

# CAMTAD NEWSLETTER



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## DEAR ALL

**W**e are delighted to welcome Andrea Thomson to the team in the office. Andrea will be working Wednesday and Friday mornings.

I hope you are enjoying the spring weather and getting out into the open air. It makes me anticipate summer and I hope we have better luck with outdoor activities than last year. (Any ideas for outdoor fund raising events are more than welcome!)

We are now well launched with the DVD. The Hotel Felix provided us with an excellent venue and a number of representatives from Cambridge businesses came. We thought that they were impressed by the DVD which hits the right note combining humour with the serious points to be made.

The RSPB were unable to come to the event but will be using it in their centres for training. Since then I have been chasing up organisations and trying to get the message across that it is important to meet deaf customers' needs in difficult times and the deaf awareness DVD will help them do this.

Fran and Mike have copies of the DVD. Please borrow it and see what we have been working on for so long. You can also now watch it on the new website, details below.

Cambridge Regional College will be having a display for disability awareness with the DVD playing throughout the event and are keen to use it for all students. I am hoping to get it taken up within other educational institutions for next year's curriculum and if any of you

have contacts in the teaching profession who could help, please give me details.

We now have more telephones to lend as BT have supplied us with their new cordless phone, the Freestyle 710, which I have yet to try out.

We have also purchased more of the popular Mybelle 650 phones which are now in some of the clinics, and there are two new Geemarc Amplidect 250s.

Mary Wright recommends the DECT Panasonic KX-TG7160 purchased from the RNID, for people wearing digital hearing aids. Mary has found this very easy to use with the T switch and gets no interference at all.

If any of you would like one of the old cordless BT Freestyle 610s then

## CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**CAMTAD Volunteer Spring Training starts 23rd April 2009**

**CAMTAD Volunteer Refresher Training on 11th June 2009**

**Cambridge CAMTAD AGM on 3rd June**

we are giving these away (a donation would be appreciated). Contact Fran at one of the clinics or the office.

Thanks very much to the volunteers who helped out with the Fenland Camtad equipment clinic while the regular volunteer was away and to Roger Pepper who helped out at sensory services when Mike was on holiday.

We have produced a guidance note for clinic receptionists as sometimes people have to take over reception when the regular receptionist is away and it helps to have clear steps to follow. These will be kept with the book so anyone can see what needs to be done and Fran and Mike will be making sure these are all in the clinics over the next month.

We have a new switchboard as BT would no longer maintain our old one. I know that the old answering machine was a bit of a problem and I hope this arrangement works better.

The new switchboard

will ring for 7 rings before the answering machine picks up, so please hold on for it.

I attended the Disability Planning Consultative Panel to see the new plans for the Grafton Centre in Cambridge, which have now been passed by the planning committee.



I was able to comment on how poor the acoustics are in the centre, and that anyone who stays for any length of time feels deafened when, for example, providing information at a stall.

The new entrance will be more open plan, so I am not sure it will improve the sound quality, but the refurbishment provides an opportunity for this to be considered.

The RNID reports that it is now working with the Ministry of Defence on reducing noise-induced hearing loss in troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is a bit depressing that this is only happening now, when the consequences to soldiers from battle

noises and explosions have been known for generations. I remember that my father's contemporaries all seemed to be a more or less deaf from their war-time experiences.

Studies in America have linked hearing loss to the high rate of suicide amongst veterans; noise-induced hearing loss, tinnitus, and hearing damage, marked by ringing in the ears, are two of the top disability claims for soldiers. These are on the increase, it is thought due to the nature of the barrage of explosions and gunbattles in tight spaces and urban areas in Iraq.

The Americans now have hearing loss prevention as a top priority and have ordered thousands of ear-plugs to fit every conceivable ear and situation and have an aggressive campaign to educate soldiers about noise-induced hearing loss and the importance of prevention.

I hope that our own military experts take the issue as seriously to prevent the avoidable damage caused to the quality of life of our troops through hearing loss.

*Happy Easter, Frances*

# NOTICEBOARD



In our last issue we left out the RNID telephone number to ring for a hearing check. It is 0844 800 3838, or you can go online at [www.rnid.org.uk/hearingmatters](http://www.rnid.org.uk/hearingmatters)




Sensory Services have a new telephone number: 0345 045 5221. Lines open Monday to Saturday, 8am-8pm




## NEW CONTACT DETAILS

We have a new website [www.camtadcamb.org.uk](http://www.camtadcamb.org.uk), but the old website can still be used and will direct people to the new one.

