn. This year the key theme was education. Jill Honeyman gave an update on Cochlear's upcoming developments.

Clare Sheridan spoke about the art of parent/children conversations. Andy Marshall gave a surgeon's perspective on Cochlear Implant surgery. Sue Archbold shared her vast experience of deaf education and gave lots of parents plenty to think about. Hilary French, mother to Cochlear Implant recipient 20 year old Rebecca who had her Cochlear Implant aged 3 told of their families journey through education. Anna Herriman, an adult Cochlear Implant recipient who received her implant 3 years ago aged 30 gave an insightful presentation about her personal experiences. Richard Reed took the audience on a musical explanation of what it is like to regain you hearing with a Cochlear Implant. The afternoon was rounded off by three of the excellent talent show acts.

Staff received many favourable comments about introducing workshops this year, and our Evaluation Forms echoed this, with some very positive feedback on not only the workshops but the informative speakers on the day. Bringing families and users together is a very important aspect of The Ear Foundation Family Programme so that we can learn and share experiences as a group.

What you thought:

"It was great to catch up with the parents and to see how far the kids have come in the past year. Its always comforting to realise you're not alone and that we all face the same challenges"

Lorna Lord - Family Coordinator

"Once again a number of interesting speakers adding to my knowledge and understanding of cochlears and deafness. An added bonus of a wonderful family weekend, full of fun activities."

"We enjoyed the day so much it was really helpful & we are definitely going to go for the whole weekend next year, we look forward to hearing about the date. I did get a lot out of the talks especially the educational bit - how implanted children can keep up with peers until about 9 years old but then can find it harder - we do read a lot but we read his school books with him now so there is less time for reading fun books, It made me think about the importance of carrying on with the Gruffalo & Stick Man etc which always were his favourites!! Also, the musician was really fascinating to listen to. We loved his interpretation of what he can hear now. Thanks very much"

Climbing for children



by **Destiny of a Child**

We are overwhelmed by the generosity of our friends at Destiny of a Child, the charity which supports cochlear implantation for profoundly deaf children in the UK and France, who have made a donation of £80,000 to The Ear Foundation.

Director and Fundraiser for Destiny of a Child, Annie Martin, masterminded a charity climb of Mount Kilimanjaro - one of the world's highest freestanding mountains at 5,896 metres - in February this year. Annie was very ably assisted by a dedicated organising committee of volunteers in the UK as well as supporters in France and on the ground in Tanzania.

The project took nearly two years to organise, as Annie explains: "We had amazing support from family and friends who found some ingenious ways of fundraising to cover the cost of the trip as well as raising sponsorship money, from organising lunches and wine tastings to playing tennis matches and opening their gardens."

Sixty climbers set off from Heathrow Airport at the end of January for what was to be a life changing experience. Annie's husband John was one of the climbers taking part in the seven day ascent and here he describes the awesome challenge: "Some days we climbed over 1,000 metres and so the physical effort was considerable. By day four, we had already lost five climbers to stomach bugs and altitude sickness, including one helicopter evacuation and two assisted descents with oxygen.

"The final ascent involved leaving the tents at midnight in temperatures of minus 15°C and climbing very slowly 1,200 metres through the night to the summit. The camaraderie was exceptional and everyone encouraged each other on. The sunrise over the plains at 6.30am was huge, beautiful and very welcome. We finally reached the famous sign at Uhuru peak after circling the crater at about 8.00am with relief and quite a few tears.

"Although it was at times very tough, the experience was also very rewarding both in terms of the success of the fundraising and in a personal and social sense."

Overall the climb raised close to £200,000 and Destiny of a Child were also able to help one of the local AIDs charities, ACE Africa as well as helping The Ear Foundation and Génération Cochlée which assists parents of implanted children in France.

This exceptional donation to The Ear Foundation will allow us to fund setting up a web based education training service over the next two years, Chief Executive Sue Archbold explains: "The Ear Foundation receives no Government funding and thanks to the support from Destiny of a Child over the years, we have been able to grow into the organisation we are today.

"The advent of the Internet means we now have a new global reach through our website which receives around 2,500 hits a day from people around the world - interestingly, visitors from China and Russia are the most common after the UK.



"NHS cutbacks are leading to less training opportunities and as we face this financially challenging environment, it is more important than ever for parents and professionals to be able to access the information they need to help in the aftercare of children receiving cochlear implants. This new tranche of funding will allow us provide information which can be downloaded in bite sized pieces at different stages of a child's progress. We can't thank Annie and her team enough for their generosity and hard work, which allows us to continue our life-changing work."

Annie Martin was inspired to set up Destiny of a Child in 2003 when her Godson, now 18 years old and about to go to university, received a cochlear implant.

Unbelievably Annie and her team have already launched Climbing for Children 2013 when they will be looking for a new band of climbers to take on this amazing challenge in January 2013. So watch this space for more announcements as the next project progresses!

You can read more about Destiny of a Child at www.destinyofachild.com and ACE-Tanzania at www.ace-africa.org



Taking LEAPs towards the LEAPing on With Language Web Site!

LEAPing on With Language is a conversation based parents programme for Children aged 5 – 11. It is currently a 1 day workshop for parents but is being developed into a global web site for families and their professionals during 2011.

The last parents course was run in Cornwall last term. It was really well received with very positive parents comments:

I found it very informative and interesting

Loved it!

Great course-recommended!

Superb ideas for language development

The most important thing for me was the thoughts about their own children, their Hopes and Dreams for them and what they had taken from the course:

Focus on strategies to improve my child's independence and language development

Positive promotion of my child's self esteem and identity

Expanding vocabulary

Listen to my daughter more

Help her build longer sentences

Discussion cards at tea time

Keeping HOPE for the possibilities of growth and development of my children

Project supported by a Cochlear Education Grant



For more information contact Clare Allen, Speech & Language Therapist, The Ear Foundation. clare@earfoundation.org.uk

There were comments about the course needing to be longer, split over 2 days or having follow up sessions. This is why the web site development is so exciting.

Ideally parents will be able to come on a LEAPing on with Language 1 day course which establishes the philosophy and directly applies it to their own child's needs and strengths. Families will have the opportunity to create games and targets for themselves to take away and try out. They can then refer to the web site for ongoing ideas and what next! Of course this is a global venture and for those families in other countries the web site covers the main philosophy with questionnaires to help them identify their child's needs and strengths. It means that you can dip into the sections which are most important at the time because as your child's language progresses.

There will be no more parents courses until the web site has been launched. Films are being taken all over the world as we go to press, in order to give the web site its global identity. We have some volunteers in the UK who will be filmed imminently! Watch this space we are LEAPing at speed now and look forward to telling you more .

Family Programme 2011

READY STEADY GO

Interactive sessions with you and your pre-schooler around communication, music and listening skills.

Find out how to support your child's listening and talking in parent time.

Whilst the children play, create and make new friends in playtime. And then listen, sing and talk together in group time. All sessions are on a Saturday at The Ear Foundation from 10.30am to 12pm

- **14th May**
- **16th July**
- **24th September**
- **29th October**
- **3rd December**

SPECIAL BRANCH

Music sessions for children with cochlear implants and additional & complex needs and their families. All sessions are on a Saturday at The Ear Foundation from 10.30am to 12.30pm (with lunch provided)

- **18th June**
- **10th September**
- **12th November**

WORKSHOP FOR KEYSTAGE 2 DEAF CHILDREN AND THEIR PARENTS

While the children enjoy a dramatic adventure the parents can learn together with an experienced Speech and Language Therapist.

- **Wednesday 1st June 2011 (half term)**
- **From 10am to 1pm**
- **At The Ear Foundation**

For more information on any of these programmes contact Lorna at lorna@earfoundation.org.uk or on **0115 942 1985**.



Teens United

The Teens group at The Ear Foundation is going from strength to strength. After our very successful activities during the summer, - a trip to London and filming with Colin Wells (you may have seen both these activities on the television programme See Hear!) - we have had three other well attended days.

The first was in October when eleven young people visited Nottingham Forest Football Club for a tour round and then went for coaching and food at the local Power League facility followed by five a side matches. All the young people seemed to really enjoy the day, girls and boys alike.

In December we took over twenty young people into Nottingham for an ice skating session. There was a huge range of ability in both youngsters and helpers but there were coaches on hand to give advice. After that we all went for a meal at a local restaurant which serves food from lots of different cultures. On returning to The Ear Foundation, we joined the Sound Advice Adults' Christmas Party for an hour, for games.

