

EAR FOUNDATION NEWS



Issue Number 25

Summer 2004

We welcome you to the Summer 2004 edition of Ear Foundation News, bringing you information on all our activities - helping deaf children with cochlear implants, their families and supporting professionals.

Cochlear implants provide useful hearing for profoundly deaf children, enabling the majority to communicate easily in the hearing world. For more information, please have a look at our website:

www.earfoundation.org.uk



NEW PATRON WELCOMED



We are delighted to welcome Mrs Rosalyn Springer as one of our Patrons. Mrs Springer's late mother, Mrs Marjorie Sherman OBE PhD, was our very first Patron and she funded the first multi-channel cochlear implant for a child in the UK - in Nottingham. Mrs Sherman took a great interest in the progress of Michael Batt and in the work of The Ear Foundation, throughout her life. It is lovely to continue the family connection. Mrs Springer is seen here at the successful Multi-Agency Conference organised by The Ear Foundation in London on 2 April 2004, with one of our Trustees, Tricia Kemp. The conference was sponsored by DfES - please see report on page 15. We very much hope that Mrs Springer will be able to join us at The Ear Foundation for the Marjorie Sherman Memorial Lecture by Geoff Plant of the USA on 24 June 2004.

Help the Ear Foundation!

As you can see from our Chairman's Report on Page 4, we really need to increase our fund-raising and donations, to support our work with deaf children with cochlear implants and their families. Please see article on Page 12 for painless ways of helping us.

INFORMATION DAYS

These days are designed for families who are considering cochlear implantation for their child. The course provides an introduction to cochlear implants, the process, rehabilitation and expectations. There will also be the opportunity to meet implanted children and their families. The course is open to professionals and all family members, including grandparents. The cost is £25 per person, including lunch and refreshments. To encourage both parents to attend together, we offer two for the price of one!

The dates this year are:

- > Saturday 12 June - 10 am to 4 pm
- > Saturday 13 November - 10 am to 4 pm

Please contact The Ear Foundation for further details.

FUTURE EVENTS

THE EAR FOUNDATION GOLF DAY

We are well on the way to organising this year's Golf Day which once again is being held at the prestigious Breadsall Priory Golf Club, near Derby. This is now our 3rd year of running the event and is proving ever popular. It is an ideal way of entertaining clients and friends but more importantly, helping to support The Ear Foundation with their fundraising activities. We have planned a bright and sunny day, no rain! - so, just a reminder for your diaries - Friday 18 June 2004 at Breadsall Priory Golf Club - we would love to see more golfing parents taking part this year and for further details, please contact Janet or Emma at The Ear Foundation.



SPONSORED SWIM AND BARBECUE - SATURDAY 3 JULY 2004

This year's event is on Saturday 3 July. As usual, the swim will take place at the Charnwood Leisure Centre in Loughborough, with the barbecue being at The Willows, Normanton on Soar. There was a good number at the barbecue last year, but not too many swimmers! If you would like to join us this year (at the swim and/or the barbecue), please contact us for details. For those of you who aren't swimming, we encourage you to sponsor one of our Trustees, Tricia Kemp, who has been one of our most loyal swimmers over the years. She deserves our support, so please contact either Tricia or The Ear Foundation for a sponsor form.



CHATSWORTH SPONSORED WALK - SUNDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 2004

Emma and Janet are organising a Family Sponsored Walk around the wonderful estate of Chatsworth House in Derbyshire. The walk will take in some lovely focal points around the park including the tower, reservoirs and woodland and is around 6 miles in total. We will be starting and finishing near the family farmyard area and the setting is ideal for family picnics! Dogs are welcome too as long as they are on a lead. So - make a note of this date in your diaries and come and have a relaxing (!) walk in one of the most scenic parts of Derbyshire. For more details and a sponsor form, please call Janet or Emma at The Ear Foundation.



SUPPORTERS OF THE EAR FOUNDATION

LORD ASHLEY HONOURED

Parliamentarians have been praised for their work in promoting and assisting charitable causes at the first ever ePolitix.com Charity Champions Awards.

Among those honoured were Labour peer Lord Ashley, who received a lifetime achievement award from chancellor Gordon Brown. Lord Ashley has been a Patron of The Ear Foundation since 1989, and we offer our sincere congratulations on this recognition for all he has done for the deaf and hearing impaired.

Writing about Lord Ashley's work for the disabled during his 30 years in parliament, foreign secretary Jack Straw said: "Jack's great achievement was to use the acute sense he had of the challenge of living with deafness as a source of new energy.

"His determination to right injustice and inequality, his persistence, and his huge personal commitment have always marked him out as special. In more

than 25 years in the House of Commons and 10 in the Lords, Jack Ashley has campaigned for legislation to improve disabled people's lives, to give them better access to employment and public services."

The foreign secretary, who worked with Lord Ashley over 30 years ago, added: "Without Jack Ashley's tireless campaigning and commitment, the difficulties of life for disabled people today would be far greater than they are.



Lord Ashley with Chancellor Gordon Brown

"The ePolitix Charity Champions award is one of many that he has won in recognition of a lifetime's commitment to fighting injustice and inequality. It is richly deserved."

All of us at The Ear Foundation were saddened to learn of the death of our long-standing Patron, The Duke of Devonshire. His Grace had been a strong supporter of our work, and we were delighted when he agreed to officially open Marjorie Sherman House in November 1993. Our sincere condolences go to his family at this difficult time.



Bishop of Southwell enters the House of Lords

Congratulation to Professor Graeme Clark

inventor of the cochlear implant

(Summarised from an article in the Australian newspaper, The Age)

Sitting on the beach near his holiday home on the New South Wales south coast, Professor Graeme Clark made a chance discovery some 27 years ago that was to have a profound effect on tens of thousands of people.

Whilst inserting blades of grass into a snail shell (which is shaped like the inner ear – the cochlea), Professor Clark made the breakthrough he needed to develop his pioneering cochlear implant. He realised that the implant's electronic wires needed to have a progressive stiffness. The following year, in 1978, the multi-channel device, often known as the bionic ear, was implanted into Rod Saunders, a man who had lost his hearing as a result of a head injury. Since then, the device has helped more than 50,000 people from 120 countries.

Earlier this year, on Australia Day, Professor Clark received the nation's highest Australia Day honour, when he was made a Companion of the Order of Australia (AC). Congratulations Graeme – from all your friends at The Ear Foundation and from all those you have helped over the years.



The Bishop of Southwell, the Rt. Rev'd George Cassidy was officially introduced into the House of Lords, as one of the 26 'Lords Spiritual' on Wednesday 21st January.

Bishop George is one of our Patrons, and we offer our congratulations on his introduction to the House of Lords.

He said: "I am sure this new role will bring many new challenges and as I have studied politics I am particularly looking forward to taking an active role in monitoring legislation. As a member of the House of Lords I will have responsibility, along with my fellow bishops, to represent faith communities and add a distinctively Christian voice to the process of legislation."

The Bishop was introduced to the House by the bishops of Leicester and Southwark. When he serves as a 'duty bishop' he will say prayers at the start of each session during the week and be available in the House to other members and during sessions to take part in debates.

The Bishop will look forward to taking part in debates and will be particularly interested in contributing to issues relating to Nottingham city and county.



He said: "There are certain issues which I will have a special interest in, for example asylum seekers, former coalfield communities, gun laws and policing in the cities and other areas of personal interest including African issues and the countryside."

Diocesan bishops take-up seats in the House of Lords in order of seniority, with the exception of the Archbishops of Canterbury and York and the bishops of London, Durham and Winchester who always have seats in the Lords. All the bishops retain their seats until they retire.

End of an Era

At the end of April, Sue Archbold left Nottingham Cochlear Implant Programme, so that she could spend more time lecturing, carrying out research into cochlear implantation and writing. As Sue was the first employee of the implant programme, it is truly the end of an era! From no staff, no premises and a handful of potential recipients of cochlear implants, she has left a busy organisation at Ropewalk House with over 420 children now having received implants in Nottingham.