We also have the following new e-mails:  
[francesd@camtadcamb.org.uk](mailto:francesd@camtadcamb.org.uk)  
[jamesj@camtadcamb.org.uk](mailto:jamesj@camtadcamb.org.uk)  
[andreat@camtadcamb.org.uk](mailto:andreat@camtadcamb.org.uk)  
[admin@camtadcamb.org.uk](mailto:admin@camtadcamb.org.uk)  
Our new FAX number is now:  
**01223 245800**



Those of you who have not yet sent in your quarterly returns and mileage claims, please do so as soon as possible, as we will be collating figures for the end of the financial year for the annual report in April.



The winter weather prevented many people visiting the hearing help clinics. Since then, we have seen a large turnout. 57 attended the Shelford clinic this month.

# CAMTAD STAFF NEWS

I joined CAMTAD as Admin Assistant in February and have been really enjoying settling in and becoming part of the team.

I live in Cottenham with my husband and two daughters, Niamh and Keira (aged 8 and 5). I used to work as a librarian (in Essex and then Cambridge), but took a break to be at home with my family until Keira started school last September.

Most of my spare time revolves around children's activities, whether helping out at the school or the local toy library, or just spending time with the family.

It is nice to come to work and do something a little different!

One of my main jobs is to answer the phone, and to get in touch with volunteers to arrange home visits, so I have already spoken to many of you and am even beginning to recognise some of your voices.



It is always nice to be able to put a face to the voice

when volunteers pop into the office, and I look forward to meeting many more of you in the future

I hope to come along to a hearing help session soon, to find out more about what goes on 'in the field,' and am also trying to get to grips with the range of phones, amplifiers and loop systems we have here!

I've been really amazed by the commitment and hard work of the volunteers, and am sure I will enjoy working with you all in the future.

*Andrea Thompson*

## NOISE ACTION WEEK

Noise Action Week (18th-22nd May) is an annual initiative coordinated by Environmental Protection UK (formerly NSCA), that aims to raise awareness of the problems caused by neighbour noise and the solutions available to tackle it.

It provides an opportunity for local authorities, housing providers, mediation services and all those involved in neighbour noise management to raise

awareness of services available and promote practical solutions.



During Noise Action Week, hundreds of organisations involved in managing noise across the UK, including local authority noise, housing, health teams, antisocial behaviour teams, housing organisations, mediation services, schools and others, coordinate events

at local level to educate and inform people about noise, the impact it has and how to reduce it.

Find out more at [www.noiseactionweek.org.uk](http://www.noiseactionweek.org.uk)

If there are fewer sounds we don't want to hear, then there is more chance we will hear what we want to.

# THINK TANK

## RNID NEWS

**A**t the beginning of 2008 the Department of Health unveiled an exciting plan to fund anew, national hearing research unit to help move scientific discoveries closer to bringing benefit to people with hearing loss or tinnitus.

The national Biomedical research Unit in Hearing, to be set up in Nottingham, will involve researchers from the Medical Research Council's



Institute of Hearing Research, the University of Nottingham, and Nottingham University Hospitals trust. The unit, which should be completed this spring, will receive funding of £3.75m over four years and will employ around 25 researchers and support staff.

Most research into the causes and treatment of hearing loss has so far focused on the cochlea, as this is the most common

common site of damage. The new unit in Nottingham is taking a very different approach.

Increasingly, it is becoming clear that cognitive processes like attention, memory and learning play an important role in helping us understand what we hear. The researchers in Nottingham believe that by designing specific auditory training exercises they can help people get the most out of their hearing (be it natural or aided). The research will focus on three groups of children aged under five, older people with sensorineural hearing loss and, finally, people with tinnitus.

Ensuring that the research really does benefit people with hearing problems will be vital to the unit's success. That is why the scientists will be working closely with the people they are trying to help. RNID has been invited onto the unit's management board and is in regular contact with the researchers.

*Taken from One in Seven*

Over 60 MPs have signed an Early Day Motion (EDM) in support of RNID's Read My Lips campaign. MPs sign an EDM to show their support for a particular issue. The more signatures an EDM attracts, the easier it is to prove to Ministers the strength of opinion in Parliament about a particular topic.

The EDM calls on the Government to review its policy and guidance to local authorities. It asks the Government to enforce common standards of provision around the UK and to ensure that costs are minimised so no groups of deaf or hard of hearing people are excluded from learning lipreading.

The RNID are campaigning for lipreading classes to be provided at little or no cost to the learner. In the past few months their lipreading campaign has been putting pressure on local authorities to provide access to classes for people who are deaf or hard of hearing

*Taken from RNID website*

**THE CAMBRIDGE CAMTAD  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**will take place on  
Wednesday 3rd June 2009**

**at**

**Abbey Meadows Community Wing  
Abbey Meadows Primary School  
Galfrid Road, Cambridge CB5 8ND**



**REFRESHMENTS AVAILABLE AT 6PM**

**FORMAL MEETING STARTS 7PM**

**WITH SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKER**

**Contact office for more details**