In February we headed off to Cadbury's World in Birmingham for a fun day eating chocolate and learning about the Cadbury's history. The tour of the factory and all the displays were fascinating but we all enjoyed making our own chocolate combination the most! The adults all felt sick with the amount of chocolate that we ate but the teens didn't seem to mind!

It's great to see so many deaf youngsters (using a variety of different technology) coming along to these days. We welcome any youngsters between the ages of 11 and 16.



Teens United Dates and Topics:

Car Wash and Bowling – **21st May**

Duke's Barn –

31st August and 2nd September

Cake decorating and Basketball –

22nd October

Signed performance of a pantomime

Cinderella– **15th December**

Ready Steady Go Christmas Party

The Ready Steady Go Pre-School gang all got together for a great Christmas Party on 4th December 2010. The day started with lots of craft activities, the children decorated biscuits, made calendars, Christmas trees and hats. We then played lots of fun musical games. After lunch the children were delighted with a special cuddly toy from the Disney Shop thanks for Claire Knight, Mother to Melody!



State of the Art Conference

In November 2010 we held our annual State of the Art Conference bringing together specialists from a range of professional backgrounds to share the most recent developments and outcomes in the field of cochlear implantation including scientists, surgeons, audiologists, teachers, parents and users. The morning session chaired by our CEO Sue Archbold considered developments in technology research and surgery. Following a welcome by our Chair of Trustees John Atkins, Anna Herriman who was born deaf and received a cochlear implant two years ago shared her experience and described how it has impacted on her life. Speakers included Jeroen Braire who discussed new coding strategies; Steve Mason from Nottingham considered the role of ABR in new born hearing screening and pre implant assessment; Ernst von Wallenberg looked at electro acoustic stimulation and David McAlpine who shared his work on the impact of bilateral cochlear implantation on the brain. Hearing technologies for the future and an update on surgical techniques were presented by Patrick D'Haese and Antje Aschendorff respectively. The morning was brought to a close by Steve Sharpe who described the resources available from the specialist collection, for ENT and Audiology hosted by the NHS Library and Graeme Currie exploring the issues around ensuring that the research and technology developments has a rapid impact within the community.

The afternoon, chaired by Jackie Salter, considered the impact of cochlear implantation on children and adults who receive them. Emily Tobey shared her recent work considering the factors contributing to the long term communication outcomes in children with cochlear implants and was followed by Connie Mayer who considered the reading and writing outcomes for children with implants. Bencie Woll then joined us to discuss her work considering how the deaf brain processes spoken and sign language. Julie Brinton described rehabilitation services for adults new to implantation and the final speaker Julie Kosaner described a musical training programme she has developed with families in Turkey.



State of the Art Conference 2010



Ilse Eelen from Cochlear Belgium



Cochlear Australia visits The Ear Foundation

Visit to Finland

In October two members of staff from The Ear Foundation went to Oulu in Finland to deliver courses to Teachers of the Deaf in the north of the country. There were two days of courses: one on children with complex needs and the other on counselling skills. The courses were held at a brand new school, Tervaväylän Koulu, which caters for deaf children and young people as well as children with a variety of other additional needs. Largely funded by Nokia, it is a state of the art facility. The work of The Ear Foundation was well received by all.

The Ear Foundation and Barnplontorna in Sweden

Children with cochlear implants and additional needs

The Ear Foundation has worked very closely with Barnplantorna in Sweden for 20 years. In the autumn Ann Charlotte Gyllenram secured funding to enable Jackie Salter, Education Coordinator, to deliver three one day courses in the south, middle and north of Sweden around the issue of children with cochlear implants who have additional needs. Helsingborg and Stockholm were well received and attended and led to lots of interesting and productive discussions about supporting these particular children. The third course was held in Gothenburg in April.



Sue Archbold was the key note speaker at the Nordik Konferens 2010 in Gothenberg with our partners Barnplantorna

Counselling courses

In December we were invited to Mechelen, Belgium to deliver our "Introduction to Non Professional Counselling Skills" and "Sharpening your Counselling Skills", courses which we have developed with the support of Kristina English and David Luterman. The course was attended by nearly 30 delegates. These days are always very rewarding to deliver as professionals are able to take the time to consider the impact of deafness on parents and the wider family and how this should influence their practice.

Auditory Verbal Lounge at The Ear Foundation

In December we welcomed Lyndsey Allen to The Ear Foundation as part of our Education team and she has also established an independent practice offering Auditory Verbal Therapy.

The Auditory Verbal Lounge at The Ear Foundation provides Auditory Verbal Therapy for babies and children with impaired hearing and their families. Auditory Verbal Practice is a family centred approach that supports children to learn to talk through listening. Through individualised therapy the programme is tailored to meet the unique needs of each child and their family supporting them through the developmental steps of spoken language development.

Lyndsey is one of nine Certified Auditory Verbal Therapists practicing in the UK and we are excited to add this to the range of services available at The Ear Foundation .

Website: www.auditoryverballounge.co.uk

Email: info@auditoryverballounge.co.uk

Tel: 0115 942 1985



BAHA Information Days

We held our first BAHA Information day in October 2010 at The Ear Foundation, which was a huge success! We were joined by Oticon Medical and Cochlear Europe who supported the event.

The day was kick started by Sue Archbold (Chief Executive of The Ear Foundation) who presented our current research paper; After BAHA: What do we want?

BAHA users were given the chance to voice their opinions about the research they would like to be done in the future.

As the day progressed it was time to be put into groups and talk to the professionals (Oticon Medical and Cochlear Europe) to discuss any issues that people may have with their BAHAs, this provided the users with the chance to catch up with the representatives to ask them questions, and be shown the latest technology.

Lyn Kolsteren; formerly of BUSK and Liffey her dog also joined us at our BAHA Information Day, who is great at providing tips and advice.

Throughout the day the BAHA users were able to catch up socially with other BAHA users, listening to their experiences and swapping tips about looking after their BAHA implant.



BAA Conference Edinburgh

In November 2010 the British Society of Audiologists held its annual conference that was attended by hundreds of delegates all working in the fields of audiology. Sue Archbold, Clare Henson and Jackie Salter attended the conference held in a very cold Edinburgh. Clare was invited to join a panel of practitioners who were quizzed by audiology students wishing to learn more about different routes it is possible to follow with the profession once they were qualified. Sue and Jackie organised a lunchtime workshop "Counselling for Audiologists" sharing some of the work we have developed with David Luterman and Kristina English. We were delighted to be joined by over 70 delegates. This indicates the growing interest within audiology for considering the emotional as well as the audiological needs of their clients and the importance of both in ensuring successful hearing loss management.

We also manned The Ear Foundation stand throughout the conference. It was constantly busy and there was a real interest in the work we are doing.

Belgium and ONICI – NEAP course

The Ear Foundation has worked closely with Leo de Raeve who runs ONICI in Belgium and have delivered a wide range of courses together both in the UK and in Belgium. We have worked together to deliver a range of courses hosted by Cochlear at their Academy training centre in Mechelen, Belgium

In October a heavily pregnant Diana Harbor travelled to Mechelen to work with Leo to deliver a course training delegates to work with the Nottingham Early Assessment Package (NEAP). NEAP is a collection of assessments to be used with young children in the first year of implant use to monitor progress.



NDCS collaboration

Our work with the National Deaf Children's Society is an exciting development to our work. We are currently working closely with them in the development of a range of publications to add to the resources available for parents of deaf children and the professionals who work with them.

The NDCS lobby tirelessly to improve provision for deaf children and with all the changes currently taking place within education provision nationally there is a lot of work to be done to ensure that the needs of all deaf children are considered and their profile raised within government circles.

As part of this work we are involved with the National Sensory Impairment Partnership (NatSIP) which is considering the needs of all children with a sensory impairment, hearing, sight and those with a multi sensory impairment, through a range of different issues. One of the work streams is considering "Workforce Development" and this group has been considering the training needs of teaching assistants who work with SI pupils. This has led to the development of 3 two day courses for those supporting HI, VI and MSI pupils. The courses have developed for those TAs new to the field and all have common objectives developed to ensure that the TAs have the basic knowledge they need to begin working with these pupils.

The first HI course was held in Nottingham in January and NatSIP hope to be able to offer these courses around the country in the future.