At her farewell Dinner, there were moving speeches covering the period from 1989 to the current day. Sue's interest in cochlear implants was aroused when Damien Baines (a pupil in Sue's Hearing Impaired Unit at St Augustine's School, Worksop) was the first child in the UK to receive a cochlear implant. Louisa Booth, now with Advanced Bionics but who then worked at UCL in London,



clearly demonstrated in her speech the differences between the very early cochlear implants at that time, to the current situation.

Apart from Sue's own staff, and in particular the Master of Ceremonies David Hartley, speeches were also made by surgeons Gerry O'Donoghue and Kevin Gibbin, Mike Sundler from Advanced Bionics and Rory Kehoe from Cochlear Europe, and (representing all the young people with cochlear implants who were there) Michael Batt – the first child to receive a cochlear implant in Nottingham.

Over 100 people attended to wish Sue well in her new career.

Center Parcs - Family Weekend

for families of children with cochlear implants

A twenty three year old graduate who lives in Leicester's Stoneygate played a major role at the annual Center Parcs weekend at Sherwood Forest.

Daniel Rule, who became profoundly deaf following meningitis as a two year old, was invited to talk to the delegates about his experiences as a deaf child at a mainstream school and how things have changed since being given a cochlear implant five years ago.

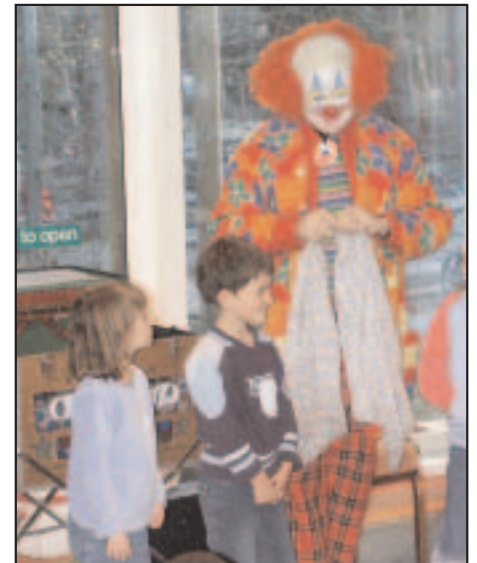
Daniel outlined some of the critical stages of his life and the way technology has helped him cope. "I had very mixed feelings when the implant operation was done," he said. "I could hear a lot of new sounds but it took some time to learn if it was someone talking or traffic going by. "I'm very glad I had it done," he said.



Whilst the conference was taking place, Liz Beadle and her colleagues organised an event for our teenage group, Teenz United – which included swimming and a Treasure Hunt on bicycles.

This year's Center Parcs weekend is to be held on Friday 19 November to Monday 22

November, with the prices held at last year's level of £324 for a six person three-bedroomed villa (Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights) plus a contribution of £5 per adult and £3 per child towards the conference, crèche, entertainment and catering costs. (These costs are kept to a minimum thanks to the continued generous support from Cochlear Europe).



Since the operation, Daniel has been to the University of Leeds where he gained a master's degree in mechanical engineering. Now, he is looking forward to putting his studies and experiences to work.

Other guest speakers at the conference included Dr Stevie Mayhook, Education Action Team Officer at RNID, who talked on the subject "Moving on ... helping your child to the next stage".

On this occasion, 31 six-person villas were taken for the weekend, and many more day visitors swelled the numbers to 160 for the conference. The Ear Foundation is most grateful to Clare Sheridan and her colleagues at Cochlear Europe for sponsoring the conference, without whose help it wouldn't take place.



Chairman's Report

In my first report as chairman I would like to pay tribute to my predecessor Sir Frederic Bolton who retired from the board at last years' AGM. His sound and measured advice was much appreciated, and we miss his presence at our board meetings.

For me, it is a privilege to work with such a dedicated group of like-minded individuals who make up the Board and who willingly give up their free time for The Ear Foundation. We were fortunate to obtain the interest of three new Trustees in 2003: Mr Kevin P Gibbin, a cochlear implant surgeon at QMC who has long supported The Ear Foundation, Mr Peter Vinden, whose daughter, Tara received an implant in Nottingham, and Mr Geoff Parkinson whose expertise as a solicitor is much welcomed. We are also delighted to welcome Mrs Sherman's daughter, Mrs Rosalyn Springer, as a Patron.

It has been a challenging and exciting year with many developments coming to fruition and new ones just beginning. The training courses and conferences have gone from strength to strength, with increasing numbers of delegates from different disciplines and from different countries. At the 2003 Advanced Cochlear Implant Workshop we had a record number of 13 different countries represented with one-third of the delegates being from overseas. New courses have been developed to meet identified needs and we offer more than ever before, often in partnership with other organisations. Through our training courses we have expanded the international role of The Ear Foundation and established The Ear Foundation as a leading provider of multi-professional training in the field of paediatric cochlear implantation. Our national and international profile has continued to develop with regular exhibitions at British Association of Teachers of the Deaf, Royal National Institute for the Deaf, National Deaf Children's Society, EURO Cochlear implant users' meetings, amongst others.

Our conference theme in 2003 was communication and we were delighted to welcome Professor Arthur Boothroyd as our keynote speaker and to give the Marjorie Sherman Memorial Lecture. Mrs Sherman's family was there to hear him and to demonstrate the strong continuing connection between The Ear Foundation and the Sherman family. On the theme of providing training for professionals, our series of Twilight Lectures

remain popular and have attracted a number of well-known international speakers, such as Geoff Plant and Jay Rubinstein.

Suzanne Harrigan and Clare Allen have developed their parent interaction programme which continues to receive a grant from the Department of Health. Apart from courses held at The Ear Foundation, Suzanne and Clare have taken the programme to different parts of the UK and have recently embarked upon a series of training events for parents of deaf children in Sweden.

We have been delighted to continue our links with the Nottingham City and County Sensory Teams with the development of the early listening group for parents and their deaf infants, funded by the Department for Education and Skills (DfES), through the Early Support Pilot Programme. A core of ten children and their parents have regularly attended The Ear Foundation and have demonstrated to the Trustees our need to develop our nursery provision. However, it has proved difficult to obtain planning permission to extend our listed building. The weekly signing group continues to meet and the playroom and its facilities are fully used to care for the deaf children. During the year a group of parents also met at The Ear Foundation following their child's diagnosis of deafness under the newborn hearing screening programme. We felt that it was important to support these parents at this time and we plan to start a similar group in 2004.

For young people with cochlear implants, TEENZ United remains popular, and the summer schools provide opportunities for them to develop their communication skills and practice their interview skills. The other summer schools remain popular for children and their families and the annual Center Parcs weekend again attracted a high number of participants. Midlands CICS continues to meet at The Ear Foundation, with Carmen Burton organising regular meetings and events, both educational and social.

Following the success of the Tait video training material, we have been pleased to add KIDTRAX (supported by MED-EL UK) to our distance training materials. The Nottingham Early Assessment Package (supported by Cochlear Europe) was trialled and the final version will be available in 2004. The writing of the literature review of outcomes into paediatric cochlear implantation (also Supported by Cochlear Europe) was completed and this has been accepted by Whurr publishers for publication in 2004. Support from Defeating Deafness has enabled Helen Starczewski and Hazel Lloyd-Richmond to continue the Story/Narrative assessment procedure (SNAP Dragons) and we have been in discussions with an international publishing house about the materials, with a view to publishing more widely. A further grant from Defeating Deafness is enabling Dr Margaret Tait to carry out some innovative research in comparing the early communication skills of children implanted between one year and two years old and those implanted between two years and three years old.

The Department of Education and Skills (DfES) through their Early Support Pilot Programme agreed a number of grants in the last financial year. First of all, they supported the provision of a frequently asked questions page on our website which has attracted a great deal of national and international interest. The number of hits to our website continues to increase and we are grateful for the work carried out by members of the Nottingham Cochlear Implant Programme to ensure that answers are up-to-date and accurate.

