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Registered Charity No 278155

*Dear All,*

I am writing this while out of the window I can glimpse glorious sunshine. I wonder why I am about to go away on holiday abroad when England is so lovely at this time of year? I hope you are out and about and getting the best out of the last of the warm weather.

The summer has not been blighted by swine flu as all the press anticipated however our Fran Mills was struck down with a severe bout. She is recovering, but don't work her too hard and please all keep healthy during the next few months!

Clinics have been busy and we had rapidly to relocate the Soham clinic to the library as the surgery got taken over for a swine flu vaccine centre on very little notice. I understand the library is working well and this looks like being a permanent change. We are also shifting the central Cambridge City location away from Michaelhouse to the Stone Yard at St Andrew's Baptist Church which is near to John Lewis and the bus station. This should prove an attractive alternative as there is a very nice cafe in the Stone Yard as well. Thanks very much to the volunteers at Michaelhouse for their co-operation in this move. It is an important clinic for us as it is one of the few which is convenient for working people.

There was a good start at the new Papworth clinic with Mike Friend and the Hunts

volunteers in August. We have a couple more clinics in the pipeline but further expansion depends on funding and I have spent a number of hot sweaty days in the office this summer filling in grant applications and letters asking for support. Waitrose in Huntingdon came up trumps for us from their monthly collection with a cheque for over £300.

Camtad in Hunts has been active for over a year now and we have 5 clinics. Mike and the volunteers have made a tremendous effort to make the first year a success and I am confident that they will be even better next year and Camtad in Hunts will become as well valued in that area as Camtad is in the Cambridge Districts.

We had a lively volunteer meeting in Cambridge to discuss ideas about future activities and I am grateful to all of you who not only work in the clinics and on home visits but also take the time to think about Camtad and wider issues which affect us such as funding. It was nice to meet up with you and have a chance to chat. Some good ideas emerged and we will be making plans for events for next year. I hope I can make this a regular opportunity to exchange ideas. Inevitably as the public bodies feel the pinch we will have to work harder to raise money for our work so the more people we can get involved the better.

A core of people have expressed an interest in taking forward the Resources Clinic and we are



meeting at the CAMTAD offices on 23<sup>rd</sup> October at 2.30 to discuss the practicalities. Anyone who has not yet signed up for this but would like to attend and be involved should contact Gillian at the CAMTAD office.

We have been invited to take part in Cambridgeshire Celebrates Age and we will be present at a number of coffee mornings and teas at Sheltered Housing units around the South Cambs area in October so look out for these. Please join in the range of events which are being held throughout the county, it looks like an interesting programme and a number of the events are free.

I am enjoying a small compensation from being deaf with my disability railcard which I can use all over the UK and take a friend with me on the cheaper fare. I have also found that I can use it when venues offer concessions so some events and exhibitions are cheaper. I recommend it to anyone of you who is eligible. All you have to do is get the form from the station and send it with your brown book and the fee to the address they give you. You cannot get the card from the station itself. Another example of deaf privilege came from Bill Morris who enjoyed extra leg room on an Easyjet flight - if you register as deaf when buying the ticket online you are required to sit in the front seats in the aircraft cabin so you can hear the safety announcements.

The Annual Lunch is coming up and I hope as many as possible of you will attend. Cambridge Regional College catering is moving out to King's Hedges and we are following them; more

convenient for some of you and less for others I suspect but they are still our cheapest option for a lovely meal. Please join us. The details are enclosed with this letter.

Now, I'm off on holiday with my personal listening device so I can hear the guide talk and I'm looking forward to a busy autumn when I get back.

*Frances*

## **CAMTAD in Hunts one year on: A message from Bill Morris**

"As you are aware the volunteers covering Huntingdon catchment have been operational for over one year, and we had a lunchtime gathering in July 31st just for an hour hosted by Mike, assisted by Linda and Debbie, to celebrate this small but important milestone. Most of the volunteers managed to drop in, a total of 11 made for a pleasant gathering. The coffee was great and the biscuits even better. The rain held off until 11.59 which was great planning. It was good to meet up with everyone and a delight to see such enthusiasm still maintained, and just as strong as when I attended the first day's training back in April 2008. The volunteers wish to thank Mike, Linda and Debbie - it was much appreciated."

*Bill*



## Christine Kemp

We are very sad to report the death in September of Christine Kemp, who was our receptionist at Linton for 8 years. Our deepest sympathies go to her family and friends.

## Thanks and farewell

Our thanks go to the following volunteers who are leaving us:

Percy Bulsara  
Shirley Bassford  
John Dickinson  
Joan Hetherington

We thank them all for their service with CAMTAD, and wish them all the very best for the future.

