

EAR FOUNDATION NEWS

Issue Number 27

Summer 2005



FRANCES AND THANE MEET TONY BLAIR

In November, Frances Martin and Thane Garton and their parents were fortunate enough to be invited to the BBC and to 10 Downing Street to meet Tony Blair.

It was Children in Need day, and they cut the Pudsey Bear cake, and had an amazing day both at Downing Street and at the BBC, meeting some of the stars of the day, and being interviewed. As their parents said, it was a day to remember for the rest of their lives! The BBC had already filmed at The Ear Foundation, as Children in Need have funded some of our work – they filmed Frances, Thane and Qais Khan and his brother Isa and parents. The Khan family were in Pakistan on Children in Need day so missed out on the exciting visit.



Tony Blair cutting the cake

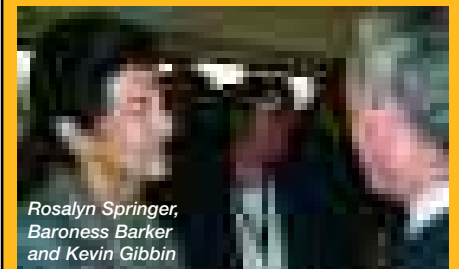


Sally Deighan with Thane Garton

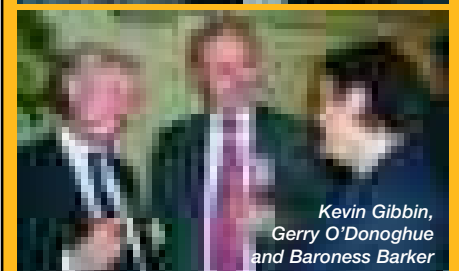
Unfortunately, the film made of The Ear Foundation's work was not shown on Children in Need night – cochlear implants in children were considered too controversial to show. Children in Need Chief Executive, Sally Deighan, was very supportive and visited The Ear Foundation to talk to the children herself. We are hoping that a piece about The Ear Foundation's work will be shown this year, and many thanks to all who wrote to the BBC supporting us.

HOUSE OF COMMONS RECEPTION

Baroness Barker welcomed delegates to the Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children in Europe conference to the House of Commons in May; delegates from 22 European countries enjoyed a reception on the terrace of the Commons, overlooking the Thames, and listened to Baroness Barker's thoughtful welcome, showing her understanding of the issues of deafness.



Rosalyn Springer,
Baroness Barker
and Kevin Gibbin



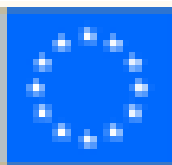
Kevin Gibbin,
Gerry O'Donoghue
and Baroness Barker

CONFERENCE ON DEAF CHILDREN PAVES THE WAY FOR EUROPEAN COLLABORATION

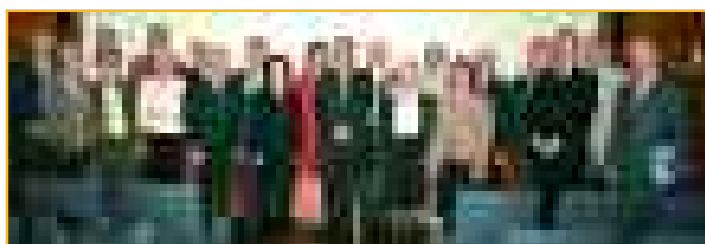
Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children Europe 2005

London · 13-14 May 2005

www.dhice.org



Central London was the venue for a ground-breaking conference about childhood deafness. Delegates from 22 countries in Europe met to promote working across professional, geographical and political boundaries for deaf children and their families. As a result of the conference, a network of nearly 70 organisations has been established which can now move forward together and ensure better service provision for all deaf and hard of hearing children across the whole of Europe.



Speakers at the DHICE conference

The conference, organised by The Ear Foundation, The National Deaf Children's Society, and RNID, attracted over 200 delegates from throughout Europe and from parent and professional organisations. Lord Ashley of Stoke opened the conference, which provided a unique opportunity to discuss common issues, and delegates used the time to share experiences and plan future collaborative work.

Dr Vladimir Spidla, the European Commissioner responsible for disability issues, delivered a keynote speech on the needs of deaf children and of the opportunities afforded at a European level to develop services on their behalf.

Parents of deaf and hard of hearing children spoke of the needs and frustrations of families who have to become advocates for their children, and of the



Dr John Low (RNID), Dr Vladimir Spidla (European Commissioner) and Prof Gerard O'Donoghue (The Ear Foundation)

difficulties of obtaining cohesive services, following early identification of deafness, which is now a realistic possibility in many parts of Europe.

A highlight of the meeting was a DVD of 13 young deaf people from throughout Europe, telling us of their hopes, their challenges, and giving advice to parents and professionals alike. The young people were from a range of backgrounds – a common theme was that professionals should listen to them and their parents!

Through the good offices of Lord Ashley of Stoke CH PC, all the speakers and delegates were invited to a Reception on the Terrace at the House of Commons – a most convivial setting, where everyone enjoyed wine, canapés and networking with participants from various countries. We received a warm welcome from Baroness Barker.

The concluding message of the conference was that there are huge opportunities for networking across Europe for families of deaf children and those working with them.

EURO-CIU

The European Association of Cochlear Implant Users (EURO-CIU) was founded 1995 in Luxembourg. The association represents on a European level the interests of deaf or hearing impaired people, who have regained hearing perceptions through a Cochlear Implant device.

This year's EURO-CIU General Assembly and Bi-annual Symposium was held in Antalya (Turkey) where Brian represented The Ear Foundation. It was resolved



that next year's General Assembly will be held in Barcelona, hosted by AICE, and the General Assembly and Symposium in 2007 will be held

in Nottingham, hosted and organised by The Ear Foundation. We will need some help nearer the time!

OUR CONTINUING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The education programme at The Ear Foundation is growing rapidly, with over 800 people booked on courses in the first few months of this year. An exciting area of growth has been the courses for Learning Support Assistants (LSAs) – who have different names in different parts of the country! However, the issues are the same: Learning Support Assistants are often the key people in a child's life at school, and they are often appointed at the last minute, without any training in deafness, or in the management of a cochlear implant.

The Ear Foundation now provides a range of courses for LSAs: introduction to deafness, to cochlear implantation, trouble-shooting implant systems, and how to support the use of the cochlear implant in the classroom. They have proved very popular with this group; however, another problem is that there is often no training budget for LSAs and, while costs are kept as low as possible, we have known LSAs or parents of children to have to pay for themselves. We are now in the process of looking at accreditation for these courses, so that LSAs will receive recognition of the training they have received.

The Education programme is developing not only in the UK but also overseas, with requests for us to take our training courses for teachers, speech and language therapists and all those involved in supporting the children in daily life to other countries. Our materials are currently being translated into Spanish – and are going to be delivered in several European countries, and into South Africa.

Recently visitors from Belgrade attended our Advanced Course on Cochlear Implants, and Sue is visiting Belgrade to train teachers and local professionals in the support of children with cochlear implants. The visit to our Advanced Course was funded by the British Council and Sue's meeting in Belgrade is hosted by the Council – with modern technology we will be able to continue to support the new programme in Belgrade via video conferencing from Nottingham to Belgrade.

Details of our new courses brochure can be found on our website – with exciting new courses available for all.



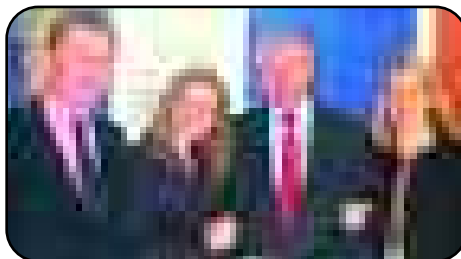
Sue Archbold, Education Co-ordinator at the British Council in Belgrade

TWILIGHT LECTURE AMY McCONKEY ROBBINS

It's always a pleasure to welcome Amy back to The Ear Foundation, and we thank Advanced Bionics for sponsoring her lecture tour in the UK.