Sign Bilingual Education and New Technologies: Developing Future Provision

In February members of The Sign Bilingual Consortium and other interested professionals met for a workshop: "Sign Bilingual Education and New Technologies: developing future provision". The day gave participants the opportunity to update their knowledge of recent technologies and outcomes, and the opportunity to consider how these impact on a Sign bilingual Education approach to working with deaf children. Workshop groups discussed the issues and developed ideas and action plans for their services which considered how to successfully accommodate children who make use of the new technologies within such settings.

Working with children with Usher syndrome

Usher syndrome is named after Charles Usher, a British ophthalmologist and is a genetic disorder that affects both vision and hearing. The main symptoms of Usher syndrome are hearing loss and an eye disorder called retinitis pigmentosa, or RP.

On the 7th of February, 17 professionals from around the UK attended a course at The Ear Foundation to find out more about Usher syndrome and the best way to support children affected by the condition. The highlight of the day for everyone was an inspirational presentation by Lindsay Truss, a young woman who herself has Usher syndrome. Through a BSL interpreter, Lindsay described with great clarity the journey she had been on; from the initial concerns about her vision in childhood, her parents' difficulty accepting the condition and the lack of information that had been available. She went on to explain how people had tried to restrict her life choices and set her out for a path that she very much did not want to take. With great humor and passion, Lindsay strongly got the message across that children with Usher should be encouraged to develop their own interests and hopes and that these should not be limited by the expectations of others.

UKCoD NHS Reform Conference

The reform of the NHS is a topical subject, and UK Council on Deafness ran a popular conference with some excellent speakers talking about what the reforms will mean for Audiology and Access. All seats were taken, and there was a waiting list for cancellations. Keynote Speaker was Stephen Lloyd MP (Eastbourne) who is deaf, and who has recently been elected as a Vice Chairman of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Deafness.

Other speakers included Prof Adrian Davis (National Lead Adviser for Physiological Sciences and Audiology, DoH), Jackie Ballard (CEO RNID), Jane Shaw (CEO Action for Deafness), Ruth Thomsen (President British Academy of Audiology), Jim Edwards (CEO Signature), Steve Powell (CEO SignHealth) and Sue Archbold (CEO The Ear Foundation). Sue ran a Workshop entitled "Choice & Control – Implications for Cochlear Implant and specialist services. What will remain in the future".

UKCoD was grateful for sponsorship from Advanced Bionics, MED-EL and Oticon.

The week after the conference, Sue was invited to speak to the All Party Parliamentary Group on Deafness at the House of Commons on cochlear implants.



Jane Shaw, Stephen Lloyd and Adrian Masters



Colin, from RNID helps Ruth to choose from the catalogue



Trying out an FM System



Ruth and Doreen

Sound Advice for Adults

We have got some fantastic adult days coming up this year ranging from technology to music days. All of our adult days take place here at The Ear Foundation in Nottingham one Saturday of every month, the day starts at 10.30am and runs on till 3pm. These days are a brilliant opportunity for adult users to come along, meet other users and share their experiences....with the added bonus of learning more about their implant! All of the themes have been chosen by the adults themselves as it is the users that we want to cater for, to ensure that they are getting all they can from their implant. We had a really successful day on Technology in February where the adults came along and discovered the interesting facts about the latest technology i.e. using an FM system when watching TV and using the phone. The users found this day extremely useful and beneficial to them.

"It was good to hear different instruments on an individual basis. Nice to relax in a mini concert on a Saturday morning" – from an adult user who attended our Music Day

"Thought provoking and interesting. It was great to hear of other people's experiences" – from an adult who attended our Deaf and Hearing Culture Day



Sound Advice for Children

What a busy time it has been for Sound Advice with both children and adults. We have been fully booked for children's assessments having to squeeze a couple of extra assessments in! Just to let you know that if you would like individual Speech and Language Therapy sessions for your child, they can be booked privately with Maria Cameron just let Rachel know. It is getting harder and harder to get S< on a regular basis locally so don't forget we are here!

For information about our Adult Days and Children Assessments please contact Rachel Lightfoot, email rachel@earfoundation.org.uk or phone us on **0115 942 1985**

Sound Advice Dates

Adult Days

14 May – Box of Bits (bring along your box that you were given when you were implanted and find out what all the leads and accessories are for)

11 June – Phone Day with RNID

2 July – Our Annual Summer BBQ in Normanton on Soar

17 September – Voice (looking after your voice)

15 October – Assessments (What does it all mean?)

10 December – Xmas Party at The Ear Foundation.... lots of fun, food and games!

Children's Assessment Dates

8 July

16 September

7 October

4 November

2 December

"I would just like to say 'Thank You' to yourself and all the assessors for a very valuable day last Friday. We found it really interesting and knowledgeable and gained a great deal from it. The assessors were all brilliant and I only wish Jesse was lucky enough to be taught by these sorts of people in the future".

Sounding Board now has its own tab!

Sounding Board, The Ear Foundation's site with information on cochlear implants, continues to grow.... January 2011 saw our highest number of unique users to date. – just 20 short of two thousand. They made 4755 visits accessing more than 24,000 pages. The forum continues to get enquiries from those in education, parents and teachers in almost equal proportion. The range of questions is very varied and it is always great to get other people's experience. Why not have a browse? If you don't know about the site, do take a look. You can access it through The Ear Foundation website www.earfoundation.org.uk. Just look along the tabs at the top and you will see one for Sounding Board.

The site is produced by The Ear Foundation and funded by Advanced Bionics. On it you will find everything you want to know about cochlear implants, including documents to download on how to use different processors and how to link processors to different FM systems; access to material on cochlear implants in 27 different languages and also links to many useful and exciting websites. There is also a forum where questions can be posted anonymously and where anyone can contribute their own experience. For teenagers there are profiles of young deaf adults to read about and young people can also post their own profile.

Now easier to find than ever, do take a look!



Free equipment demonstrations at The Ear Foundation



We are now able to offer free demonstrations of RNID equipment at The Ear Foundation. RNID products can help you chat with friends and family, hear the TV clearly and seize your life back. There are many products available to help with Alerting, Listening, TV, Audio and Telephones; but sometimes it can be overwhelming and difficult to know which product is best for you. The Ear Foundation is now offering a free service where we will listen to your requirements and help you select the best product. We now have a range of equipment at The Ear Foundation you can try before you buy. We will also help you complete your order form and offer any support required to make sure your equipment works for you!

Equipment demonstrations are available on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings. For further information or to book an appointment contact Rachel@earfoundation.org.uk or phone: **0115 942 1985**



Have you ever used a personal FM system?

FM systems are accessories which can be used with all existing hearing devices to help in difficult listening environments such as: noisy environments, meetings, TV, telephone and listening in the car.

You can now book an FM Session at The Ear Foundation with our Audiologist to have a demonstration of an FM system and discussion of which FM would be most suitable for you before purchasing one. We can help with information on funding and will then provide support with the set up and use of the system.



For further information please see our website or email: claire@earfoundation.org.uk

As the newly appointed research co-ordinator I have had an exciting induction into research at The Ear Foundation. I started at the beginning of January and three months have gone by very quickly. I came here after doing research at the University of Manchester where I have been involved with Dr. Wendy McCracken (supervisor), Dr Graham Sutton (co-supervisor), Dr Kevin Munro (advisor) and previously Professor John Bamford. My research at Manchester was user and family led, exploring the use of FM systems with pre-school hearing aided children. My experience working with families of young deaf children is what attracted me to The Ear Foundation where the specialism and priority is user and family focussed research.

Bilateral Implants:

In the last article (Autumn, 2010), the project for the RNID, where young people who had made the decision for a second implant were interviewed, was described. Fifteen young people aged between 10 and 17 years of age and their parents and local teachers of the deaf were interviewed. The research has now been completed and has led to two separate papers being submitted for peer review in scientific journals. The first paper looked at the young people's views and experiences. All the young people interviewed found the second implant did improve their listening, however not all have chosen to carry on wearing their second implant. Surprisingly, even those who have chosen not to wear their second implant would recommend a second implant to other young people considering this choice.

The perceived benefits for those with established use of their second implant included, improved localisation, better listening in noise and general ease of listening. Young people found getting used to their second implant was a lengthy process and required perseverance and support. Most of the young people were not too pleased at initial 'tune in' even though they had been prepared to expect difficulties. Young people who were offered listening sessions with a speech and language therapist or teacher of the deaf valued this.