Our next two DfES grants will provide information about cochlear implantation for parents of deaf children aged under three. A video and handbook have been completed, to give unbiased information for parents thinking about a cochlear implant for their child. The handbook has also been translated into Urdu and Punjabi and the video has BSL subtitles. For those parents whose child has already received a cochlear implant, there is a booklet of practical ideas to help their child. These materials will go to all deaf education services in England.

Further collaboration with RNID and other voluntary organisations, led to the publication and national distribution of Guidelines for teachers working with children with cochlear implants, and to the publication of our parent questionnaire, developed with the RNID, on our website. This is now used internationally.

In addition to the increase in the use of our accommodation for courses and workshops, there has been a significant increase in the use from other related organisations such as the Institute of Hearing Research, Modernisation of Hearing Aid Services initiative, Royal National Institute for the Deaf, ICAN – all bringing in expertise and financial support.

My main disappointment this year has been the fall in donations and fund-raising. Whilst acknowledging that this follows a pattern experienced by other charities, it is nevertheless disappointing to report a loss of £38K for the year as a whole, although this is after charging depreciation of some £48K. Consequently, in cash terms, we remain positive, but we need to arrest the loss-making and capitalise on our areas of development so that we can provide long-term security for our activities.

I would like to thank our team of administrative staff led by our Chief Executive Brian Archbold, who continue to work so hard and conscientiously for The Ear Foundation. During the year, Carol Hutchinson left us, and was replaced as Administrator by Emma Coombes, who has brought with her experience gained in accountancy practices and Cancer Research UK. Janet Thomas continues to bring us her expertise as Secretary and Personal Assistant to Brian Archbold, our Chief Executive. Working from home in Taunton, Dale Sutcliffe has once again worked hard as Fund-raiser, which hasn't been easy in the current economic climate. Finally, we welcome Emma Church as Assistant Housekeeper, who has made a huge impact on keeping Marjorie Sherman House in good order.

All those who work for the Foundation give far more than one can reasonably expect. The Board are truly grateful to them.

If we continue to expand as expected, then this is an area we must address. We are victims of our own success in this respect.

Finally, may I also thank all those who have supported us over the last year – those who have made donations to The Ear Foundation, the organisations that have given grants to expand our work, the many individuals who have been fund-raising for us, and the members of staff at the Nottingham Cochlear Implant Programme who have willingly given up their time. We now look forward to further progress in our work on behalf of deaf children with cochlear implants and their families in 2004.

Richard J Pannell JP FRICS
Chairman

EURO-CIU



The Ear Foundation is a member of EURO-CIU, which is the European Association of Cochlear Implant Users. This year's annual meeting was held in Gothenburg on Saturday 17 April. Brian represented The Ear Foundation at this meeting, and was able to enlist the support of other European countries for a conference entitled "Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children Europe 2005" which The Ear Foundation will be organising on 13/14 May 2005 in conjunction with RNID and NDCS.

TRAINING IN SWEDEN

Our two Speech & Language Therapists are in demand in Sweden! They have already run three courses in conjunction with our friends at Barnplantorna, the Swedish organisation that provides support to children with cochlear implants and their parents. To date they have been to Sundsgården near Helsingborg; Gothenburg; and Stockholm. Other visits have been arranged, including an important conference arranged by Ann-Charlotte Gyllenram of Barnplantorna, which is to be held once more at Sundsgården.

I believe Suzanne and Clare when they tell me how hard they work in Sweden, but they do deserve some relaxation, and Ann-Charlotte sent me this photograph of them about to eat a traditional Easter cake!



Education Events

SUMMER SCHOOLS

Don't forget our Summer Schools! The dates are as follows:

- > Pre-school - Fun with Music
Monday 26 July to Wednesday 28 July: 10 am to 12 noon
- > 5 - 8s (infants) - Fun with Communication
Monday 2 August to Wednesday 4 August: 10 am to 1 pm
- > 8 - 11s (juniors) - Fun with Communication
Monday 9 August to Wednesday 11 August: 10 am to 1 pm
- > 11 - 12s - Residential
Wednesday 28 July to Friday 30 July
- > 13 - 14s - Residential
Wednesday 4 August to Friday 6 August
- > 15 - 16s - Residential
Wednesday 11 August to Friday 13 August
- > 16 - 18s - Residential
Wednesday 18 August to Friday 20 August

Some of these Summer Schools are already fully booked, so contact us as soon as you can!

TAIT VIDEO

Dr Margaret Tait, a former member of the Nottingham Paediatric Cochlear Implant Programme and now working at The Ear Foundation, has produced a video assessment of communication skills in young deaf infants. Her work is supported by two charities, The Ear Foundation and Defeating Deafness.

The VHS video and accompanying booklet aim to help professionals in audiology and language assess the pre-language developments in deaf children. According to Margaret, the video has been produced to give teachers of the deaf a base from which they can monitor the early development of pre-verbal communication skills in deaf children. "These skills include turn-taking, eye contact and auditory awareness, the essential precursors to the development of spoken language in all children, whether normally hearing or deaf," she says. "We feel it's particularly helpful as an early language assessment tool for the very young."

Priced at £47.50 each (plus postage and



packing), they can be ordered direct from The Ear Foundation on 0115 942 1985 or through the web address www.earfoundation.org.uk - and readers of Ear Foundation News can order the video for a reduced price of £30 plus postage and packing.

Since completing this video, Margaret has received a further grant from Defeating Deafness, and she is researching a comparison of children implanted under two years' old and those implanted between two and three. She was invited to give a presentation on her initial findings at the 7th European Symposium on Paediatric Cochlear Implantation in Geneva at the beginning of May 2004.

▶ TWILIGHT LECTURES ◀

Our series of Twilight Lectures remains popular, attracting professionals to The Ear Foundation after work. During April, we had two outstanding speakers:

Amy McConkey Robbins is a speech-language pathologist in private practice in Indianapolis, Indiana. Through this practice, she provides diagnostics and therapy services to children, advises school districts on the management of hearing-impaired children, and consults to implant centers and manufacturers. For fourteen years, she was a clinical research associate at the Indiana University School of Medicine. Ms. Robbins has published in numerous professional journals and books under such topics as communication assessment, training methodologies, and language development in cochlear implant children. She was previously Supervisor of Aural Rehabilitation at Boys Town National Research Hospital, and a consultant for 3M-International in Brussels, Belgium. Ms. Robbins received a BA in psychology from Hollins College, Virginia, and completed diploma studies in Phonetics and Linguistics at Leeds University, Yorkshire, England. Her Master of Science in Audiology and Speech Sciences was awarded from Purdue University in 1979.

Her presentation was entitled "Implanting early and why it matters", and it reviewed findings from a variety of sources supporting the benefits of early implantation. Results of a large-scale study examining age-at-implantation effects were presented, and implications for managing the communication needs of deaf infants and toddlers were highlighted.

Kevin Gibbin with Amy Robbins

We thank Advanced Bionics for sponsoring Amy's visit.

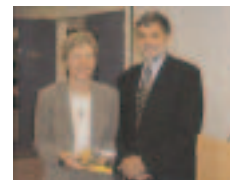
Jim Patrick has been associated with cochlear implants since 1975, when he joined Professor Graeme Clark's research team at the University of Melbourne. He joined the Nucleus group as a "technology transfer" when commercial development began in 1981 and, since that time, his responsibilities have included Research and Development, Manufacturing, Quality, Regulatory and Clinical support.

Currently Jim is Senior Vice President, Research and Applications. This role includes research into improved signal coding and the application of Cochlear technology to people suffering from spinal cord injury. Cochlear's development program has been closely supported over the years by research at the University of Melbourne and more recently by the Co-operative Research Centre for Cochlear Implant and Hearing Aid Innovation, and Jim holds the parallel appointments of Associate Professor in the Department of Otolaryngology at the University of Melbourne and Deputy Director of the CRC.