On this occasion, she presented average performance benchmarks that have been gathered from implanted children of various ages and characteristics. Using these benchmarks, clinicians may monitor progress and identify red flags in children whose progress is slower than expected. An approach to deal with these red flags was described, along with specific teaching techniques to accelerate progress.

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



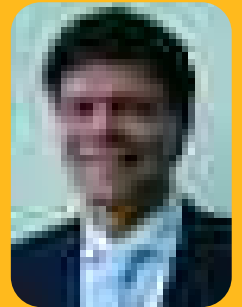
Mike Sundler, Amy McConkey Robbins, Brian Archbold and Sarah Evans

school districts on the management of hearing-impaired children, and consults to cochlear implant centres and manufacturers.

The Ear Foundation is planning collaborative work between Sue Archbold and Amy Robbins, so we look forward to see Amy again, before too long.

CHANGES AT ADVANCED BIONICS

As part of the company's ongoing plan to strengthen its presence in Europe, Advanced Bionics has appointed Mr Tiziano Caldera to the position of Area Manager



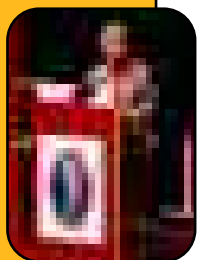
UK and Ireland. With a technical degree from an Italian university and an MBA from a UK university, Tiziano brings a wealth of technological and sales and marketing experience to the company, much of it gained from the medical lasers business, some of it from the ENT speciality.

Vice-President and Managing Director Mike Sundler paid tribute to Tiziano's predecessor, Sarah Evans, for the success she achieved in her 9 years of service for Advanced Bionics in the UK and wished her well in her new venture together with her family in Sydney. The Ear Foundation will miss Sarah, as she has been a strong supporter over the years, particularly in supporting the series of Twilight Lectures which she regularly attended.

WORKING OVERSEAS

Over the last few years, we have been receiving more and more requests to work in different countries. We have developed very strong links in Spain – both with the charity AICE and with the University of Navarra which is currently translating some of our materials into Spanish.

Here is a photo of Sue speaking at a conference in Pamplona, in the University Clinic of Navarra, VIII the Course of I.C. We are grateful to Georgina Zamora for taking this photo and sending it to us. Georgina's parents from AICE meet with Brian at meetings of EURO-CIU.



One-Day Conference – Cochlear implants for deaf infants under 12 months of age

Parents of babies born severely or profoundly deaf may no longer have to wait a year before considering an operation to enable their baby to hear. Advances in technology have given surgeons in the UK the means to offer cochlear implants, where appropriate, to children as young as six months.

The implications formed a key focus at a meeting of cochlear implant interest groups and medical specialists from around the world at the East Midlands Conference Centre on the campus of the University of Nottingham on Friday 4 March 2005.

Newborn hearing screening, which tests for deafness, is becoming available to all UK new-born babies. If the baby is found to be deaf, a new set of choices becomes available to parents and new responsibilities fall on the caring professionals.

The conference, organised by The Ear Foundation, explored the issues of assessment, management and likely outcomes and addressed how best to help parents through what might be a very difficult time.

One child diagnosed with deafness shortly after birth was Toby Clifton. His mother, Christina, addressed the conference to explain, from the parent's point of view, why she and

her husband decided that Toby should be implanted as early as possible. She explained that her elder son, Jack, who was also born deaf, received an implant at five. "We were so delighted with the changes made to Jack's life and the progress he made that we had no doubts about going ahead with an implant for Toby as soon as possible," she says. "Now, a year on, Toby amazes us every day. He's made extraordinary progress and what he says is so clear."

Professor Gerry O'Donoghue, a member of the cochlear implant team at Nottingham's QMC and conference chairman, says he is looking forward to the benefits early screening will continue to bring. "We hope that by sharing our experiences in early implantation, this landmark meeting will enable us to help more like Toby and ensure parents can make informed choices."



Back Row: Sue Archbold (education co-ordinator, The Ear Foundation), Dr Steve Mason (Dept of Medical Physics, QMC, Nottingham), Dr Paul Govaerts (the ear group, Belgium), Prof Adrian Davis (director, newborn hearing screening programme), Dr Leo De Raeve (KIDS-Hasselt-Belgium), Prof Gerry O'Donoghue (QMC, Nottingham), Prof Vittorio Colletti (ENT dept, University of Verona, Italy)

Front Row: Dr Margaret Tait (researcher, The Ear Foundation), Dr Kaukab Rajput (Great Ormond Street Hospital cochlear implant programme, London) Dr Sally E Hind, (Institute of Hearing Research, Nottingham), Prof Margaret Harris (Royal Holloway College, University of London), Dr Eulalia Juan, (Hospital Son Llatzer, Palma de Mallorca, Spain).

TWILIGHT LECTURE DR KAUKAB RAJPUT

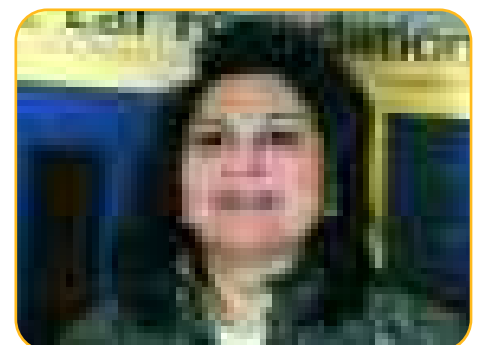
We were delighted to welcome Dr Kaukab Rajput, FRCS, MSc, Consultant Audiological Physician and Coordinator of Great Ormond Street Cochlear Implant Programme to give a Twilight Lecture in January. Her subject was "Assessment and outcomes from implantation in relation to aetiology"; and she kept her audience's interest throughout her fascinating talk.

Kaukab is an audiological physician with a wealth of experience with deaf children and the assessment of those

with complex needs for implantation. Apart from her work at Great Ormond Street Cochlear Implant Programme, she is also Hon Senior Lecturer In Audiological Medicine at University College, London. She recently published work on aetiology of hearing loss and factors in language outcomes in implanted children.

Dr Rajput talked of her experiences of working with deaf children and her understanding of the assessment of cochlear implantation in those with complex needs. For some children, who have other difficulties such as physical or learning problems and may

be blind as well as deaf, cochlear implantation can be helpful giving them some useful hearing. Using layperson's terms, she referred to her recently published work on the causes of deafness and about the factors that affect progress following a cochlear implant.



Advanced Seminars

Our annual opportunity for professionals working with children who have cochlear implants was held at a new venue this year – the modern new facilities of the Jubilee Campus at the University of Nottingham.

The three-day Workshop explored issues in both multi- and uni-professional groups; and enabled delegates to be updated on the latest trends and technologies, and to develop new skills. Guest international speakers included Geoff Plant (USA) and Leo De Raeve (Belgium).



TWILIGHT LECTURE

We welcome many eminent speakers to The Ear Foundation to deliver a Twilight Lecture, but sometimes it's good to hear our own team give lectures that they have given elsewhere. In the last edition of Ear Foundation News, we reported that Sue Archbold gave the prestigious Edith Whetnall Lecture at The Royal Society of Medicine in London. So we invited Sue to give her lecture "Has cochlear implantation changed the face of deaf education" to a local audience at Marjorie Sherman House.



World-renowned expert on deaf children and their families in Nottingham

A visit to The Ear Foundation by Professor David Luterman, Professor Emeritus at Emerson College, Boston, and director of Thayer Lindsley Family Centered Nursery for Hearing Impaired Children, was hailed as a resounding success by the many people he met.

The Professor, for many years a leading proponent of the multi-disciplinary approach to the treatment and care of deaf children, met parents, carers, audiologists, speech therapists, and teachers in a series of meetings, lectures and seminars. The highlight for many was his twilight lecture "The deaf child – a forty year perspective". In this, he described his work with the families of deaf children in the era of cochlear implantation, and his concerns that, as the technology moves on, we are not making time for families.

Although an audiologist, he explained his views on the need to

provide support across the professions, at home and in the nursery. He believes in the creation of family-centred multi-agency programmes for parents of newly diagnosed deaf children.

According to Brian Archbold, his work has been an example to many over the years. "Professor Luterman's days with us were very busy," says Brian. "The parents who met him were particularly pleased at his message. One said: "What David said this weekend has really changed my life!"