The second paper submitted explored the subject from a different perspective, asking parents and the teachers involved what their experience of the young person having a second implant was like. 12 teachers and 12 parents of young people receiving a second implant were interviewed. The parents highlighted the importance of their involvement in the decision making process with some reporting great stress involved with obtaining a second implant for the young

person. Parents felt the rehabilitation process for the second implant was very limited and the emphasis was laid more on families to support the young person. Many teachers of the deaf felt excluded from the process and as a result felt they were ill equipped to contribute effectively. Very little support was seen by parents to be aimed at supporting the young person during their transition to a second implant and felt more involvement from the cochlear implant centre would have been beneficial. Local teachers of the deaf felt they would have appreciated much closer liaison with cochlear implant teams.

Bone-anchored hearing aid users:

Currently the qualitative interview study being done for Cochlear Europe on the outcomes and experiences of bone anchored hearing aid use is near completion. 14 people were interviewed with an age range from 22 to 75. The user's accounts were very rich and detailed, and highlighted important themes around the information, training and support perceived as important for the effective promotion and provision of bone anchored hearing aids. Findings so far indicate users with a conductive hearing loss reported an improved listening experience with bone anchored hearing aid use. Those with recurrent middle ear infections reported it reduces or eliminates infections while providing hearing to that ear. Users with single sided deafness found sound was accessible from the side of the head where the deaf ear is, improving listening generally and providing better localisation. Overall the bone anchored hearing aid was popular with its users who universally reported improved hearing and improved quality of life.

Other Research:

Other strands of research currently going on at The Ear Foundation include an interview based qualitative study exploring the outcomes with cochlear implants for children with complex needs. Furthermore a questionnaire study is currently underway to obtain feedback from young people and adults who were fitted with cochlear implants as children and have used their implant for 15+ years. The questionnaire is aimed at 17 to 30 year olds. We will also be working with the Nottingham Audiology Services conducting a questionnaire study on BAHA user's views on their experiences of care pathways. This study will also explore what BAHA users consider to be their current and future needs.

We are delighted to be working closely with the CLAHRC (Collaboration for Leadership in Applied Health Research Care) at Nottingham University – this is invaluable.

If you want any more details on any of the above studies please feel free to contact me on **imran@earfoundation.org.uk**. If you are



interested in the research being done at The Ear Foundation it would be great to join our Research Forum. This forum is important for the research of The Ear Foundation as we can then contact people like you to be involved in research, either to influence the way particular research is developed and carried out, or to be involved in a project directly. To join the research forum please access the following link:

<http://www.earfoundation.org.uk/research/forum.html> or email **imran@earfoundation.org.uk**

The CICS Group Scottish Region had only been in existence for just over a year when the Coordinator, Nicky Broekhuizen, ambitiously and enthusiastically organised an Information Day. She did a fantastic job arranging just the right mix of formal presentations and time for families to chat with others, and even organised a crèche. Nicky is delighted to report that

The first CICS Scotland information day was a great success!

On Saturday, 20th November 2010, over twenty families attended the first CICS Scotland Information Day. Held at Queen Margaret University on the outskirts of Edinburgh, the day was also filled with fun for the children while their parents listened to speakers and took part in workshops.

The families were welcomed with scones, tea and coffee in order to give them the stamina to focus on the morning's presentations (!) which were kicked off by Dr. Jo White, Lecturer in Audiology at Queen Margaret University, who talked about 'Spoken Language Development, including where Sign fits in'. Jo has worked at the Manchester Cochlear Implant Programme and has a PhD in Psychology. Whilst studying for her PhD she carried out research into the early language development of young children using cochlear implants. Her presentation was lively and informative and gave parents much needed guidance and reassurance. She spoke about ways to move children forward from hearing speech to being able to speak, and gave parents practical ideas on how they could contribute to their child's speech development. The general consensus was that we need a Jo in every region of Scotland!

Sue Archbold was scheduled to give the next presentation but unfortunately, at the last minute, was unable to attend. Jill Honeyman of Cochlear kindly stepped in and delivered Sue's presentation on Managing Education for Children with Implants. It was encouraging for parents to hear that cochlear implants are enabling many more children to attend mainstream schools.

The morning's presentations were excellent, informative and thought provoking, but we suspect that many parents would say that the highlight of the day was the session given by Dilara Earle and Lily Davidson which took place just after lunch. Dilara and Lily took to the stage with their mums Penny and Carolyn. Rosie Glen, a CICS mum, captured the sentiment of the audience when she wrote in our recent CICS newsletter:

"I am sure that all those in attendance will agree that the show was stolen by Dilara Earle (19) and Lily Davidson (14). These young women were implanted for the first time at pre-school age (4 and almost 3 respectively), and they were two of the first to receive a sequential implant before the latest NICE guidelines came into play. Speaking of their early and more recent experiences with great humour and emotion, and with their mothers also on stage, they were truly inspirational, and a huge credit to their families and the professionals who have worked with them"



(left to right) Carolyn and Lily Davidson with Dilara and Penny Earle



(left to right) Jill Honeyman, Nicky Broekhuizen, Jo White and Tricia

Other parents said 'it was worth the journey just to hear Dilara and Lily'.

The last part of the parents' day was a series of workshops providing opportunities to speak to professionals and manufacturers.

The children's morning was spent creating and crafting around a Pirate and Princess theme. They joined their parents for lunch, many being unrecognizable (the children, not the parents!) as their identities were concealed under face paints. In the afternoon the children enjoyed a drama group who took them on a Pirate and Princess adventure. This group was fantastic and tailored their usual 'adventure' to suit deaf children keeping them captivated for two hours! A telling sign of the fun they were having was that even though the parents' workshops overran, the children were happy to stay and play in the childcare room and seemed to be in no hurry to leave. However, this did change when they realized that their departure went hand in hand with a CICS goody bag!

There is a feeling in Scotland that, with the exception of the central belt, families are geographically widely spread so the parents all really benefited from this rare chance to meet others and socialize. They 'loved the opportunity to meet other parents' and felt that the day provided an opportunity to 'provide support to each other'.

So all in all the event was a great success - maybe we'll have to do it again!!

Jo will be going South!

On Sunday, 20th November, 2011, the CICS Group is organising another Information Day at Arlington Arts Centre in Newbury. In addition to Jo White we have some other great speakers lined up. Sue Archbold, Chief Executive of The Ear Foundation, needs no introduction to CICS families, and we're sure that parents will also be delighted to learn that Melinda Nettleton, Principal Solicitor at SEN Legal will be providing guidance on the Statementing process. In addition to the presentations, there will be workshops on a wide variety of topics, such as classroom acoustics presented by Educational Audiologist, David Canning, supporting your C.I. child through primary school, preparing for secondary school, getting the right support at university, and many more. A workshop that we know will be extremely popular will be the opportunity to meet Dilara Earle, the young adult C.I. User who so inspired the parents at our Scottish Information Day, and the event would not be complete without the cochlear implant and radio aid manufacturers who will be on hand to show their latest products and answer any questions.

It will also be a great opportunity to meet other families to share experiences, exchange views and learn from one another. All in all, it promises to be a great day! The registration

process has already started; everyone will be welcome, so if you're interested please get in touch with us at CICS for further details and to reserve your place - see contact details at the end of the CICS section.

And speaking of contact details, those of you who are familiar with the work of the CICS Group will notice a change for our Midlands Region. Carmen Burton, who has been our Midlands Region Coordinator since CICS began, has decided that due to other commitments it's time to step down, although she will continue managing the Group's email for us. She is a mind of information on all things deaf and she has supported and advised many of our families over the years. She is also a fluent signer who helps with communication at our events, and is the sort of person on whom everyone can rely. She always takes time to listen to others and is never judgmental. The CICS Trustees simply cannot express how deeply we will miss Carmen as our Midlands Coordinator; we know we speak for all our members when we say how very thankful we are for all she has done for the Group and its members.