Jim's presentation looked to the future, and the improvements it might bring. Today's performance of cochlear implants is good, but a long way short of normal hearing. There are some exciting advances in signal processing that will improve the transmission of fine time structure; advances in biology should improve the electro-neural interface for improved spectral resolution; and with battery and microphone designs that are already available, experiments with the fully implanted cochlear implant are imminent. A fascinating talk.

We thank Cochlear Europe for sponsoring Jim's visit.

• *Jim Patrick flew in from Australia especially to give this lecture and to present Sue on her retirement from the Nottingham Cochlear Implant Programme with the "Golden Lobe Award 2004". The wording reads: "From all the children who have a cochlear implant - thank you. Your voice has been heard around the world; your passion and dedication have changed our lives forever." Jim's presentation was made at the end of his lecture and, after less than 24 hours in the UK, he then flew to meetings in France and Switzerland. We are really grateful that he took time out of his busy schedule to visit us in Nottingham.*



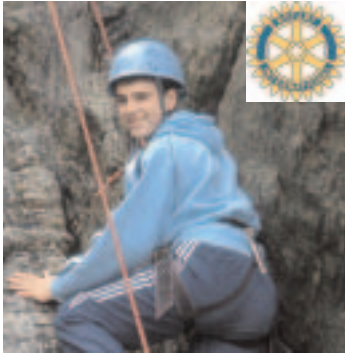
Jim presents the Golden Lobe Award 2004 to Sue Archbold



Jim Patrick with the team from Nottingham Cochlear Implant Programme

What are our deaf teenagers doing?

OUTWARD BOUND



For five days during the Easter Holidays ten young people aged between 14 and 17 were together at the Aberdovey centre in Wales



They were participating in an Outward Bound Course sponsored by Mapperley Rotary Club from Nottingham. This was a special group because the members were both hearing and profoundly deaf. Six of the participants were profoundly deaf and use a cochlear implant to access sound. They received their cochlear implant at the Queens Medical Centre in Nottingham and are all monitored by the Nottingham Cochlear Implant Programme. The teenagers participate in the Teenz United programme run by The Ear Foundation based in Lenton.



building exercises in the evenings and intense team work during the days. Just how do you get ten people over a 13-foot vertical wall? How do you get those same ten people through a set of spider web like wires without touching the wires? Trust and team work were the skills to be learned and culminated in the final activity which was to get the whole group across a set of high wires thirty feet up in the air and with each individual balanced and hooked up to a safety wire. This exercise required all the skills learned during the week, communication within the team on a one to one basis but also as a corporate group – everyone providing encouragement for each other.

group were lucky enough to have the run of the centre and the station of three friendly and professional tutors, Richard, John and Maggie.

Activities during the week included rock climbing, abseiling, raft-building on the Dovey estuary, coupled with team

All ten teenagers came from the Nottingham area, from different schools and background, but the one thing they all had in common was that they were teenagers.

So on Easter Monday six profoundly deaf and four hearing teenagers were thrust together on a minibus, waved off by parents and began a week of living and working together.

The Outward Bound centre at Aberdovey is in a beautiful setting on the top of a hill overlooking the Dovey estuary. The



'TEENZ UNITED' VISIT TO LONDON 2004

Thirty-nine teenagers aged from 12 to 17 have taken part in the second annual day trip to London organised for Teenz United, The Ear Foundation's group for youngsters. The highlight of the day of was a visit to 'Stomp' at the Vaudeville Theatre where their ability to hear, thanks to a cochlear implant, added to enjoyment,

spectacle and surprise.

For some it was a first opportunity to meet other youngsters with a similar lifestyle and experiences. For others, it was a welcome opportunity to meet old friends and discuss what they had been up to over the past twelve months.



With homes in Southampton, South Wales, Nottingham and London, all were involved in making the journey to the London rendezvous before the day of eating, sight seeing and interaction. "But mostly it was chatting," says organiser, Liz Beadle.

"We all met for lunch at The New World Chinese after negotiating the Underground or the London taxis. Then it was off to 'Stomp' with its dialogue-free ninety minutes of percussion with rubbish bins, body language and facial expression. It was great to join in the hand clapping and foot tapping," she says.

"For one of the group it was a particularly enjoyable time as she has only had her cochlear implant tuned-in for three weeks," says Liz. "Yes, she could hear the noise, the bins banging, the brooms sweeping and the feet shuffling -sounds she would have missed using her hearing aids. She returned home with a big smile on her face!"

Comments from the young people: "Lunch was different but I didn't like it"

"It was good to see my mates again"

"We had a laugh"

"Stomp was noisy but I liked it"

And for later in the year – there is the suggestion of a joint visit to Cadbury World in Birmingham.

OUTWARD BOUND

The week was busy with the teenagers stretched as individuals and as a group. Each of them completed an activity they did not think they were capable of, Michelle made rock climbing easy on her first attempt, Simon became more confident as the week progressed – surprising himself by his achievements at the activities. Holly found she did not like heights much but then at the time she was perched at the top of a 10-foot pole and expected to jump for a trapeze trusting that the colleague holding the safety rope would keep her from falling and hurting herself. Adam completed the high wire exercise despite protesting about how frightened he felt.

Ten teenagers returned to Nottingham five days after setting off more confident in their own abilities, better able to work in a team and equipped with communication ideas for those times when voice cannot be heard. The four hearing teenagers

experienced the difficulty of lack of communication first hand and both groups of teenagers had to find new ways of communication with each other.

The teenagers themselves said of the experience:

"It's a different world here we all have to work together."

"I was worried but when I got here it was perfect."

"It was exciting; we never stopped doing things and it was fun, I never got bored"

"I was happy and excited, but a little apprehensive as I knew I was going to meet deaf people and I had not met them before."

"I looked forward to a new experience and meeting new hearing people."

"The best thing was the raft, because we had to make it and it was fun."

"The raft building was most enjoyable; I liked getting soaked!"

"I liked the raft best, because I had never done it before and it was fun."

"I learned that the impossible can be possible"

Well done to them all, and many thanks to Liz Beadle and David Hartley from the Nottingham Cochlear Implant Programme for giving up their Easter break to accompany these young people to the Outward Bound course, and for joining in some of the activities themselves! Thanks also to Mapperley Rotary Club, without whose support this wouldn't have gone ahead.

The cochlear implanted children's support group (CICS) is a group run by parents for parents of children with cochlear implants - and it is supported by The Ear Foundation. Here Tricia Kemp writes about their activities.

.....and the children



Ben Huseyin, aged 6, enjoying the afternoon. Only just "switched-on", but so far so good.



Rebecca Zelic proudly showing off her Long Jump medal.



Maria Pavord came all the way from Wales

I welcomed a suggestion from Sarah Evans of Advanced Bionics that we held an Information Day at The Science Museum in London, but when she went on to suggest that we could invite the children as well as the parents, I have to admit that I thought it could be an administrative nightmare! However, as Advanced Bionics kindly offered to sponsor the whole event, it would have been very foolish not to go ahead.

Nearly 100 parents and about 45 children duly gathered at the Science Museum on Sunday, 30th November. We started with an excellent spread suitable for parents and children alike and then we got down to the serious business – organising the children into small groups to be taken round the Museum by suitably qualified adults. It took a little longer than planned, but with the children "out of sight and out of mind" the parents were able to concentrate on the afternoon's presentations. We started with Pam French who, as well as being a long-term CICS member, is also a Volunteer Advice Line Worker with IPSEA (Independent Panel for Special Education Advice). Pam's presentation was entitled "Statements – Avoiding the Pitfalls" and she gave the audience many tips on how to put forward an effective case for their child's educational placement.

Sue Brownson, the Teacher in Charge of the Hearing Impaired Unit at Laycock Primary School in Islington, discussed developing literacy skills in deaf children and how this relates to the National Curriculum. Sue showed us examples of written work of some of the pupils in her Unit, and stressed the importance of mastering good literacy skills at the primary stage.