"The parents' course was based on group discussions on parenting deaf children, and on the impact of deafness on the family. There were plenty of opportunities for discussion," says Brian.

The visit ended with Professor Luterman running a one-day course for those working with families of deaf children, exploring models of



Cathy Spruce of Birmingham with David Luterman

counselling, and family systems.

"As this is an important area for teachers, therapists and audiologists to consider, with increasing involvement with young deaf infants and their families, the course was quickly oversubscribed," says Brian. "And unfortunately, we had to turn away many delegates who would have like to attend."

We look forward to welcoming David Luterman back to The Ear Foundation at the beginning of November.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

by Chairman Richard J Pannell JP FRICS



During the last year, The Ear Foundation has developed its role in supporting deaf children with cochlear implants, their families and their local professionals in many ways.

Our Continuing Education Programme has attracted more delegates, from both the UK and overseas. During 2004, over 1,000 delegates attended over 30 courses at The Ear Foundation. To meet this demand and to develop our work further, the Trustees have appointed Sue Archbold, formerly Co-ordinator of the Nottingham Cochlear Implant Programme, as The Ear Foundation's Education Co-ordinator. Sue's role is to develop both the internal and the external courses.

The demand for courses about cochlear implantation has been such that they are now held at educational centres throughout the UK as well as at The Ear Foundation; and this is now extending worldwide. Twelve courses have been held at different venues in the UK, run by Sue Archbold and Suzanne Harrigan. The Ear Foundation is now providing training at Teacher of the Deaf training courses in the UK.

During 2004, we have been invited to send speakers to major international conferences in Gothenburg, Geneva, Prague, Indianapolis, Denmark, Serbia, Estonia, Israel and Como; and we have also assisted organisations in Sweden, Israel, Spain and Denmark with their training events.

Our annual conference in 2004 was on the subject of Speech Acoustics and, whilst he was with us in Nottingham, Geoff Plant gave the Marjorie Sherman Memorial Lecture, to which we welcomed Rosalind Springer – one of our Patrons and eldest daughter of our late President, Marjorie Sherman.

We have continued our series of Twilight Lectures and we were delighted to welcome Amy McConkey Robbins from USA; and Jim Patrick from Australia, who was one of the original designers of the cochlear implant system. From The Ear Foundation, Sue Archbold gave her lecture on the history of deaf education in the UK, which Sue originally gave as the Edith Whetnall Lecture at the Royal Society of Medicine in London.

Although we have now received the final payment from the Department of Health under the Section 64 scheme, the Trustees were pleased to continue Suzanne Harrigan's secondment to The Ear Foundation for a further period as Family Education Co-ordinator. The results from Suzanne's work are truly outstanding, and she is much in demand to run training events elsewhere – not only in the UK but in Sweden, Belgium and Denmark. She has also carried out some work for NDCS and Cochlear Europe. The Trustees are delighted that Suzanne has now fully recovered from major health problems over the last couple of years, and it is good to see her looking so well.

The website has had a major development this year, and the number of "hits" has increased hugely. Delegates are now able to ascertain details of our training courses by accessing our website, and people can also buy our educational materials. It is also possible to pay for courses and goods on-line. The frequently asked questions page, sponsored by the Early Support Programme (DfES) has been popular.

Our latest training materials include Small Talk DVD and handbook – written by Suzanne Harrigan in conjunction with Clare Sheridan of Cochlear Europe. Sue Archbold led the production of a new book entitled "Paediatric Cochlear Implantation: Evaluating Outcomes", which has now been published by Whurr in April 2005.

Major achievements over the year were the development of closer working relationships with the two major deaf organisations in the UK – RNID and NDCS. We now provide training courses for their staff, run jointly-badged courses and are jointly running a major European conference, "Deaf and Hearing Impaired Children, Europe", to raise the awareness of childhood deafness in Europe.

We have been fortunate to gain three research grants: from NDCS to look at the lives of young deaf people with cochlear implants, and at the communication changes after cochlear implantation; and from the RNID to look at parental perspectives. Margaret Tait continues her research grant from the Hearing Research Trust (Defeating Deafness) on video analysis of babies and very young infants.

On the financial side, it is with regret that I again report a loss. In 2004, The Ear Foundation made a Net Loss of £43,253 (2003: £38,596), but this was after depreciation of £43,695. Consequently, in cash terms, we have broken even. The higher level of activity is emphasised in the figures, as the annual Turnover has increased from ££372,753 in 2003 to £430,819 in 2004. Increases were seen in both Donations and in the income from Courses, Workshops and Educational Events.

Dale Sutcliffe changed her role slightly, and she had a very successful year in researching and then contacting charitable trusts for donations and grants. Meanwhile, Brian

Archbold, Emma Coombes, Janet Thomas and Emma C h u r c h concentrated on local fundraising events – such as the Christmas Ball, Sponsored Swim & B a r b e c u e , Sponsored Walk, Golf Day, Quiz Night and the Nottingham Riverside Festival. These were not only profitable, but increased our profile.

Emma Coombes was also successful in attracting volunteers to assist us – ranging from clerical work, gardening and helping in the crèche. Emma was also instrumental in arranging for the Prince's Trust to improve the garden behind Marjorie Sherman House. This is now being enjoyed by the many children who now use our premises.

Our activities with children and young people have also grown. The Summer Schools were again popular, and we are most grateful in particular to the staff from the Nottingham Cochlear Implant Programme who gave up their time (and many evenings) to run these activities. Liz Beadle and a number of her colleagues have developed the young people's group, Teenz United, and they have enjoyed a number of residential and non-residential events over the year. I was particularly pleased that Liz Beadle and David Hartley took a group of young people to an Outward Bound centre, sponsored by the Rotary Club of Mapperley – this did a great deal to enhance the confidence and self-esteem of the teenagers who attended.

Although we had fewer families at Center Parcs this year, it was again a successful event and was much appreciated by both the parents and the children/young people. Once more, we had people travelling from all over the British Isles to Sherwood Forest – from Scotland to Cornwall and from the Isle of Man to Guernsey.

Our collaboration with the Sensory and Speech & Language Therapy Services in both Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire has continued, and we are pleased to support three groups who meet in Marjorie Sherman House at The Ear Foundation – Early Days (for those whose child has recently been diagnosed as deaf), Busy Hands (Sign Language) and Let's Listen (to encourage oral communication).

Looking to the future, we have now received Planning Permission and Listed Building Approval for an extension to Marjorie Sherman House – so the fundraising has begun! The new Family Centre will help us to develop this important work with children and their families. Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to thank Brian Archbold and his team, without whom we could not have achieved all we have done. We are also grateful to all our sponsors, those who have supported us by donations and the many people who have attended our courses, conferences and workshops.



CICS MIDLANDS CHRISTMAS PARTY

by Carmen Burton

Back in December last year a group of very excited fairies, elves, snowmen, clowns, witches, wizards, soldiers, cowgirls, even Buzz Lightyear and a surgeon descended on The Ear Foundation for our annual CICS Midlands Christmas Party.

Once again this was very well attended with families coming from all over the Midlands and from as far away as Manchester! It was lovely to see “old” friends again and also to welcome and meet some of our newer families for the first time; it was especially nice to meet Philip Abrahams and his mum, as in 2003 he was very ill and couldn’t make our party and again, just before our party last year, he was poorly again, so it was great that they were able to come.

The afternoon kicked off in Marjorie Sherman House with the fancy dress parade and competition, all the children had

a turn at strutting their stuff in their costumes whilst the mums and dads voted for the best boy and girl. It was a closely fought contest this year with a record number of entries. Our congratulations to the “purple witch” Hanna Newsome Boardman and to Thomas Bates for his snowman costume. This is the 4th or 5th time that Thomas has won so well done to him for his great imagination and brilliant ideas, and also to mum Jane for her creative skills – I look forward to seeing what they come up with this year!

To get us all in the party mood, we played a few rounds of musical bumps and statues, then Conga’d our way over to the other building to continue the fun!