Carmen is a very hard act to follow, but luckily we know just the man to tackle the job, and we are glad to introduce

If you would like information about any aspect of the CICS Group or about our forthcoming events, or indeed, if you have any ideas for future events or possible venues please contact one of the CICS Co-ordinators:

Tricia Kemp, Southern Region, 020 8876 8605

Dominic Byrne, Midlands Region, 01623 882577

Debbie Faithfull, Northern Region, 01904 744639

Nicky Broekhuizen, Scottish Region, 0131 466 6114

CICS Group website:
www.cicsgroup.org.uk

CICS Group email:
info@cicsgroup.org.uk

The new co-ordinator for CICS Midlands region

After many years coordinating activities for CICS in the Midlands, and as her daughter Natalie moves into adulthood, Carmen Burton is handing over the reins to Dominic Byrne. "It's a tough act to follow," says Dominic. "Carmen has been a great help to my own and many other families in the Midlands, helping bring us together, offering good advice, organising events and putting families in touch with each other."

The handover of the regional coordinator role took place early in 2011 but Dominic stresses that it will take time for him to get up to speed: "CICS is a purely voluntary organisation so, like all other CICS organisers and trustees, I'll be juggling this with my career and family life. But that is also the great strength of the CICS network. It is purely a family-to-family network, unmediated

by professionals or other organisations who, inevitably, sometimes have their own interests. If families face problems then CICS gives them a chance for their voice to be heard, to share experience and to tell it like it is."

Dominic is married to Shamim and they have one daughter, Sarosha who this year moves from primary to secondary school. She had her first cochlear implant operation at 22 months and, later, the family fought hard to get a second implant. They decided to fund a second cochlear implant operation themselves after getting turned down by their PCT in the days before the NICE guidance on bilateral funding was issued. Dominic says: "I know what it's like to feel you are banging your

head against a brick wall sometimes. In those circumstances, you gain strength by knowing about other family's experiences. I want to look at ways in which CICS in the Midlands can more effectively gather family experience together and put it to good use."

We're delighted to welcome Dominic to the CICS crew and know he will be a valuable member of our team.



Dominic and Shamim Byrne with their daughter, Sarosha

Resources

The Ear Foundation sells a variety of counselling DVDs, which are hugely popular. These DVDs are aimed at both families and professionals. We have now reduced the cost of these DVDs to half price:

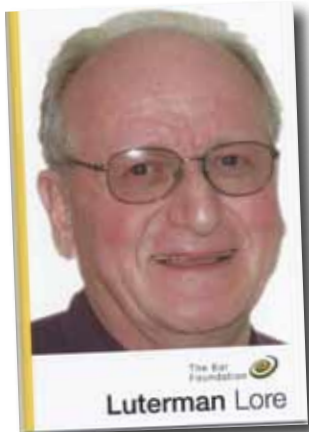
Luterman Lore (Was £20.00 Now ONLY £10.00)

Working with families of young deaf children? Whatever your background, here is a time to reflect.

This DVD features an edited version of a full day course given by David Luterman at The Ear Foundation, for those working with young deaf children.

Included is a booklet offering you some background information about David Luterman and his work.

Thanks to the NDCS for their sponsorship.



Parent to Parent (Was £20.00 Now ONLY £10.00)

This DVD was made to provide both professionals and parents with the opportunity to reflect on the issues raised by deafness in the family. It also includes the parents' discussions, edited into themes, and David's presentation about the impact of Deafness on the family.

We are very grateful to all the parents who participated in this DVD, and to the NDCS for supporting the production of this DVD.



Kris English: Listening with the Third Ear (Was £12.00 Now ONLY £5.00)

This DVD presents a set of counselling strategies designed to support parents through their reactions, questions and concerns.

The DVD contains...

- **Counselling and the Third Ear**
- **Self Concept and Hearing Loss**
- **Children, Teens and other Adults in their lives**
- **Non-Professional Counselling Strategies**



The session filmed was hosted by Kris English, PhD of the University of Akron.

All of these DVDs are available from our online shop at: www.earfoundation.org.uk/shop or you can email Rachel Lightfoot: Rachel@earfoundation.org.uk for further details.

We have recently produced our latest research booklet with RNID Action on Hearing Loss, entitled '**Considering Cochlear Implants? – Research on the experiences of adults with implants**' to receive a FREE copy of this booklet please visit our website: www.earfoundation.org.uk or contact Rachel Lightfoot rachel@earfoundation.org.uk



Spanish Resources

We mentioned in the last newsletter that we are having some of our resources translated into Spanish due to the huge demand. We now have a complete set of Spanish resources thanks to Advanced Bionics for their support and funding for this project. All of these resources are available to purchase from our website: www.earfoundation.org.uk or you can email Rachel Lightfoot Rachel@earfoundation.org.uk for further details.

Available to buy from The Ear Foundation in Spanish are:

A Sound Start

Moving on Book Two

Music Time

Setting off with Words

Champions

NEAP

Moving on Book One

STEPS



Adult Stories

I went deaf over a period of 12 years and then had to wait two more years for a cochlear implant. The audiologist warned me not to expect miracles, but for me it did feel like a miracle. I felt Born Again! I was back in the world, no longer cut off. I was so delighted that it wasn't for several more years that I began to accept that there are still quite a few limitations, but I feel so lucky to have the benefits of this technology.

Mary Ann Hooper



Having a cochlear implant was a gigantic leap for me as I come from the Deaf World with my main mode of communication being

BSL. Therefore it was a massive learning curve learning to hear sounds, working out what you can make sense of and cannot make sense of, and to understand that everything I went through was normal for one who is born profoundly deaf and a BSL user. In Summer 2008, I then approached The Ear Foundation after googling them online and attended the first session.

I was delighted to see that there is plenty of support there from the staff and from other CI users and no more did I feel alone. I was able to ask questions and feel encouraged whilst overcoming the hurdles of my CI journey as they understood what I have. Now we have regular meetings with different topics and we continue support each other and get problems fixed like listening to iPhone music on you Phonak Smartlink+ via bluetooth.

Anna Herriman

Blue Peter



On November 2nd 2010, I was invited by my friend Jason to go on Blue Peter to interpret for him because he is deaf like me. He uses sign language to talk and I can sign and speak. He was asked to go on Blue Peter because he has a hearing dog called Violet and Blue Peter were doing a programme about hearing dogs for the deaf. We had to get up early because they started filming us at 9am, when Matt, Gemma, John and Barney the dog arrived they sorted out a microphone for me which was clipped to my shirt. They did a check to see if it was working. I had to say "Hello hello" in to the microphone. They were all really nice, Barney the dog was a bit naughty and wouldn't do as he was told. Also Barney and Violet sometimes were playing fighting.



Trying out the microphone.

They filmed us in the garden, Jason's bedroom and in the park to show how Violet helped Jason. Barney had to try and do the same. When I interpreted for Jason I was nervous because I had to use my voice and signing and I knew all my family and friends would be watching.



The best bit was when we filmed on the trampoline and Violet had to bring a message to Jason in the purse. It was really good meeting them and I had a great time, it was something that I would remember forever, I would love to be the first deaf Blue Peter presenter. I am going to the Blue Peter studio soon to meet the presenters on Blue Peter and I can't wait!!



Filming in the garden!

By Megan Betts. :)

Mike and Fleur get engaged!

We went to Paris for a weekend break to celebrate Fleur's birthday, little did she know it was a cover up for a romantic proposal at the bottom of the Eiffel tower by the riverside, it was lit at night conveniently next to a champagne seller, it was a lovely weekend as it is really the city of love and the Christmas market was there.



A passer by took a photo

We are both now living in Guildford in a small flat and having the exciting thoughts of buying a house so we are looking into all the options, the wedding we haven't thought about much recently as we want a house first!!

Watch this space!



The ring Mike bought in Guildford



The ring he made for the proposal



I made a cake and we went down to celebrate

Adult Stories

Having been involved with the Army Cadets, as a volunteer, and then an employee, for most of my life, I have been exposed to a good deal of loud noise. Much of this was back in the days before hearing protection was taken seriously.



It was probably not surprising then, that my hearing should start to fade away gradually in my late 40's, and that in my late 50's I was deaf in one ear, and that the hearing aid in the other no longer provided comprehension.

Those with similar problems and no deaf skills, will know how this can affect your work, stifle your leisure activities, and send you into a state of defensive withdrawal, which makes for a restricted lifestyle. Phones were useless, meetings were a nightmare, and most entertainment a no-go area. You stop talking to people: understanding replies is too much trouble.

Quite how I first knew of Cochlear Implants, I don't remember – but they seemed the only way ahead. No-one in my local hearing services would listen, so I spent a week's salary with a private ENT Consultant, who did all the tests and referred me to Nottingham Implant centre.