In choosing topics to be covered at our Information Days, we pay careful attention to the evaluation sheets from previous events. We had received many requests to have a speaker on the subject of development of communication, speech and language following an implant, with emphasis on how to recognise warning signs of possible additional language difficulties. Julie Hare, Principal Speech and Language Therapist (Deafness) of the Nuffield Hearing and Speech Centre, RNTNE, gave us the benefit of her vast experience in this area. Julie pointed out that 40% of deaf children have an additional difficulty, and reminded the audience that children are individuals and don't all progress at the same rate.



Speakers at the Science Museum from left to right: Sue Brownson, Julie Hare, Pam French and Christine Rocca



The children didn't keep still long enough to enable us to get many good photos in The Science Museum, but we did manage to catch this group having a break.



Rebecca Zelic helping Tricia with a bouquet she had received from Advanced Bionics.

The sessions finished with Christine Rocca, a Teacher of the Deaf and Music Therapist, talking about the role of music therapy for hearing impaired children. Christine showed us a range of interesting instruments and treated us to an uplifting and inspiring video of the pupils at Mary Hare performing in a show.

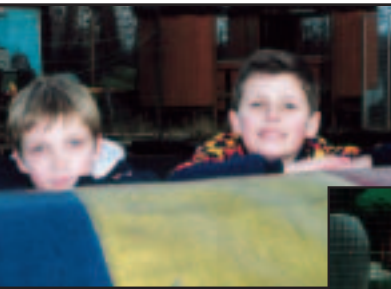
The children returned just as we had finished drawing the raffle and had clearly had a wonderful time; even the helpers enjoyed the experience!

The event went extremely well and we were delighted to be able to offer a Palantypist for the afternoon. Many parents were interested to see what she did, and the hearing impaired adults in the audience were delighted to have this service. For those of you who haven't come across Palantype before, this is a method whereby a Palantypist will type into a machine as the presenter is speaking, and the script will come up on a screen enabling a hearing impaired person to read what is being said.

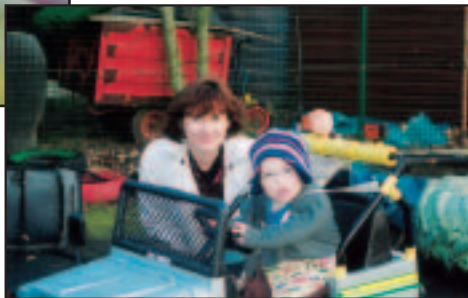
Feedback from the evaluation sheets was excellent and the parents who had brought their children along were clearly delighted to have had this opportunity. With parents coming to the event from as far away as Devon and York, there is clearly a great demand for such occasions, so let's hope we can soon start planning the next one.

We are very grateful to Advanced Bionics for sponsoring the event, to all the speakers who gave up their Sunday to join us, to the Palantypist who made the event accessible to the hearing impaired members of the audience, and to all the helpers who supervised the children.

Children came too.....!



Jake Foreman and Tim Weston will be going to Mary Hare together in September



Catharine Seddon with her son, theo, getting a breather from his many hospital visits. Nothing was going to spoil his afternoon.



Siena-Rose loved this car.....and her Dad Mario Crispino couldn't wait to have a turn in the go-cart



few days before the CICS event, but if he was still in any discomfort he certainly didn't let it spoil the afternoon!

TERRIFIC THAMES VALLEY

CICS has now held several social events at the wonderful Thames Valley Adventure Playground near Maidenhead. Up to now we have been lucky with the weather and even in March and October we have been outside for the whole afternoon. However, 7th March this year was rather cold and we even had a bit of a downpour mid-afternoon. This, of course, did not deter the children who even sat outside in t-shirts eating their tea before racing off to try out the fantastic range of outside play equipment, not to mention bikes of all shapes and sizes. Even some of the Dads couldn't resist the temptation to try out the go-karts and bikes (!), but most of the adults spent as much time as possible inside, keeping warm whilst enjoying their tea and a good old chinwag.

There seemed to be a mountain of food at the beginning of the afternoon, beautifully displayed by Ann McNaughton and Alex Kemp (both of whom also worked tirelessly providing endless pots of tea and doing the washing up), but at the end of the day there was very little left.

One of the CICS Trustees, Mary Ogwo, brought along a small television and we watched a recording of another of our Trustees, Annie Wilson, and Lesley Knight, a Deaf adult, who were featured in an item regarding cochlear implants on the "Richard and Judy" programme earlier in the week. (If you missed this show, and would like to see it, contact Tricia Kemp to borrow the video.)

The event was attended by a wide range of children ranging from toddlers undergoing assessment for a cochlear implant to a teenager who has had an implant for thirteen years now, and even a six year old whose implant had only been switched on for a few days. It's wonderful for implanted children of all ages to spend fun time together and to make new friends. Two boys who hadn't met before, Jake Foreman and Tim Weston, will be starting at Mary Hare School together later this year so it was a great opportunity for them, and their Mums, to get to know one another.

Some of the children had particular reasons to celebrate during the afternoon, to name but a few: Rebecca Zelic proudly showed us all a medal she had won in the Islington Primary Schools' Sports Hall Athletics Championships. She was part of the Laycock Primary School team and came first in the Long Jump event. She was particularly pleased to have been given her medal by Ryan Smith, an Arsenal player who had himself attended Laycock Primary School. Ben Huseyin was happily wearing his brand new speech processor. His implant had only been switched on a couple of days before. Theo Seddon has really had a lot to contend with. He had a tracheal reconstruction in November 2003, and had to have an emergency tracheostomy in December. This had only been removed a



Alex Kemp and Ann McNaughton did a fantastic job with the food



They all look like brothers but actually, it's a set of twins and a friend. We're looking at Henry and Jacob Bone and their friend, Tom. But which is which

And Now For A Bit Of Red Tape

The Charity Commission requires the adoption of a Scheme to enable the CICS Trustees to take out Indemnity Insurance. We are required to publish the following notice in connection therewith:

Charity: Cochlear Implanted Children's Support Group (Reg. No. 1097619)
Ref: ML/381721/RED(Ldn)

The Charity Commission proposes to make a Scheme to amend the trusts of this charity. A copy of the draft Scheme can be seen at P.O. Box 28843, London, SW13 0WY, or can be obtained by sending a stamped addressed envelope to The Charity Commission, Harmsworth House, 13 - 15, Bouverie Street, London, EC4Y 8DP, quoting the above reference or visiting the website at <http://www.charity-commission.gov.uk>

Comments or representations can be made within one month from today.

CICS MIDLANDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

Back in December, CICS Midlands held our Christmas party. Once again this was well attended with nearly 40 children coming.

We started the afternoon with a fancy dress parade and competition. Everyone had wonderful costumes and it was difficult for the parents to vote for the winning boy and girl, so very well



done and congratulations to Thomas Bates and Megan Betts. Following the parade, we played pass the parcel CICS style. Not quite as easy as the usual game, every time the parcel was unwrapped, as well as a sweet, there was also a forfeit such as pretend to be Santa, or say a joke. This was great fun for everyone including the mums and dads who were "nominated" by their children to help them!

Soon afterwards our clown, Sparkles, arrived and kept us all entertained with magic and mayhem! She also made a balloon model for all the children.

Many thanks to Steve Burton for doing the face-painting; I think he broke his record, managing to paint nearly 30 faces during the afternoon!

Following all this excitement we were all getting very hungry and

enjoyed our party tea, whilst eagerly awaiting the arrival of Santa. After settling down his reindeer at Wollaton Park, he made his way to our party with a bag full of presents for everyone! It was lovely to see the children's faces as they sat on his knee and stroked his hair.

It was great to meet some "new" families and to see so many of our implanted children having fun together whilst their parents had opportunity to meet and socialise with others.

Thanks to all those who supplied cakes and biscuits, those who helped me to clear up and to The Ear Foundation for the use of their premises.



Dylan Thomas Presentation



On 13 March, Hamish Roberts's grandfather, Tom Roberts, gave a presentation on Dylan Thomas on behalf of The Ear Foundation. The event was a great success, both as a social occasion and a fund-raising effort. It was a sell-out, and raised the magnificent sum of £1,400 for our funds.