Everyone enjoyed “Discotainment” – a mixture of music,



Its fun to stay at the YMCA

madness and mayhem, the bubbles, snow and smoke machines being firm favourites, whilst the younger ones were mesmerised by the disco lights!

It was great to see the children joining in with all the party dances and following the moves – most ably led by Dain Sharratt’s mum Tracey; many thanks to Tracey and I hope your back wasn’t too bad! The DJ gave prizes for the best groovers and to finish off, the mums and dads joined in a stunning version of the YMCA!

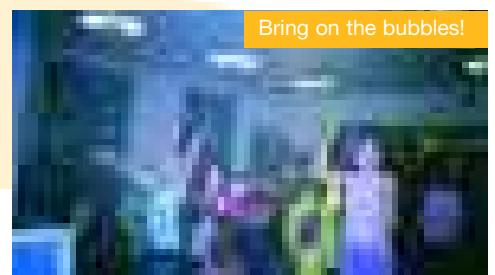
After working up an appetite with all dancing the party tea was soon polished off. Many thanks to Jay Betchley who helped me to prepare all the food and set up the rooms before hand and also to the mums who kept the food and drinks flowing and helped with the tidying up.

To finish the afternoon, after safely parking his reindeer on nearby Wollaton Park, Santa arrived with a sack bulging with presents for everyone, then it was time to go home, the smiling faces of the children said it all – a great afternoon was had by all!

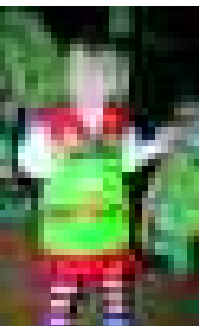
CICS would like to thank The Ear Foundation for again letting us use their premises and facilities.

Future CICS Midlands events include a “Create and Make” Afternoon in April at The Ear Foundation – arts and crafts including decoupage, paper planes, fridge magnets and more. We also have a trip to the theatre in Nottingham to see Krazy Kats production of Jack and the Beanstalk (SSE and voice) in June.

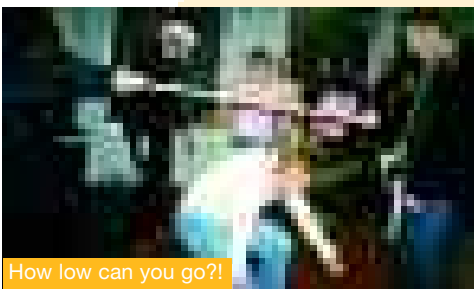
For more information on these events please contact Carmen.



Bring on the bubbles!



It was lovely to meet Philip and his mum!



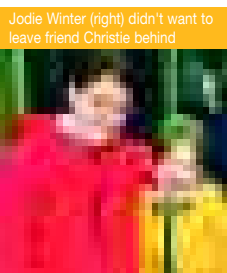
How low can you go?!



Everybody Conga!

By Tricia Kemp

"But I thought you packed them..."

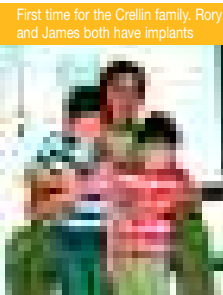


Jodie Winter (right) didn't want to leave friend Christie behind



Robert Jones is a regular but its the first time for Maia and Jenny

The CICS weekends at Dukes Barn in the Peak District have been running for many years now, and there are several families who attend on a regular basis. However, whether they are experienced "Barners" or first-time "Barners" they can still start off with a good deal in common. Last September one family from each of these groups started off with something rather unusual in common. The Jones family arrived with no clothes for one of their sons, and Erica Pavord arrived with no clothes for her daughter Maia. Both families had to rush off and buy a few essentials. The

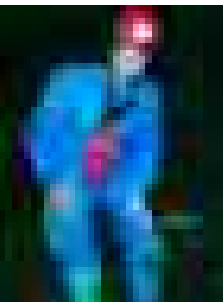


First time for the Crellin family. Rory and James both have implants

children, of course, were quite happy as they got some new clothes and the parents well, the least said the better! However, both families soon got into the swing of the weekend and, as usual, the whole group had a great time.

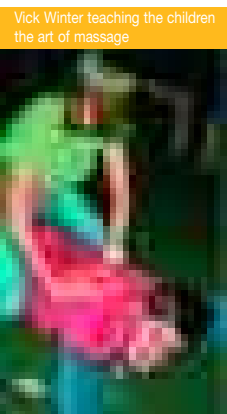
When Vicky Winter collected Jodie from her boarding school to bring her to Dukes Barn she found that Jodie wanted her friend Christie to come along. Luckily we could just squeeze her in as we were completely booked up this time.

Abseiling, caving, streamwalking and canoeing were on the agenda and although it took some time to sort out who would do what, everything worked out well and a great time was had by all.



Michelle Crellin - caving for the first time

The children really enjoy these opportunities to try new activities and to spend a little time with other implantees, and the parents especially enjoy putting the world (or at least the LEAs) to rights over several bottles of wine on the Saturday evening. As excitement and tiredness for the children loomed after dinner on Saturday, Vicky helped to calm them down by showing them how to do a relaxing massage.



Vick Winter teaching the children the art of massage

As the weekend was fully booked, Carmen Burton, the CICS Midlands Co-ordinator was only able to join in for the day on

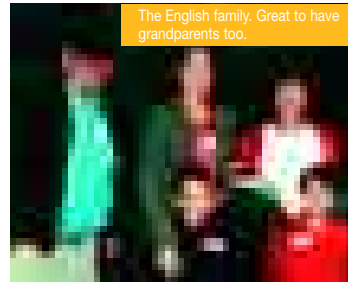
Sunday with her daughter, Natalie, who was delighted to meet up with a group of girls of her own age and left saying she wanted to come for the whole weekend next time.



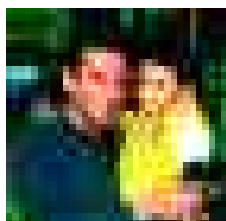
The Balazs and Loynes family regularly meet on CICS weekends

Never mind the weather ...

Even though our events at Thames Valley Adventure Playground are always in March and October, we have always been lucky with the weather; well, that was until October, 2004. Cold and wet is the best description I can come up with. Usually the children charge around outside trying a huge range of equipment: bikes, swings, a huge sandpit and even an old coach are available. However, the



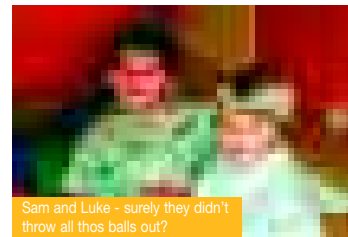
The English family. Great to have grandparents too.



Omar Hayat and his son Esah undergoing assessment and since implanted

rain sent them rushing in to try out the range of arts and crafts activities and soft play equipment on which they had just as much fun. It was a great relief to have all this available; that is until it was time to go home. I

never realised exactly how many balls there are in a ball pond and how far they could be thrown. A team of four adults took nearly an hour clearing up. However, it had been a great afternoon. For several families it was their first time at TVAP and even with the miserable weather they all left wanting to come again. It was particularly nice to have some grandparents who came along to watch the fun, and they must have enjoyed it too because they came to the October event as well!



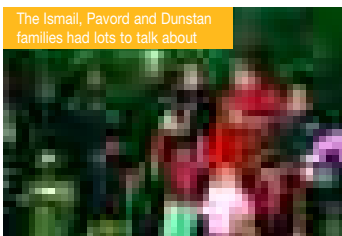
Sam and Luke - surely they didn't throw all those balls out?

We are constantly looking for new venues for CICS social events so if you have any ideas for a venue, or would like to help in any way, or would like information about any aspect of the CICS Group contact one of the Co-ordinators:

Tricia Kemp	Carmen Burton	Deborah Faithfull
Southern Region	Midlands Region	Northern Region
020 8876 8605	01332 365528	01904 744639

Mothers' Day

will you be pampered and treated like a Queen? Well not exactly...a record number of families joined us for an afternoon of fun at TVAP



The Ismail, Pavord and Dunstan families had lots to talk about

When it was pointed out to me that this event clashed with Mothers' Day I thought I better phone everyone who had responded to make sure they really wanted to come. I rather

expected to have to cancel the event but, to my surprise, only one family backed out and we actually had the largest turnout we have ever had there!