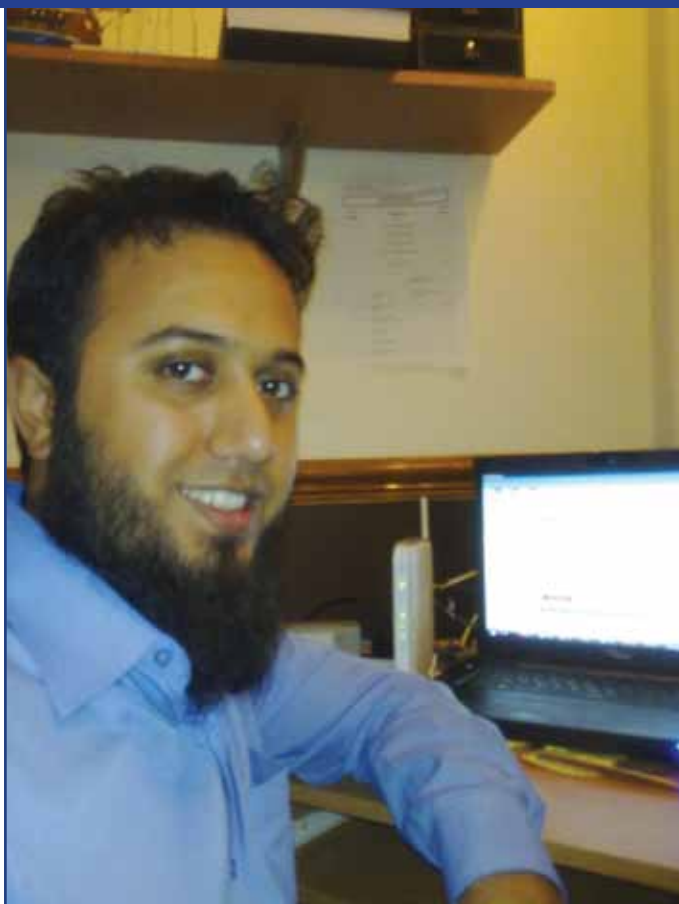
At the Ropewalk I failed all the tests with flying colours, and set off on a year's worth of appointments, which led up to my being implanted at QMC. One month later, expectations under control, fingers crossed, basic programme in – switch me on and.....high pitched, robotic, gloriously clear words poured into my brain!

From there it was a two year learning curve, not without hiccups, whilst my brain used its auditory memory to "morph" the input into familiar normal sound. Along the way, my life was transformed, my confidence restored, and a determination was born.

I trained as a volunteer advocate, and now spend time advertising the existence of CI's, helping and counselling others before and after implant, assisting researchers, and doing anything I can to take others from a silent world back to sound.

I think of it as repaying a debt, for getting my life back.

David Walton



Imran Mulla

The Ear Foundation would like to welcome Imran Mulla to the team. Imran joined us in January to take on the role of Research Co-ordinator.

Imran qualified as an Audiologist with first-class honours from the University of Manchester. He has worked on a part time basis at the Royal Bolton Hospital as an Audiologist for the past 5 years.

Since graduating, Imran undertook post-graduate studies and qualified with a Masters in Research from the University of Manchester in 2007. He has since been conducting research at the University of Manchester in his capacity as a PhD candidate. As a part of his research Imran has worked very closely with families of very young hearing aided children looking at the possible benefits and challenges of FM system use with this group. Imran has had a keen interest in our work after he attended our Virtual International Conference: Around the World in 15 hours: Future challenges for hearing technologies. The nature of Imran's previous research fits very closely with our theme of 'landing technology into the community'.

Imran's role as Research Co-ordinator is to be responsible for the research programme of The Ear Foundation.

I hope you can join us in welcoming Imran to our team, and we wish him well in his new position.

Lorna Lord

The Ear Foundation welcomed Lorna Lord to the team in January as the Family Coordinator.

Lorna joins The Ear Foundation from a Human Resources background both in the Private Sector and more recently in the NHS. Lorna has a varied background with a strong emphasis on training and development; working with people to develop to the best of their ability in their job role and supporting them to get the tools and skills to progress to the next level.

As the Mother of 6 year old Phoebe, a sequential bilateral cochlear implant user, Lorna knows the challenges that parents of deaf children face. Lorna has always been a

strong supporter of The Ear Foundation and is passionate about the role that it can play in supporting, educating and helping deaf children, adults and their families.

Lorna is excited about developing the Family and User Programme further with the great team at The Ear Foundation.



Lyndsey Allen

Lyndsey joined The Ear Foundation as an Education Tutor from the Midlands Cochlear Implant Programme where she has worked for the last five years as a Specialist Speech and Language Therapist. She is also

a Certified Auditory Verbal Therapist and worked closely with children who had cochlear implants and their families, offering therapy every two weeks for the first two years of implant use. Her new role here will enable her to get involved with not only children but adults and users of a wide range of hearing technologies including BAHAs.





Mr and Mrs O'Donoghue, Cllr Marie Males and Sue Archbold



Christmas Ball

Christmas Ball

On Friday 3rd December, The Ear Foundation held its 19th annual Christmas Ball at the charming Prestwold Hall, near Loughborough, Leicestershire. Despite heavy snowfall and icy roads, there was an excellent turn-out. Some of those who attended had been to every single Ball, and for others it was their first time.

Guests were greeted by a glass of Bucks Fizz, followed by an excellent meal. The roaring fires in this lovely setting added to the atmosphere and, with the gardens illuminated, the snow storm later in the evening looked magical. During the evening there was a Silent Auction with some very interesting prizes, and bidding for them continued at quite a pace. Dancing was to the local band, The Roosters got people on the dance floor right through until 1 am.

Everyone was delighted to see the Mayor of Rushcliffe, Cllr Mrs Marie Males and her husband, Keith, at this year's Ball; and she was introduced to those attending by Dr Sue Archbold, Chief Executive of The Ear Foundation. Cllr Males explained her long relationship with The Ear Foundation, and how she was supporting the foundation as her Charity of the Year.

It's a difficult time for charities, and Dr Archbold encouraged The Ear Foundation's supporters to be generous. She explained what had been achieved over the last year, and the charity's plans for the future. Prof Gerry O'Donoghue (Vice President) thanked all those who had supported The Ear Foundation over the years, and he too asked people to dig deep in their pockets. And generous they certainly were including sponsorship, donations and the results of the Silent Auction, almost £10,000 was raised.

The Ear Foundation's Christmas Ball is always held on the first Friday in December at Prestwold Hall, so get Friday 2nd December in your diaries now!



Singing with the band The Roosters



Niels Van Druuten, Mr and Mrs Marshall and Jackie Salter

Our thanks go to all our Sponsors:

The Archie Sherman Trust; Advanced Bionics UK, Ltd; Cochlear Europe Ltd; Med El; Oticon Medical; as well as the many organisations that donated prizes towards our Silent Auction:

Capital FM Arena – Nottingham, Perkins Restaurant, Sue Ponting – Beauty Therapist, Keilder Water – Northumberland, Notts County Cricket Club, Notts Forest Football Club, Reeds Health Club, The Queens Head, Rutland Square Hotel, David Lloyd Leisure – Derby, The Risley Park, Midland Regional Printers, Anoki Restaurant and Forest of Arden Marriott Hotel.

DIARY OF FUNDRAISING EVENTS

Are you interested in supporting The Ear Foundation by raising vital funds to help support our services? Have a look at our diary of events and perhaps it may inspire you to organise something locally? We would be happy to publicise your event on our website and in our Newsletter. We can provide you with information to give to others, or if you want some ideas, just email jo@earfoundation.org.uk for a Fundraising Information Pack.