Tom's presentation was very well received, but the stars of the evening were undoubtedly the teenagers, who spoke clearly and with passion about deafness and the benefits that they had derived from cochlear implants and The Ear Foundation. There was scarcely a dry eye in the house!

During the interval, which had been devoted to The Ear Foundation, Judith Roberts spoke briefly, but eloquently, about deafness in children and the work done by The Ear Foundation. She was followed by Hamish who spoke about his own situation, the processes leading up to his decision to have a cochlear implant and the benefits that it had conferred on him. He was followed by Alex Kemp who again gave a very clear account of his experiences, and another friend Cotty Balazs. When they had all finished speaking, Hamish conducted a lively question and answer session. Together, these three young people brought the house down, and we are all very proud of them!

Tom has been approached to give another two presentations about Dylan Thomas, and proposes to give the proceeds to The Ear Foundation. Many thanks to Tom and his wife Rosemary for organising this event, and to Hamish, Alex and Cotty for their contributions also.

Fundraising for The Ear Foundation

The Ear Foundation Quiz Night

What a terrific quiz night we had on 20 April at The Western Club! There was a really good turn out with 19 teams all trying their hardest to become No 1! We raised a grand total of £525 on the quiz and raffle, and the whole evening proved to be a great success. From feedback received, we hope this will be an annual event – we would love to see more families taking part next

time. Our thanks to Russ Johnson who was a Top Class Quiz Master travelling all the way from the West Midlands.

Well done the winning team "The Last Will Be First" (Brian was determined to win this one as he claims his teams traditionally always come last – but we all suspect that it was Dr Stevie Mayhook from RNID and the other team members that swung it!)

To all the teams who took part, many thanks once again and below you will see the scores!

Team Result

The Last Will Be First	The Ear Foundation / RNID	97
Six of the Best	Tenon Limited	93
Angie's Angels	Lloyds TSB Private Banking	91
Willing & Able	The Ear Foundation – Family Co-ordinators	90
Secret Seven	Nottingham Paediatric Cochlear Implant Programme	89
5 Women and It	IES, Sensory Team	88
The Merps	Midlands Regional Printers	87
Norfolk & Chance	Institute of Hearing Research	85
Barnes Print	Barnes Print	84
Dave's Duffers	Lloyds TSB Private Banking	84
Richard 3rd	The Ear Foundation Trustees / Rotary Club	81
Luddy Team	Tom & Liz Luddy & friends	81
Richard 1st	The Ear Foundation Trustees / Rotary Club	80
English Roses	CPMG Architects	79
Richard 2nd	The Ear Foundation Trustees / Rotary Club	76
The Cheeky Girls	Sensory Team, Bramcote	74
Total Recall	Cleansheet Laundry & Family	69
Cadbury's Heroes	CPMG Architects	63
Lizzie's Lovelies	Nottingham Paediatric Cochlear Implant Programme	59



QuizMaster with his assistants, Emma, Janel and Emma from the Ear Foundation

The Ear Foundation asks employers to make The Big Leap

The Ear Foundation is urging employers to sign up to The Big Leap to encourage their staff to donate income to help deaf children. As 2004 has an extra day, The Big Leap wants UK employers to encourage their staff to give some or all of that day by donating from their payroll.

The Ear Foundation's chief executive, Brian Archbold, says, "The idea is simple; by giving just two hours a month to charity, twelve months later you will have donated 24 hours – one full day. Employees who choose to give money are encouraged to do so via their payroll, giving the equivalent of two hours pay and gaining tax relief at the same time. The scheme is easy to administer and we hope that as many employees as possible will participate in this innovative scheme and make The Big Leap."

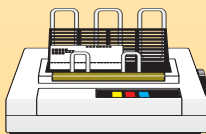
The Big Leap was launched to the general public in March and employers are being urged to register on the website www.thebigleap.org which provides everything needed to promote the initiative to their staff. It costs nothing to register and the website explains exactly how staff can support charity and how employers can help them to do so. A free donations' calculator is also available online, helping employees calculate how much they could give by signing up to The Big Leap.

Raising funds by recycling old printer / fax cartridges

The Ear Foundation has set up a new partnership with Environmental Protection Services UK Ltd to help raise vital funds by recycling old printer and fax cartridges.

Did you know that every year 30 million printer cartridges are dumped into landfill sites!

These cartridges have a value, which can generate funds for The Ear Foundation.

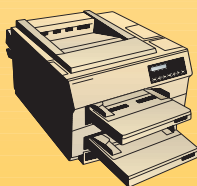


If you use Hewlett Packard, Lexmark and Canon cartridges in your printers – donate them to The Ear Foundation.

Please use a Freepost envelope which we can provide, or...



We have a collecting box for cartridges at The Ear Foundation, so drop them off here!



If you have 10+ cartridges: Contact E.P.S. They will then arrange a free courier collection.

Their services are free to those who participate. Services include; free courier collection service, free storage boxes & freepost return envelopes.

Protect the environment & raise funds for a worthwhile cause. Every cartridge, which is recycled, will help raise vital funds.

For further details, please contact Emma or Janet at The Ear Foundation;

or speak direct to Environmental Protection Services on:

Tel: 0800 38 98 172 Fax: 0800 03 20 849

Email: info@environmentalprotectionservices.org

Web: www.environmentalprotectionservices.org

Write to: Unit 2 Wallis Court, James Carter Road, Mildenhall, Suffolk IP28 7DD

If you contact the company direct, please tell them that you wish to donate to The Ear Foundation.

HELP THE EAR FOUNDATION

We need your help ...

The production of Ear Foundation News is expensive, but we get lots of positive comments about it, and we think that it is a valuable way of telling all our supporters about the work that we do at The Ear Foundation. We hope that you enjoy reading it.

You will see from our Chairman's Report that increased funding is required, to build upon our work for the future. Could you please consider making a donation to The Ear Foundation?

The NHS provides deaf children with cochlear implants but, as all our parents know, there is a lot more than surgery, switch-on and mapping that determines how much benefit can be gained from a child's cochlear implant. A whole network of education and ongoing support is required. The Ear Foundation is instrumental in providing this for the children's future.

Perhaps you don't currently use the facilities yourselves, but did you know that, in addition to providing accommodation at Marjorie Sherman House for families whilst they attend appointments at Ropewalk House or at Queen's Medical Centre, The Ear Foundation:

- ▶ Provides training courses for parents of implanted children.
- ▶ Provides training courses for our children's local professionals, so that they can provide the best possible support.

- ▶ Provides research and training resources about cochlear implants for parents and teachers to ensure they are kept up-to-date with developments in paediatric implantation, so that our children can derive the maximum benefit from their implants both now and in the future.
- ▶ Provides a website with excellent information, a "questions and answers" section and links to other useful sites.
- ▶ Supports the CICS Group, the national "parents for parents" support group for families whose children already have cochlear implants and for those who are considering implantation.
- ▶ Runs courses specifically for the children and young people as they begin not only to want to know more about their implants for themselves, but also to meet others with implants.
- ▶ Liaises with implant manufacturers about technical developments and support.
- ▶ Liaises with other voluntary and government bodies to maintain the profile of cochlear implantation, to ensure that long-term support is available for our children, and that implantation and technical support continues to be funded.
- ▶ Hosts seminars for Implant Teams from overseas to share and learn from each other's experiences.

All of this helps to ensure that our

children's future is secure ... and to do this all costs money!

We are well aware of the many appeals that we all receive from charities, schools, etc, and everyone has to be selective in choosing which organisations to support.

However, our parents know that no other organisation can provide the support and expertise available from The Ear Foundation, and they greatly appreciate the tremendous benefit to their children. Please show your support for the charity that is helping these children today – and will help many more in the future – by responding to this appeal.