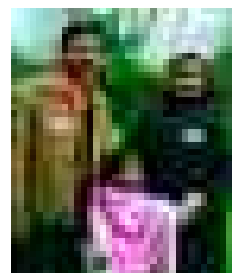
At least the weather was dry, but it was bitterly cold (never satisfied are we?). There was huge demand for hot tea and coffee expertly prepared and served by Ann McNaughton and Alex



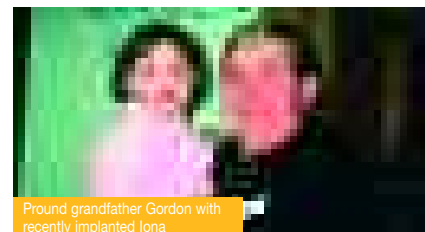
Parents do have their uses, "push me please"

Kemp. We provide most of the food and drinks but are always happy to receive "extras". Everyone did us proud this time and it really was an excellent spread including some delicious home-made samosas which disappeared very quickly!

Two families whose children are undergoing assessment for an implant came along and were matched up with families with similar aged children and circumstances. They both found it a really useful and informative experience. It is really satisfying to see how this "rolling programme" works within CICS. Last year's family undergoing the stresses of assessment and eager for support were this year's "old hands" able to offer great reassurance to those just starting assessment. You can't beat first-hand experience!



The Srianjan family had a very long journey to attend their first CICS meeting



Proud grandfather Gordon with recently implanted Iona

CICS kids storm into Kitz

We were delighted that a total of twenty-four children with cochlear implants and their families were able to take part in a new venture for CICS last winter. They went on the two ski holidays organised by Dominic Byrne on behalf of CICS. CICS organised some funding to enable the provision of a higher than usual instructor and helper ratio per skier to give the implanted children the benefit of being in small instruction groups.

Dominic looks back on this winter's trips...

"There's absolutely nothing you cannot do. Everything is possible." When one of the teachers from the Kitzbuhel Red Devils Ski School in Austria said these words to an eleven year-old boy with a cochlear implant on a recent CICS ski holiday, it gave him such a boost that he proudly relayed it on to his parents in the evening. They told me what an inspiring contrast it was to some of the messages they were used to hearing from his teachers at school back home.

Another parent told me how much it meant to her when one of the ski instructors in another CICS trip to La Tania in France said to her: "teaching these children is no different from any other children." A few days after returning from Austria, I received a letter from one dad which said: "it was a fantastic holiday in many ways, not least of which is our daughter has now declared that she loves her implant. That's a first in our household! It's amazing what peer pressure can achieve."

A boost to self-esteem. A chance to make new friends. An opportunity to learn a new sport. Enormous fun. These were some of the reasons why I thought a skiing holiday would appeal to families in the CICS network. As it turned out, both holidays proved hugely popular and successful. Parents valued the chance to meet other families in an informal setting, chatting about their family's experiences or simply relaxing and

enjoying a good holiday. Most important, we were able to organise ski school in a way that met the communication needs of the cochlear-implemented children. The children were taught in small groups to keep communication difficulties to a minimum and families came away delighted with both the ski schools – Supreme Ski School in La Tania and the Red Devils in Kitzbuhel.

Next year I am organising two further CICS group ski holidays, details of which were circulated in the CICS Spring mailing. The first, to Ellmau in Austria in January has already booked out and the second, to Alpe d'Huez in France in the week before Easter 2006, is filling fast. So, once again, look out for the CICS kids taking the Alps by storm.

Contact: Dominic Byrne 01623 882577; dominic.byrne@btinternet.com

Dominic made a fantastic job of all the arrangements, and the CICS Trustees and the skiers are extremely grateful to him for all his hard work, and we are delighted that he has not been backward in coming forward to take on the arrangements for next year!



THE UNIVERSITY EXPERIENCE

The following two articles have been reproduced from the latest CICS Newsletter, Bits & Pieces, with grateful thanks to Tricia Kemp.

And now to a young man who has been through the school system and is now studying Design Technology for Industry at Manchester Metropolitan University. Michael Batt (implanted at the age of 3 years 7 months following Meningococcal Meningitis at the age of 2 years 6 months writes about:

Hello everyone. I'm Michael Batt and I have just finished my first term at University. It was very hard to pick which University I wanted to go to. We had to read the course structures thoroughly and decide which one was the most interesting. Along with that we checked out the support in place for deaf people such as note takers, etc, and accommodation style and cost.

We had to apply for the Disabled Student Allowance (DSA) from the local education department – see website address with further information below*. The DSA proved to be very good as they provided a computer to assist me in my design modules and reports, a note taker in all of my lectures along with various allowances like photo copying, books, ink and paper. The first day was nerve wracking; it was a new place and new people! However, I liked the fact that I was going to have my

own room! I couldn't wait to hang my posters, fill my drawers and get the TV going! I found that the best way to make friends was to leave my door wide open which meant that lots of students popped their heads in. It is nice to be able to offer a coffee or, if it's late, a beer and I suddenly had a nice bunch of people willing to chat to me! We regularly go out to the union bar and, on a Monday, a coach takes students to Hanley town which has a cinema and is full of clubs. When I have no pennies left it's a night in front of the TV!

The course is just perfect for me; each day is based around a different module so I hardly get bored – it keeps me focused. It feels that the first term has flown by and I'm nearing the end of my second term already! The note taker was there in my first lesson and he also acts as a support worker, so when I need to know something he quite often finds out for me. My lectures go smoothly when he's there and if I don't understand the lecture fully I just simply read up the notes.

I am glad I have done University and I wouldn't turn the clock back at all! But my advice is to check out everything at the University such as... support, accommodation, the town, things to do, course facilities, etc.

If you want to know anything about University please email me at: mikebatt123@msn.com and please make the subject line clear!



*DSA info: http://www.dfes.gov.uk/studentsupport/students/stu_students_with_d.shtml

It's great to hear that Michael is enjoying "Uni" so much, and that the support is working out well for him. Knowing Michael's parents, Richard and Marion, we're quite sure they will have been instrumental in making sure that everything was going to be in place for him! From The Ear Foundation side, it was good to have Mike's help with the Summer Schools last year.

AT COLLEGE AND LOVING IT!

Now we hear from another "older" implantee, Joanne Selby, who has also helped us at The Ear Foundation:

Hi; let me introduce myself: My name is Jo Selby and I'm just 17. I was born profoundly deaf into a hearing family; I have one sister called Hannah and she is 22; I also have one brother called Dan, he's 19 and they are both hearing. When I was little my Mum and Dad went to learn sign language, but when my Mum was signing to me I didn't like it if her voice was off. Mum says I would tell her off for not using a voice and Dad off for signing wrong. All my family learnt a little bit of sign: Aunties, Uncles, Grandparents and cousins. I liked voice and sign at the same time.

I went to mainstream schools: that was Aldercar Nursery & Infant, Langley Mill Juniors and then Woodlands Community School. I'd always worn hearing aids, but when I was at Langley Mill, at about the age of 9, my hearing got worse and worse. I felt really annoyed and trapped. My Mum

and Dad tried everything they could, and eventually my Mum phoned the Cochlear Implant Centre, and asked for some information, because my family knew another family whose daughter had an implant, and I knew how much that had improved her life.

So after me and my parents thought about it, we decided to opt for it; anything to get me out of my misery, because then I felt no one was understanding my voice and I had to rely on signing more. We went through so many different tests and appointments, revving up on the A52, back and forth.

Eventually in the May of the year I left Junior School I was implanted. After the switch-on, it was like I was entering a new world, it was strange. The first day I was terrified walking through Nottingham with the traffic but then I heard people walking, crisps making a sound, rain on cars, birds singing, and was on a high after that. I didn't think it would change my life, but it has in so many different ways. My lifestyle

has changed over the years my hearing skills have improved. I now don't want my Mum to follow me around; I can go alone or out with my friends and meet new people. I am a lot more confident and independent and I have deaf and hearing friends.