17 April 2011 VIRGIN LONDON MARATHON

We now have 6 dedicated Runners taking part in the London Marathon, raising vital funds for The Ear Foundation. If you wish to support them, go to www.justgiving.com/earfoundation

All the very best to: **Andy Raynor, Kevin Musson, Richard Lord and Dave Wilkerson**



25 June 2011 7.30pm BARN DANCE Normanton on Soar, Nr Loughborough

Due to the success of this previous event, The Ear Foundation is delighted that Keith & Janet Bonser from Normanton on Soar have offered to host a Barn Dance at their Farm for the third year in a row! You can enjoy the live authentic music from "Reel Easy" and be guided by Caller, Ray Jane. Tickets cost £10 each, and includes Supper. A cash bar will also be available. Contact Jo for your tickets at jo@earfoundation.org.uk

2 July 2011 ANNUAL SUMMER BARBEQUE, Normanton on Soar, Nr Loughborough

Always a must on our annual Fundraising Calendar of events, come along for a fun afternoon at Sue & Brian Archbold's home in Normanton on Soar to meet with other implant users young and old, and their families. There will be food, drink, stalls, a bouncy castle and of course the Jazz Band. Following the introduction of some Traders, we will be inviting them along once again for you to peruse at your leisure. This is a FREE event, so let us know if you can make it so we know how many to expect!



3 August 2011 LARK IN THE PARK West Bridgford, Nottingham

The Ear Foundation will be holding a stall once again at the "Lark in the Park" event during the Summer Holidays. Come along to this FREE event for fun for all the children.

11 September 2011 ROBIN HOOD MARATHON

Last year we were delighted that our 20 Runners raised a combined total of over £1,400! Would you like to take part on behalf of The Ear Foundation this year? For further event details go to www.experianfestivalofrunning.co.uk, and to register your interest in running for The Ear Foundation, let Jo know. Email jo@earfoundation.org.uk



2 October 2011 VIKING CHALLENGE Redmile, Leicestershire, NG13 0GL

The Viking Challenge is an annual off-road Bike Ride around the Vale of Belvoir and is being held this year on Sunday 2nd October. The Sponsored Bike Riders can choose either a 25km or 50km Challenge which aims to raise money for Redmile C of E Primary School and a chosen Charity.

In 2011 The Viking Challenge has chosen to support The Ear Foundation. In return, we need to provide 40+ Marshalls for the event, which runs throughout the morning until approx. 3pm, and we are looking for volunteers, even if it's for just a couple of hours.

If you can help, we'd be really grateful. Please contact jo@earfoundation.org.uk by 15th July with your name, email address, mobile number and times when you would be available. Alternatively, if you or someone you know would like further information on the Viking Challenge or would like to take part, please go direct to their website www.vikingchallenge.org.uk

2 December 2011 CHRISTMAS BALL Prestwold Hall, Loughborough, Leicestershire

Yes, this year's Annual Christmas Ball has already been booked for Friday 2nd December. Enjoy the full ambience Christmas at Prestwold Hall. Further information to follow, but please put the date in your diaries!

Rotaract Garden Day

We have been extremely grateful over the last 6 months to the input of Nottingham Rotaract who have been working wonders with their green fingers on our garden at Marjorie Sherman House.

Helen Franklin from Rotaract says: "Our involvement is with the garden backing on to Marjorie Sherman House, which before our help was run down and in need of attention. So far over we have planted bulbs, cleaned up the patio area and purchased bird feeders, nesting boxes, patio furniture and a garden bench, so that those using the accommodation can benefit from somewhere to relax and retreat to."

To celebrate the work completed so far, Nottingham Rotaract and The Ear Foundation held a "Garden Open Day" on Saturday 9th April. All were invited to come along to see the difference they had made and learn more about Rotaract's work and how The Ear Foundation supports users and families using the latest hearing technologies.

We couldn't have wished for better weather, which encouraged lots of people to come along and join in the fun of the day. There were homemade cakes and drinks, a book stall, tombola. We also had an "Easter Theme" through the garden with an Easter Egg Hunt, How many Carrots did the Bunny eat, and Guess How Many Easter Eggs in the Jar!

The Mayor of Rushcliffe, Cllr Mrs Marie Males, welcomed and thanked everyone in a speech along with John Atkins, Chairman of The Ear Foundation, and Francesca Marriott, President of Nottingham Rotaract.

Francesca said: "Nottingham Rotaract aspires to develop its members both professionally and personally whilst helping both the local and international community. Our project working on the garden has brought us together as a team, taught us new skills and allowed us to help a wonderful organisation. The open day was an incredible success bringing together people from The Ear Foundation, Rotaract, Rotary and the local community. We have loved working with Sue and her team and look forward to continuing to help as much as we can."

If you were unable to make it on the day, Rotaract have also created a project to encourage donations towards the upkeep of the garden in the form of a "Gift for the Garden" Voucher Scheme.

Helen explains: "We are looking to continue this support

If you'd like to purchase Gift Vouchers, contact Helen at hefranklin@hotmail.com



Rotaract Team improving MSH garden



Garden Party



Before



After

and for this we need to purchase plants, furniture and other supplies to make the garden functional and a real haven for families. If you are able to support this project we are introducing a Gift Voucher scheme, as detailed below and, at a later date we will email you photos of how your money has helped The Ear Foundation or you can keep up to date with our blog <http://nrqp.blogspot.com>".

Support level	Types of items you will fund	Cost
Animal	Bird food, feeders, bird table, bird bath, small garden items	£5
Vegetable	Plants, forest bark, pots, medium garden items	£10
Mineral	Fence Panels (x 16), furniture, children's play equipment, preservative treatment, large garden items	£20

100 Club WINNERS

October

M A Bishop - £50

Adrian Juffs - £25

November

Mel French - £50

T F Edwards - £25

December

Richard Lord - £50

Jim George - £25

January

Mrs E Smith - £50

Sue Archbold - £25

February

Betty Young - £50

Norman Stanley - £25

March

Andrew Wiseman - £50

M A Bishop - £25

London Marathon Runners

Following the success of last year's Virgin London Marathon Runners, we have another 4 runners to introduce you to, who are taking part in this year's event on Sunday 17th April. We all wish you the very best of luck!



Kevin Munson

KEVIN MUNSON

"Hi I'm Kevin and I'm new to The Ear Foundation and to Marathon running. I work with Medical technology and some of my colleagues are involved with Cochlear implants. I want to support The Ear Foundation as I think the outreach and support work they do are hugely important and could easily be overlooked in a financially stretched world! As for running a marathon - it's been in my sights for a while now but I am a rank amateur I've come from running 3 miles to keep the belly away to regularly running 15+ miles since Christmas. This still gives me another 10 miles to find in the next 4 weeks and, of course, on the big day itself. Make no mistake I will truly put myself through the toughest test I've undertaken! I hope to come out fitter and with a good chunk of £1000 raised for The Ear Foundation - please support me if you can.

You can sponsor me via my Just Giving Page at

www.justgiving.com/kevin-munson



Richard Lord

RICHARD LORD

"When my daughter Phoebe was diagnosed as being profoundly deaf my wife and I realised that the only way that she would ever access sound and have a chance to talk was to have a Cochlear Implant. When Phoebe was 4 months old we started on our Cochlear Journey with her and throughout this time (she is now 6) we have had tremendous support from The Ear Foundation. The Ear

Foundation was instrumental in explaining the whole process from assessment, to surgery, to rehabilitation. But this is only the beginning. Once Phoebe had her first Cochlear Implant (aged 15 months) she had to learn to listen and interpret the sounds that she heard. Again The Ear Foundation have helped us as a family to understand how she hears and give us the skills and knowledge to support Phoebe through this.

Phoebe is now at mainstream school and has age appropriate speech for a hearing child! The Ear Foundation continues to support us to assist Phoebe in all the challenges in her life, a Cochlear Implant is not a cure for deafness. Importantly we have met many other families that have been a great source of support and inspiration to us and have become good friends.

I have been a keen runner for several years and I did the great North Run in 2007. When I found out that The Ear Foundation had some spaces for 2011 London Marathon I decided that it was time that I ran a Marathon. It is very hard work and my wife says that running has taken over my life, although at times it does feel like that, I have to keep reminding myself why I am doing it. Please support me by sponsoring me at

www.justgiving.com/richlord

ANDY RAYNOR

"I'm lucky enough to be the Chief Executive of a team that provides some support services to The Ear Foundation and when I got the chance to run

for them I couldn't have been more pleased. I'm never going to set any paces in a Marathon, but there will be nothing like the reward of raising funds for such a wonderful organisation."

Sponsor Andy via:

www.justgiving.com/Andy-Raynor

DAVE WILKERSON

"My god-daughter Phoebe was born profoundly deaf, and at a very young age she had two operations to insert cochlear implants in each ear. This incredible technology has transformed her life, and The Ear Foundation has done amazing work to support her and her family through the time since her operations.