A one-off donation, or perhaps a regular monthly/annual donation will make a real difference. If you don't already use Gift Aid for making donations to The Ear Foundation, please complete and return the Gift Aid declaration form. Once you have returned the declaration, there is nothing further for you to do. It costs you nothing and we deal directly with the Inland Revenue to reclaim over 28p in every £1 that you give. As you can imagine, this is extremely valuable additional funding for The Ear Foundation, and it would be a shame to let this extra money from the Inland Revenue go to waste!

So please return the Gift Aid form as soon as possible.

Thank you.

IN MEMORY OF CHRISTOPHER JOSCELYNE

Jonathan and Christopher Evennett (aged 11 and 10) live in the north of Scotland, in Ross-shire, and they both have a cochlear implant. They were very close to their grandfather, Christopher Joscelyne, who sadly passed away a few months ago.

The family decided to suggest donations to The Ear Foundation in his memory; and Jonathan and Christopher came to The Ear Foundation with their mother Dr Penny Evennett and their grandmother Mrs Margaret Joscelyne to present a huge cheque amounting to £2,000. We are most grateful for this generous gesture at a difficult time for the family.

Jonathan and Christopher have written the following letters to us.

My gran and grandpa knew how much the cochlear implant means to me.

So then the donations went to The Ear Foundation in memory of grandpa. They will help other deaf children to have a cochlear implant.

Jonathan Evennett

11 years and six months.

Sunday 21st March 2004

I always love going Cross Country run at school and my granpa liked running. I've always wished that he was still alive so I could tell him about it. While I was doing the training with the school and I came third and I thought that granpa would be proud and pleased as his grandson. And I wanted to show him my new implant covers in different colours. I love my implant so I could hear birds singing and someone talking to me.

Christopher Evennett 9 years 10 months

March 2004





DESTINY OF A CHILD



Annie Martin and the Registered Charity Destiny of a Child arrange fund-raising events to benefit deaf children under their strap-line "we help children to leave their silent world". Both The Ear Foundation and CICS have benefited from a charity rugby match this year – please see the photographs of the cheerleaders from the rugby match and a group photograph from their half-marathon. Many thanks to all who took part – it sounded a wonderful day! And many thanks for sending The Ear Foundation a very generous £2,500.

WINDMILL HILL LODGE 5843

The Windmill Hill Lodge has supported The Ear Foundation for three years, and in April, two of the members visited The Ear Foundation with their wives, and brought a magnificent donation of £1,675. We are really grateful for all the fund-raising that has taken place, with a truly spectacular result. It was also much appreciated that they took the time to visit us from London and Poole, to present the cheque.



Jack Marshall England



As you may know Rachel is on maternity leave – and she has just sent us this photograph of Jack. He was born on 29th January at 6:45 pm – weighing 7lbs 12oz, and all is well. Rachel says that Jack was born in the evening "ready to party!!!!" – but she goes on to say that he spent the first four hours looking around in amazement. We can't blame him for that!

Rachel and Ian would like to thank everyone for all their cards and their support. Congratulations from all of us here at The Ear Foundation.

Our Annual Advanced Cochlear Implant Workshop successful again



This year's Workshop was held once more at the University of Nottingham's Sutton Bonington Campus; and it attracted a large overseas contingent, with as many as half the delegates being from foreign countries. Apart from all parts of the UK, we had people from Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Greece, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, The Netherlands and United Arab Emirates.

The strongest representation from abroad was from Denmark, who sent 33 delegates – two of whom were sponsored by the British Embassy in Copenhagen (please see translation of article from a Danish newspaper). After the 3-day Workshop had concluded, some of our Danish delegates attended a course being run at The Ear Foundation, others visited schools in Leicestershire and Nottinghamshire, and others visited Nottingham Cochlear Implant Programme and then The Ear Foundation.

Our keynote speaker was our good friend from New York, Dr Pat Chute who is Associate Professor & Audiology Co-ordinator at Mercy College. During her visit, she was interviewed by Jeff Owen of BBC Radio Nottingham.

British Embassy sends two Danish teachers to The Ear Foundation

Translation of article from the Danish newspaper 'Østerbro Avis' on Saturday 3 April 2004.



The British Embassy in Copenhagen is situated in a typical embassy area, in Østerbro. Many of its neighbours are embassies, from Spain, Chile and Russia, among others. But when the new British Ambassador, Sir Nicholas Browne, was appointed Ambassador to Denmark six months ago and moved into the big white town house at Kastelsvej, he looked out of the window and saw a neighbouring building that did not house representatives of a foreign country in Denmark. The neighbouring building was the School at Kastelsvej, a school for deaf children.

This provided the scope for the Ambassador's wish to help members of the local community. He simply invited two of the teachers from the school to a week's workshop at the British Ear Foundation in Nottingham. The Ear Foundation in Nottingham are leaders in Cochlear Implant techniques, a sort of electronic ear that helps deaf children learn to communicate effectively through spoken language.

The two teachers that went to Nottingham are Hanne Lutz and Susanne Rømer-Nygaard. They were both pleasantly surprised at the Ambassador's initiative.

"We immediately wrote an application because this is a great opportunity for us to learn and to see how things are done in a country that is more advanced in this field than we are in Denmark", says Susanne Rømer-Nygaard.

The two specialist teachers at the school are members of a working group on cochlear implantation, a technique that Denmark is also keen to develop.

A cochlear implant is an electronic device that is implanted behind the ear and connected to 22 electrodes that transmit the sound to the brain. The technique

cannot make deaf people completely hearing but it can help children learn a language and get a better life.

"It is important that the children are given a cochlear implant as early as possible. Otherwise it is difficult for them to benefit from it. They need to grow up with the language," explains Hanne Lutz.

At the workshop in Nottingham the two teachers studied the technique and the teaching methods that are used with implanted children. They also learnt about the problems facing deaf children from ethnic minorities who in actual fact have three languages. This is an area which has not been developed in Denmark.

"This was very instructive and we will be able to use what we learnt both at the school and perhaps also provide inspiration to other schools in Denmark", says Susanne Rømer-Nygaard

To the Ambassador it was natural to provide this sort of support to the neighbouring school after he and his wife had visited the school shortly after their arrival in Denmark.

"We must be part of the local community and this is easy in Denmark which is a very open society. It was somewhat more difficult in Tehran where I was ambassador before. But we aim to make a difference to the local communities we are part of", says Sir Nicholas Browne.

To the two teachers and to the children at the Deaf School, the Ambassador's idea and slightly untraditional approach are a way to gain new knowledge. A small idea that might mean a great step towards a better life for present and future deaf children.

International conference addresses multi-disciplinary help

Over 280 delegates have attended a national symposium on multi-agency working. It addressed how voluntary organisations and members of the medical and education sectors can work better together to help young deaf children. Organised by The Ear Foundation, and funded by the Department of Education and Skills through the Early Support Pilot Programme, the event, 'Making multi-agency work happen', was addressed by teachers and doctors, parents, psychiatrists and representatives of the National Deaf Children's Society.

The Ear Foundation's chief executive, Brian Archbold, says the conference explored the views parents of deaf children have on the value of team work. "We were able to look at examples of good practice where help has come seamlessly from those surgeons, teachers of the deaf, audiologists, speech therapists, psychiatrists and volunteers involved."



Conference chairman John Ford, programme director of the Early Support Pilot Programme which develops services for disabled children and their families says, "Effective multi-agency working is an aspiration that's easily said, but takes committed time to deliver. This conference has highlighted examples of good practice and shown it can be done."

Cochlear implant surgeon, Gerry O'Donoghue from Nottingham, illustrated the dilemmas some medical specialists feel in functioning as part of a multi-professional team. He emphasised the need to cross professional boundaries saying: "Our training and experience tends to emphasise independent and decisive thinking. The need to become more participative and involve patients in their own care is at the root of modern NHS thinking."

John Atkins, an education consultant and

parent of a deaf child, brought to life the unsatisfactory nature of many multi-agency meetings. "Parents find these confusing and the sheer numbers of professionals they have to deal with is unsatisfactory," he said. "Parents should see fewer professionals, and not more, in true multi-agency working".