Now I'm at college (South East Derbyshire) doing Cache Certificate Level 2 in Childcare. It's really brilliant and I've made lots of new friends. I decided to go into work placement without my signer from college, because that is what it will be like when I leave, and I want to be prepared and not frightened to have a go. I'm hoping next year to do the Diploma and become a Nursery Nurse or Classroom Assistant, after I've learnt to drive. By the time you read this, I'll be reading the Highway Code!

It's so reassuring for parents of younger children to hear from implanted teenagers like Joanne that she feels her implant has helped her to be more confident and independent.

CENTER PARCS FAMILY WEEKEND

We are pleased to announce that this year's Family Weekend at Center Parcs will take place 18/21 November – so do make a note in your diaries!

We have reserved 30 villas this year and if anyone is interested, please speak to either Janet or Emma who can send you a booking form. The price is £345 which is a concessionary rate and offers self-catering facilities for 6 people in a 3-bedroom villa for the 4 days (3 nights).

As usual, we are holding a conference for parents and will provide a crèche for the children – places are limited, so early booking is recommended. A contribution of £5 per adult and £3 per child towards the conference, crèche, entertainment and catering costs is also payable, to reimburse some of the costs.

Cochlear Europe has again agreed to sponsor this weekend, which has enabled us to hold the costs at this level. We look forward to seeing you there!



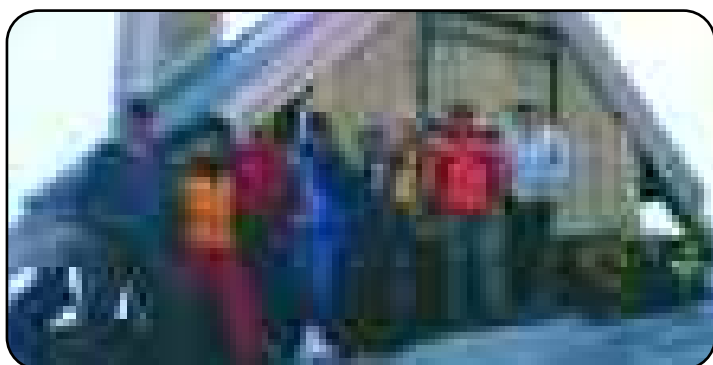
And news from one of our correspondents in New Zealand: Jozef reaches summit of Mt Ruapehu

Jozef reached the summit of Mt Ruapehu with Nina and a new school friend Sam. He has just started at new local primary school just 5 minutes walk down our road in New Zealand. With its roll of + 800 pupils, it's one of the biggest in the Southern Hemisphere.

Just before school his Cochlear Implant back-pack was changed to a behind the ear Esprit 3G + FM attachment.

Mrs H-G, his teacher, has mastered the 'beam-me-up-Scotty' head microphone and has just attended a training day for teachers new to dealing with deaf children.

All has gone very well and Jozef is enjoying his new class and already has several new mates – boys and girls – who live close by.



SUMMER EVENTS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE 2005

It's hard to believe that Winter is now over and we are all looking forward to better weather and Summer holidays! Our Summer School dates are now confirmed where we have organised activities for the very young children right through to our Teenagers. So come and join us – places are filling up fast but to remind you of the dates:

- Fun with Music for the Under 6s – 25 to 27 July (three morning sessions) covering action songs, music and movement, playing percussion instruments and a story.
- Fun with Communication for the 5 – 7s (Infants) – 27 to 29 July – three sessions (first day in the afternoon with the last 2 sessions in the mornings – exploring aspects of their communication, voice and speech skills.
- Fun with Communication for the 8 – 11s (Juniors) – 1 to 3 August – three morning sessions – again, exploring aspects of their communication, voice and speech skills.

The charge for the above sessions is £30 per child.

- Residential Summer Schools for our Teenagers, where the "Teenz" will stay at The Ear Foundation.

3 – 5 August for 11 – 12 years

10 – 12 August for 13 – 14 years

17 – 19 August for 15 – 16 years

The charge for these sessions is £47.50 per young person.

NDCS Celebrity Charity Pub Quiz

(By Carmen Burton)

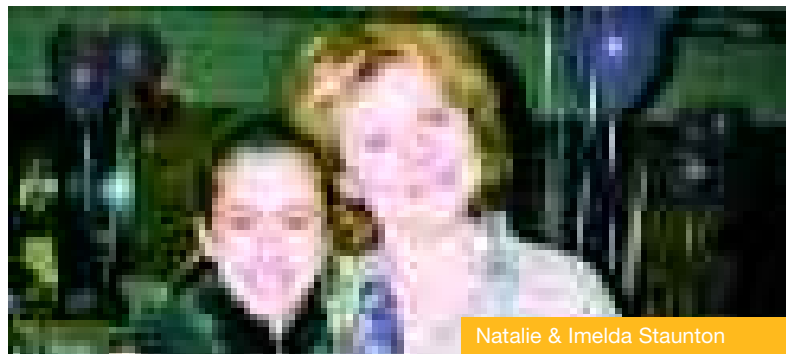
Last November, Natalie and I were invited by the NDCS to "The Brewery" in London to speak at their annual Celebrity Pub Quiz.

It was a brilliant evening. We arrived at 6:30, just in time for fish and chips before the celebrities arrived. Natalie met lots of famous people including Emma Thompson, Jim Carter, Paul Young and cast members from Casualty, The Bill and Teachers. She had a great time meeting them, having photos taken and collecting autographs!

We took part in the first part of the quiz, Natalie even got a question right that the rest of our NDCS team didn't know – what is the symbol on a map for a zoo? (For those of you that don't know, the answer is at the end!)

During the interval, she gave a speech about being Deaf; I also gave a speech about the impact of deafness and the ways in which NDCS help families with Deaf children.

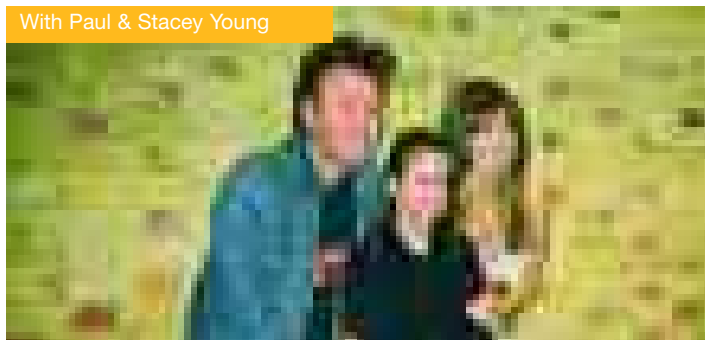
The highlight of the evening was gossiping in the loo (as



Natalie & Imelda Staunton

ladies often do!) with Michelle Collins (ex Eastenders) and Stacey Young (Paul's wife), when Celia Imrie came in to do her lipstick: "Is she from Calendar Girls?" asks Natalie. "Yes" replied Celia, "Miss November – do you recognise me with my clothes on!?"

With Paul & Stacey Young



It was great to meet all the celebrities, but even more important was the fact that they were all there to support NDCS. They all said how good it had been to listen to Natalie and me, and to gain an insight into the life and needs of a Deaf child.

The event raised over £20,000 for NDCS and you may have seen Natalie as "Cover Girl" on the January/February edition of TALK magazine.

(Answer – Elephant)



Celia Imrie - Do you recognise me with my clothes on!!

FUND RAISING EVENTS - COME AND JOIN US!

Sponsored walk, 11 September 2005

Why not take part in our four-mile family sponsored walk around the beautiful lake at Clumber Park. The park comprises over 3,800 acres of land including peaceful woods, open heath and rolling farmland, with a superb serpentine lake at its heart and the longest avenue of lime trees in Europe. Part of Nottinghamshire's famed 'Dukeries', Clumber was formerly home to the Dukes of Newcastle. The house was demolished in 1938, but many fascinating features of the estate remain, including an outstanding Gothic Revival Chapel and walled kitchen garden with spectacular glasshouses, growing old varieties of vegetables.