They provide a bridge between the clinical services where the technology is fitted and home, school and work where they're used - looking after families whose lives have all been transformed by cochlear implants.

I was lucky enough to get a Ballot place, and have chosen to support The Ear Foundation. My target is £1000 but I'm aiming to get as much as I can - please give as much as you are able and help to make the difference! Go to:

www.justgiving.com/davewilkerson2011

Thank You



Andy Raynor



Dave Wilkerson



Can't Take It With You

but you could leave a gift to The Ear Foundation

Many people support charities throughout their lives, in fact it's estimated that 74% of the population donates to charity and yet only 7% leave a legacy to charity in their wills.

What could account for this huge difference?

One problem is that not enough people are making wills. Various surveys undertaken over the last few years indicate that over 60% of adults in the UK do not have a current will and even those who do make a will are either unaware that they can leave a gift to charity or think the amount they would have available is too small to be of any real benefit.

A recent BBC 2 series, 'Can't Take It With You' presented by Sir Gerry Robinson, explored some of the decisions surrounding writing a Will. The series attracted significant public and media attention reflecting the huge interest in the subject of wills and inheritance.

Each episode featured a selection of real life situations and the families who took part were able, with the assistance of a legal expert, to find solutions to their inheritance problems. What the series highlighted was that making a will is vital and getting professional advice and support makes all the difference in getting it right.

Do something to make you feel proud

Leaving a gift in your will to The Ear Foundation creates a lasting memorial that can make you and your family feel proud. The benefits of your gift are cherished for years to come and fund vital services for children and adults in your area and across the world and remember – any amount, small or large really does make a difference – so do something good today – leave a legacy to The Ear Foundation.

Rosamund Evans, Barker Evans Solicitors

The Knight's support Marjorie Sherman House

You may remember in the last edition of Ear Foundation News we told you about 2 year old Melody's parents: Claire & Phil, who kindly organised the "Tamworth Toddle" – a sponsored walk on 24th October.

Claire had said: "we were so impressed by the support of The Ear Foundation through Melody's implant process that we want to give something back. To have Marjorie Sherman House available to stay whilst at hospital appointments took a lot of pressure off us. Now Melody has been implanted, The Ear Foundation has given us a place to come for advice and somewhere for Melody to mix with others implanted children".

The family came back in January and with the money they raised from the Walk brought the House a brand new TV/DVD Player! Claire says "The toddle was fantastic! We had a good turn out and the weather was lovely, just cold enough for hats and scarfs but the sun was shining, it was a lovely day. I did a tombola, raffle, hook a duck, name the bear, face-painting and all my aunties baked a ton of cakes for everyone! Everyone said they had fun and all my family helped out, it was great. Then all the kids had a sightseeing checklist to spot the castle and a dog etc, and we did the sign and a picture so they learnt some signs! All my friends kids now sign castle and tree every time they see them!

There were about 10 toddlers who took part, and we raised about £400.

Huge thanks to Melody's parents and her family and friends who helped out and took part in the event. The TV is a great hit for all the people who use our accommodation.

If you think you could organise an event like Claire, please do get in touch with Jo – we can send you a Fundraising Information Pack to give you some ideas.





Bowls England

“As a lawn green bowler for almost forty years there is not a lot that I don’t know about the characters that play the game. Add fifty pence a year to the cost of their subscriptions and affiliation fees expect a four hour meeting to discuss it. Ask them to dig in their pockets for charity and it’s a completely different story. The 2010 season gave my wife, Glenis and I the opportunity to put that theory to the test. Having a six years old, profoundly deaf, implanted grandson and knowing the excellent work they do, choosing The Ear Foundation as our charity was easy.

The bowlers of England did us proud. At matches, as far apart as the UK and the USA, men, women and children were forthcoming with donations for the collecting tins. Those that were not were fined for minor misdemeanours.”

Some clubs made donations and the Denny-side Bowling Association (A charity bowling organisation) played against Bowls England in a special match, in Nottingham, which itself raised £1800. We are most grateful for all the help we received in achieving the final total of £6,200. We intend to continue supporting The Ear Foundation.

Chris H. Smith, President, Bowls England 2010

Recipe Book

“My friends from work at the Corporate Performance Team, Lincolnshire County Council and I are raising money for the Ear Foundation and have made it our Charity of the Year again for 2011. We decided to raise money for charity in our spare time at the end of 2009 and chose The Ear Foundation as our Charity of the Year for 2010.

I suggested The Ear Foundation as my son James is profoundly deaf - he received a single cochlear implant at the age of 18 months and a second cochlear implant at the age of 3 years. Without The Ear Foundation first funding and showing the benefits of cochlear implantation he would not have access to sound and the hearing world that he has now. The Ear Foundation continues to provide valuable research showing the benefits of cochlear implants and to give support to families of implanted children.

During 2010 our team raised £1900 for The Ear Foundation through events such as a coffee morning and raffle, taking part in the Spires and Steeples Challenge and dress down days. For 2011 we have been thinking of new events and are planning to produce a recipe book full of our families’ and friends’ tried and tested recipes. This will be published in May and hope it will provide inspiration to try some delicious recipes for a brilliant cause. We are selling it for a suggested minimum donation of £6 although more would be welcomed!”

Copies will be available through The Ear Foundation or by contacting me direct – Teresa Carter – tm.carter@virgin.net

Coffee Morning to support The Ear Foundation

Naomi Jones, family friend to implant user Phoebe Lord, held a coffee morning at her house in Duffield Derbyshire during February half term. Naomi made lots of beautiful cakes whilst Mums and children enjoyed eating them and playing games. The morning was a great success and raised £53.75. Naomi said “I just felt that I wanted to do something to raise a bit of money and share with some friends who The Ear Foundation are and what they do.”

Thanks for making the effort Naomi, and opening your doors to family & friends in aid of The Ear Foundation – hopefully it will inspire others to do the same in their area!





Marjorie Sherman House

Thank you to all our families who have kindly donated towards the Marjorie Sherman House this year. Due to this kind generosity we have been able to make some much needed



improvements to the house such as painting & re-carpeting the bedrooms and sitting room. We also received kind donations of brand new bed linen and towels and a new travel cot.

A huge thanks to Claire & Phil Knight, parents to Melody, who very kindly raised money to provide Marjorie Sherman House with a new TV & DVD combo for all the families to enjoy when stopping over before appointments.

Volunteers

A huge thank you to all those people who have supported The Ear Foundation at our events, we could not have done without you! If you are interested in helping The Ear Foundation at any of our events then please get in contact as we would appreciate the help and time you give.

Donation Report - 23 September to 6 April

Mr B & Dr S Archbold

Archie Sherman Charitable Trust

Mr & Mrs K J Bonser

Bowls England

Mr J Boyes

Mr & Mrs R Bracegirdle

Prof P J Bradley

The C D Horton Charitable Trust

Mr J Callaghan

Mr D Carter

Mr O M Cook

D J Robarts Charitable Trust

Mr L M Dorfman

Forman Hardy Charitable Trust

Mr A C Forrest

Mr M R French

Mr P J Galligan

Grant & Boyd Limited

Mrs H Norton's Charitable Trust

Mr A Hanakova

Mrs A M Hughes

Mrs M Ireland

J N Derbyshire Trust

The James Beattie Charitable Trust

Mrs M M Joscelyne

Mr & Mrs S F King

Mr K Loach

Mr S Loom

Mrs L Lord

Prof M E Lutman

Mr P B Marber

Mr & Mrs A Marshall

Mrs H Merrigan

The Michael & Anna Wix Charitable Trust

The Mickleham Trust

Mouchel Business Services Ltd

Ockbrook and Borrowash Parochial Church Council

Dr & Mrs J S Overend

The Plough Inn, Normanton on Soar

Prof M Potmesil

R S Brownless Charitable Trust

The Rosalyn & Nicholas Springer Charitable Trust

The Rothera Family Charity Trust

Ms J Ruparelia

The Sidbury Trust

Mr L M Slack

Mrs G Smith

Stella Symons Charitable Trust

Mrs J L Thomas

University of Nottingham Students' Union

Mrs J Wells

The Wendy Max Charitable Trust

The Yvette & Hermione Jacobson Charitable Trust

The Ear Foundation 

Marjorie Sherman House, 83 Sherwin Road, Lenton, Nottingham, NG7 2FB

Tel: 0115 942 1985

Fax: 0115 924 9054

www.earfoundation.org.uk

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