This theme was developed by Dominic Byrne who wondered, as a parent, does service provision in this area actually fit the

bill? "The conclusion is 'no'", he said. "There should be three crucial criteria; those of choice, speed and goals."

Tim Hardie brought his experiences as a forensic psychiatrist to illustrate the potentially devastating consequences of poorly functioning multi-disciplinary working.

Concluding the morning's review, Gwen Carr, director of UK services for the National Deaf Children's Society, looked at the power base in working relationships and how to shift the balance so that parents can be true partners for their children.

"It may seem an odd choice; but we also invited Humphrey Walters, the round-the-world yachtsman," says The Ear Foundation's Brian Archbold. "His understanding of the benefits of team working made very interesting listening." Wendy McCracken of Manchester



University used a boating analogy to illustrate the roles of different agencies and highlighted children with complex needs. "Many individual specialists may be brought together for such a child, but they may not know each other or understand each other's perspectives," she said. "These children may have the greatest need for multi-agency working and yet, they may experience it the least," she said.

Ways of making multi-agency working happen within his service was the theme of Andrew Broughton, head of sensory inclusion in Telford and Wrekin. His emphasis on detailed, agreed, operational criteria and audit mechanisms highlighted their importance. "These are common in industry, but not when dealing with those most in need - children with disabilities," he said.

In raising the question of professional responsibility, Sue Archbold of the Nottingham Cochlear Implant Programme pointed out that not all parents wish to be partners in decision-making. She addressed the questions of how evidence is collated, by whom, whether it is written or oral, and how disagreements are managed. "Ultimately, decisions must be made and owned," she said, "particularly in this current litigious society."

Trevor Hughes presented learning styles in a vivid demonstration of the different ways of thinking, leaving the audience arguing whether they are 'left brainers', 'right brainers' or as afternoon chairman, Gerry O'Donoghue put it; 'no brainers'! In his closing message, the chairman concluded that all multi-agency working is challenging. "It should, however, be a positive experience, learning from each other and by taking a 'can do' approach, we can make it happen," he said.

NEW BOOK AND VIDEO

The Ear Foundation would like to thank John Ford and his team from the Early Support Pilot Programme at the Department for Education and Skills (DfES) who have generously supported not only the above conference, but also the production of three further projects to provide independent information for parents of deaf children:

> Frequently Asked Questions page about cochlear implants on The Ear Foundation's website www.earfoundation.org.uk

> Video and handbook to give information to parents of deaf children under three who may wish to consider a cochlear implant for their child

> Booklet to give information to parents of deaf children under three whose child has already had a cochlear implant. This booklet gives parents and ideas about working with their child



The video and the booklet were launched at the conference, and all delegates received a copy of each. The Ear Foundation is currently sending out copies of these materials to every school for the deaf, hearing-impaired unit and Head of Service in the UK.

THANKS TO DONORS

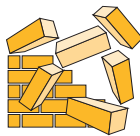
Many thanks to all those who have made donations over the last few months. We have had some very generous donations since our last Newsletter, so our grateful thanks to all, including:

Donations

Armourers & Brasiers' Gauntlet Trust
Bergne-Coupland Charity
Chamberlain Foundation
Chersoft Limited
J Cooling
D V Coombes
Destiny of a Child
Emmandjay Trust
Thomas Farr Charity
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A N L Freeman-Cowen
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Hospital Saving Association
The Charles Littlewood Hill Trust
Lloyds TSB, Loughborough Group
Mary Robertson Trust
Monkhouse Primary School
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Richard Desmond Charitable Trust
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Rotary Club of Shepshed Charnwood
S E Scoufarides & S Georgiou
Sir John Sumner's Trust
Stella Symons Charitable Trust
The Archie Sherman Charitable Trust
Thomas Sivewright Catto Charitable Settlement
Variety Club
Weinstock Fund
Windmill Hill Lodge

BUY A BRICK

Jean & Gordon Calvert
In memory of
Christopher Joscelyne
In memory of
John Latchford



Collecting Boxes

Margaret Bowater
Co-op Taunton
Short Health Dental Surgery

FUND-RAISING

We are most grateful to all those who have supported us by either holding their own fund-raising events or by attending those arranged by The Ear Foundation team.

Christmas Ball

Another excellent evening, with music from Montysmusic Special Guest Band. They gave us a great evening of different types of music, which encouraged most people to the dance floor. Vocal/guitar player John Montague was joined by Nigel Upton (Drums), top bass player Alan Hankinson who has toured and performed around the world with many well-known bands. On lead guitar was guitar wizard Peter Turnpenney.

We are really grateful to our main sponsors, The Archie Sherman Charitable Trust, who sponsored the Ball and continued the tradition of our late President, Marjorie Sherman.

Thanks also to Richard Brook and Rory Kehoe who came along and sponsored the Band; to Sarah Evans who joined us once more and sponsored the Bucks Fizz reception; and to MED-EL UK for sponsoring the Raffle. Overall, we made a profit of some £6,200. So many thanks to all who came along! For some people, it was their first time at the Ball, and for others, they have been coming since the very first one we organised.

Which leads me neatly into this year's Ball. As always, it is the first Friday in December – the 3rd December, so put it in your diary now!

BUY AT THE EAR FOUNDATION – our new web shop on-line!

Every purchase made in the web shop earns as much as 10% commission for The Ear Foundation.

You can shop at a wide range of reliable, brand-name retailers, including Marks and Spencer, Comet, CD-Wow, Co-op, SuperBreak, TravelSelect and Blackwell's, with all the great prices and convenience of the web knowing that every purchase helps our work.

You can also purchase items from the companies below, plus many more:



To visit our webshop visit our website www.earfoundation.org.uk and click on the on-line shop, or go direct to <http://buy.at/earfoundation>

All purchases must start from this page to earn a commission donation.

If you are not planning to buy anything at the moment please bookmark the above website for when you next need to purchase something online! Please remember, as the process is anonymous if you would like for us to know you have used the web shop please email us at emma@earfoundation.org.uk

CAN YOU HELP?

If you would like more information or to make a donation, contact us on 0115 942 1985

The Ear Foundation

Marjorie Sherman House
83 Sherwin Road
Lenton
Nottingham
NG7 2FB
Tel: 0115 942 1985
(Voice and text)
Fax: 0115 924 9054
e-mail:
ear@earfoundation.org.uk
website:
www.earfoundation.org.uk

Trustees:

Prof B. McCormick, OBE, PhD, BSc

Mrs S. M. Archbold, M.Phil

Mrs A. P. Kemp

Mr M. R. French, BA, PGCE

Mr R. J. Pannell JP FRICS

Mr K. P. Gibbin FRCS

Mr G. Parkinson LLB

Mr P. Vinden, BSc (Hons), FRICS, MCIQB, MCI Arb, MAICA

Hon. Treasurer, Chief Executive & Company Secretary:

Mr B. Archbold, FCIB, AFA, MCMI

Family Education Co-ordinators: Mrs Suzanne Harrigan

Mrs Clare Allen

Administrator: Miss Emma Coombes

Secretary: Mrs Janet Thomas

Assistant Housekeeper: Miss Emma Church

Vice President

Prof G. M. O'Donoghue, MCh, FRCS

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The Rt. Rev. Malcolm McMahon, OP Bishop of Nottingham

Mrs Rosalyn Springer

Fund-Raiser

Mrs D. M. Sutcliffe, 8 Baileys Gate,
Cotford St. Luke, Taunton, Somerset. TA4 1JE
Tel: 01823 430105
e-mail: dalesut@aol.com

Gift Aid Secretary

Mr M. R. French, BA, PGCE
11 Wearside Drive, The Sands,
Durham City DH1 1LE
Tel: 0191 386 1112

Accountants:

Charnwood House,
Gregory Boulevard,
Nottingham NG7 6NX

Bankers:

Lloyds TSB Bank plc
43 Irongate,
Derby DE1 3FT