In the grounds there are many picnic areas and benches for everyone. Baby changing and feeding

facilities for little ones are well provided for. Also pushchairs and baby back-carriers are welcome. Separate disabled parking is available and WCs with RADAR lock are near the main facilities and there is Braille guide and large-print guide. Dog lovers are welcome with their dogs, but must be on leads in Pleasure Ground and grazing enclosures.

This follows on from our sponsored walk last year at the beautiful estate of Chatsworth on 19th September 2004 that was a great success and raised over £3,000! Come and join us to make this another fun day out with friends.



BARBECUE

...AND PLEASE NOTE EARLIER
START THIS YEAR – 3pm to 8pm.

We are not having a Sponsored Swim this year, but the Barbeque will still go ahead at The Willows, Butt Lane, Normanton on Soar (near Loughborough) on Saturday 9 July. There will be a marquee, just in case it rains, and Ken Godfrey's Central Jazz Band will be there to entertain us. As usual, there will be a Bouncy Castle for the children, and plenty of side-shows, stalls and games.

At the request of those with younger children and the families who don't live nearby, this annual event will begin earlier than usual – at 3 pm.

The most important part of this event is to socialise with other people, and to raise a bit of money for The Ear Foundation at the same time!

Entry is £5 per person and £3 per child, to cover the cost of the barbeque.

Come along and bring your friends!

Thanks "Soar" with the music

Parishioners of St James, Normanton on Soar, have raised £600 for The Ear Foundation, their chosen charity of the year. The money, raised at various events throughout the year, was presented to 11 year old Harry Thomas of Mountsorrel by the Mayor of Rushcliffe, Councillor Bryan Tansley in a ceremony at the village's annual nine lessons and carols service. The evening service was attended by villagers, supporters of the charity, and sportsmen and women from the Soar Boating Club.

Although Harry is profoundly deaf, he played his part in the service by reading clearly one of the nine lessons. Harry received a cochlear implant at Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, two and half years ago, and now can hear and speak clearly to all.

Harry's reading of third lesson was enjoyed and understood by the whole congregation. Rev Julia Palmer, who conducted the service, said, "Our church supports a different charity each year, and it was a pleasure to make The Ear Foundation our choice for 2004. It was a great joy for everyone to have Harry read for us and to hear the results of the

Destiny of a Child

We have been very grateful for the support of Destiny of a Child in the past. They have recently held a fund-raising concert, and one of the beneficiaries was again The Ear Foundation. Many thanks to Annie Martin and her team for their hard work, and for their generosity in helping us to develop our facilities for deaf children and young people with cochlear implants.

At the latest concert, William O g d e n appeared on stage with his guitar, and gave a very confident performance with a Beatles tribute band.



I have seen some photographs and a video clip, and it looked as though it was a wonderful evening.

wonderful progress he has made since his operation."

After the service, Harry enjoyed punch and mince pies, talking to members of the congregation.

We would like to thank everyone for making this wonderful donation possible, with special thanks to Chris Ashworth for putting The Ear Foundation's name forward to the PCC for consideration.



Caption: (l-r) The vicar of St James Church, Normanton, Rev Julia Palmer, 11 year old Harry Thomas, and the Mayor of Rushcliffe, Councillor Bryan Tansley and the Mayoress, Dr Carole Tansley

Gift Aid

Many thanks to all our regular subscribers who donate to The Ear Foundation by Gift Aid through making a Standing Order from their banks. Apart from giving us very welcome income each month to help with our running costs, we also claim over £4,200 per year back from the Inland Revenue.

Gift Aid is one of the easiest ways to make your donation tax effective. The Ear Foundation reclaims the basic rate tax from the Inland Revenue. There is no extra cost to you and the process

is simple – all you have to do is make a Gift Aid declaration.

A Gift Aid declaration is simply a statement by an individual taxpayer that they want a charity to get back from the Inland Revenue the tax paid on their donation. This is a great way to add 28 per cent to the value of your gift to The Ear Foundation without it costing you a penny more!

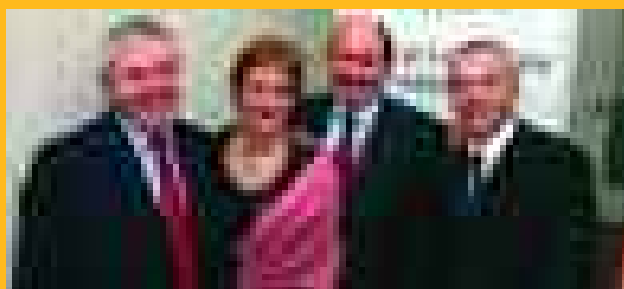
For higher rate taxpayers, if you declare your donations on your tax return, you can claim a rebate based on the difference between the higher rate and the basic rate when you fill in your self-assessment form. For example,

say a higher rate taxpayer makes donations totalling £100 to The Ear Foundation over a year. On top of the £28 that The Ear Foundation claims back directly from the Inland Revenue, the higher rate taxpayer can reclaim as much as £23 from the taxman. So, for a net cost to a higher rate tax payer of £77, The Ear Foundation receives as much as £128.

Don't you agree that it's much better for The Ear Foundation to get this money than the taxman! Please consider making a monthly donation to The Ear Foundation by completing and returning the form enclosed with this newsletter.

Gambling fun on Derby Road

Guests of chartered quantity surveyors, The Vinden Partnership, raised over £1,050 for The Ear Foundation in a casino evening at their Nottingham Office. Many thanks to Peter Vinden, Francis Turton and the Nottingham team of The Vinden Partnership for organising this enjoyable evening.



Brian Archbold, The Ear Foundation; Mrs Jane and Peter Hawes, Marriott Construction; and Peter Vinden, The Vinden Partnership.



Mike Swinfen and Oliver Davies from The Vinden Partnership; Karl Richardson and Nick Hutchings from Henry Mein Partnership with croupier, Michele Joyce

GRAND LEISURE DRAW

Relax with The Ear Foundation!

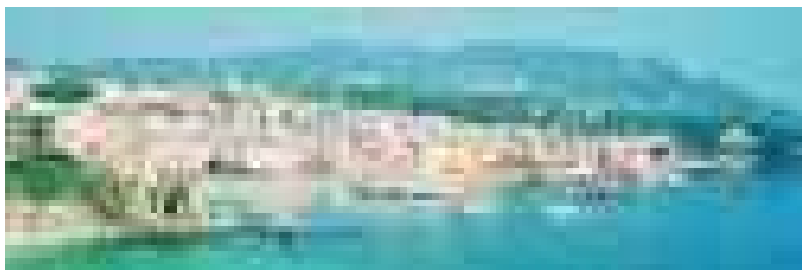
We held a Charity Draw a few years ago, and it was very popular. This time we are having the theme of leisure and relaxation, so prizes will include:

- A week's rental of a two-bedroomed apartment with sea view on the Costa Brava, Spain – date to be discussed with the owners, but outside peak season.
- Two nights Bed & Breakfast in a manor house in the Cotswolds.
- Flight in a private aeroplane
- Voucher covering the cost of different types of activities
- Personal CD Player
- Step Counter, to help you keep fit!
- A case of wine to help you relax
- and many more prizes!

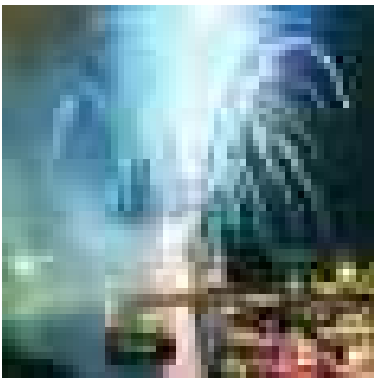
As many of you will know, we have obtained Planning Consent to extend Marjorie Sherman House and build a new Family Centre. The proceeds from the Draw will go towards this project.

If you can sell a couple of books of Grand Draw tickets for us (or more!) that would be really appreciated. Tickets are £1 each (£5 per book)

Winning tickets will be drawn on 7 September.



Riverside Festival - 6 & 7 August 2005



Join 100,000 others at Nottingham's biggest FREE festival weekend along the beautiful River Trent and visit The Ear Foundation Tombola stand. There's something for everyone!

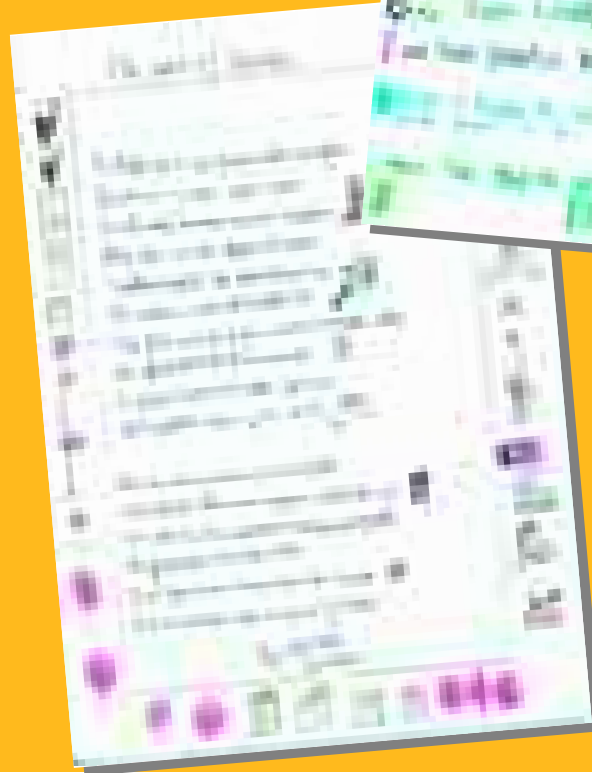
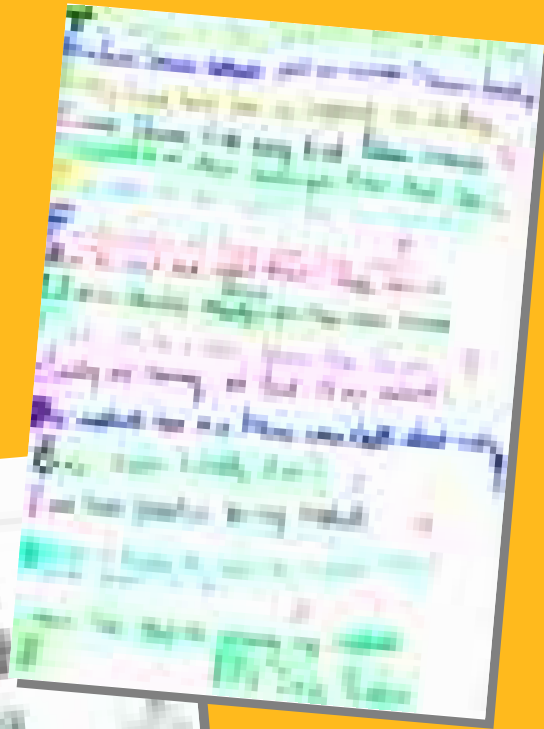
Enjoy fantastic music from around the world, a fireworks spectacular, family street fair, street artists and free family workshops, craft stalls, ethnic, crafts & collectables markets, a continental market, an illuminated riverboat procession, delicious food stalls and lots more!

International artists from all over the world perform at the Riverside. Recent performers in 2004 included Taxi Pata Pata, Jews Brothers Band, Imbongi and Albert Nyathi, The Balkanatics, Go.lem System, Toto la Momposina and Family to name but a few!

There is plenty of parking provided on the Embankment at £3 per car. There is also a regular bus service from Nottingham city centre.

Come along and see us at the Riverside; it's sure to be a great day out for all the family!

A POEM FROM
TARA VINDEN
THANKING
EVERYONE
INVOLVED
IN HER
IMPLANTATION



...AND
ANOTHER
FROM
NATASHA
STONE

Methodist President visits The Ear Foundation

The President of the Methodist Conference, the Revd Will Morrey, has visited The Ear Foundation in answer to a request from Liz Beadle, a teacher of the deaf at Nottingham Cochlear Implant Programme and Co-ordinator of young people's

activities at The Ear Foundation. Liz is also a Methodist Lay Preacher in the Loughborough Circuit of the Methodist Church. Will Morrey, himself a cochlear implant user, became deaf at 19 years of age while training as a student of theology at the University of Birmingham.

The President saw at first hand how the Foundation helps children and young adults who have received a cochlear implant cope in their new-found hearing world. Among the people he met were cochlear implant users 18 year old Caroline Sumner from Coalville and 20 year old Anna Ferguson from Doncaster.

"This was a wonderful opportunity for our teenagers and young adults to meet a deaf professional person at the peak of his career," says Liz. "Many of our youngsters don't meet other deaf people in their daily lives in education, at home or at work, and so the meeting illustrated that being deaf is no barrier to a fulfilling career. The visit also raised the profile within the Methodist circles of deaf people who use a cochlear implant to access sound."



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

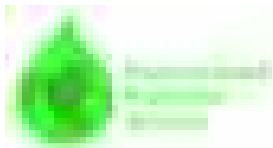
Anon
Anon
Anon
Mrs Phyllis Bartlett - in memory of
The James Beattie Charitable Trust
Mr G R H Beckitt - in memory of
J & K Bolton
P M Breen
A & S Burton 1960 Charitable Trust
CherSoft Ltd
S T & J Cockings
Mrs M Colton
Communis plc
Mr Barry Cook - in memory of
Coventry Three Spires Round Table
Curdworth Primary School
The Richard Desmond Charitable Trust
Diligence Lodge of Mark Master Masons
Mrs J C Duncan
Harry Dunn Charitable Trust
Sir John Eastwood Foundation
Mrs J Flude
Forman Hardy Charitable Trust
Gonerby Hill Foot Primary School, Grantham
Mr Eddie Guinane - in memory of
The Hamilton Wallace Trust
Hedleys
C Hilton
Matthew Hodder Charitable Trust
S R Kemp
Kodak Ltd
Larken & Co
A & S Lass Charities Ltd
J H Leadbetter
The Linmardon Trust
Lloyds TSB Staff - Loughborough Group
The Lord & Lady Lurgan Charitable Trust
Prof Mark Lutman & Ms Sue Robinson
The Lynn Foundation
The MacTaggart Third Fund
Mrs S McDougall
Nimbus Manufacturing (UK) Ltd
North Duffield County Primary School
The Oppenheimer Charitable Trust
W R R Pedley & Co Limited
The Penny In The Pound Fund Charitable Trust
The Puri Foundation
Repton School - Bazaar
Royal Mail - Nottingham Mail Centre
The Archie Sherman Charitable Trust
J E Soughton
The Jessie Spencer Trust
PCC of St James Church, Normanton on Soar
St James Day Tripper
Mr & Mrs Storrow
Mr Kenneth Taylor - in memory of
The Sir Jules Thorn Charitable Trust
Dennis Alan Yardy Charitable Trust

Collecting Boxes

Barry Garton
Inland Revenue
Marjorie Sherman House
Old Basford School
Kay Walker

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.



Raising funds by recycling old printer / fax cartridges

To update you on our partnership with Environmental Protection Services UK Ltd, raising vital funds by recycling old printer and fax cartridges.

We have received a number of payments from EPS with the latest cheque amounting to **£56.50!** Keep up the good recycling work, raising funds for The Ear Foundation and stopping unnecessary dumping into our landfill sites!

We have a collecting box for cartridges at The Ear Foundation, so drop them off here or use one of the freepost return envelopes that we have enclosed in this newsletter.

If you have 10+ cartridges: Contact EPS. 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.

For further details, please contact Emma or Janet at The Ear Foundation; or speak direct to Environmental Protection Services on:

Tel: 0800 389 8172 Fax: 0800 032 0849

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.

Huge thank you for playstation games, videos and equipment

Following our appeal in the last Ear Foundation news after losing all of our playstation games, I am overwhelmed by the fantastic response. We have received lots of games (for all ages), videos and even some playstation equipment. This is much more than I had hoped for and in plenty of time before our residential programme kicks off in the summer.

Thank you for your generosity; it's great to have our playstation back in use and with a new stand even easier to use than before!

(Emma Coombes)

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CAN YOU HELP?

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

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(voice and text)

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