## Memories of CAMTAD

Shirley Bassford wrote to us with some lovely reminiscences of her time with CAMTAD, which we thought you would all enjoy reading, so here are some extracts:

“We have very fond memories of past CAMTAD events; Avril’s retirement party, helping at garden parties in John Camman’s lovely garden at Linton, coffee mornings at Suzanne’s in Wilburton, displays at Duxford (and seeing the planes for free as a bonus), and one glorious sunny day having a garden party in our riverside garden and raising over £700.

When I moved to Cambridgeshire in 1992 my hearing was very bad and I was using two powerful aids. The specialist at Addenbrookes recommended that I should go to France to a

hospital that specialised in restoring hearing. I was very apprehensive, it seemed such a long way to go. I telephoned CAMTAD and Avril answered. She was very understanding and said that our mobile van was going to be in the Princess of Wales car park the next day and George and John would be there. The following day she was opening a session at Soham, “come along and meet people”, she said.

With much trepidation I visited the mobile and met “the boys”; they thought it was a great idea and I should combine it with a holiday. What an idea! The following day I duly arrived at Soham, there were quite a few people milling around. Avril spied me and thrust a pen and pad in my hand with the instructions to “sit there and jot down people’s names as they came in”. So that was it, I had joined CAMTAD!

I did go to France for the operation and so began our love affair with the Canal du Midi. We kept our boat moored at a marina near to the hospital where it all began, and as we sit in the sun with a glass of wine in hand, we always say, “this happened because of Avril, cheers Avril!”

I worked at the Soham session, then we opened at Ely hospital, then Littleport, then another Ely session. Eventually as more volunteers came on board I was able to work just at Littleport.

I have enjoyed my 16 years immensely, met lots of nice people, and hopefully given something back to the village where I live by getting loop systems installed in local halls. I am confident that CAMTAD will continue to flourish under the present command and wish you all every success in the future.”



## FROM THE MEDIA

### Orchestra feels Good Vibrations

When the conductor raises his hands, the orchestra will explode into an evening of samba, jazz, rock and film music. Swaying in her seat will be Fiona Barber, mother of 13-year-old Max, who plays the cello and drums.

Performing publicly is an achievement for any teenager, but Barber has particular reason to feel proud of her son. Like many of his friends in the orchestra, which is performing on Saturday at Leeds College of Music, Max is deaf.

Paul Whittaker, founder of Music and the Deaf, a Huddersfield-based charity that created the Deaf Youth Orchestra, says music is part of our shared humanity, but deaf children all too often miss out on its pleasures because deafness is misunderstood. "Musicality is not at all related to hearing ability," he says. "It's part of our cultural development."

His own career proves that hearing and musicality are, indeed, different. In his teens, he applied to 12 universities to read music. Each rejected him because he was deaf. Finally, a maverick admissions tutor awarded him a place at Wadham College, Oxford, where Whittaker played the organ, trained the choir, and graduated well.

When asked how deaf people appreciate music, Whittaker retorts: "How does anyone?" Rhythms, vibrations, gestures, body movement and analysis of music are all, he says, expressions of musicality.

People often join orchestras to make friends, as much as to make music. And for deaf people,

taking part in a communal activity is especially precious as struggling to hear can be isolating.

Jacob Eloi, a 12-year-old cellist, says he has made "lots of friends" and is proud of himself for performing on stage. Once shy of other children, he has joined a mainstream youth club and taken up kick-boxing. "At one time, he didn't really like to go anywhere," says Jacob's mother, Mandy Eloi. "We had children who didn't want to play with him because of his deafness. He has become more outgoing."

Now in its third year, the Deaf Youth Orchestra has 22 members, aged 9 to 17. It has also spawned Hi-Notes, an ensemble of orchestra members who compose and perform their own work. Last July, Hi-Notes entered the National Festival of Music for Youth and won the new group composition award.

Originally limited to West Yorkshire, the Deaf Youth Orchestra now attracts young musicians from far afield. "The whole point is bringing people together," says Danny Lane, who manages the orchestra. "We have one boy from Hertfordshire who is learning his parts separately. But on Saturday, he will come to take part in the concert."

In the long term, Music and the Deaf plans to establish a national youth orchestra. For that it will need funding and support from music services around the country. "Music is a life-enhancing, life-changing experience," Whittaker says. "Just because someone is deaf doesn't mean they should be excluded."

*Article by Alicia Clegg, quoted from The Guardian, 24/06/09*



## **Paving the way for a stem cell based therapy for hearing impairment**

Hearing loss is a major public health issue, with more than 250 million people affected worldwide. The vast majority of these cases are produced by damage to the sensory hair cells and the auditory neurons located in the cochlea. Hair cells can 'sense' sound by detecting small vibrations through the movement of tiny 'hairs' located at their top. This movement is translated into electrical signals that are sent to the auditory neurons, which in turn take the information to the brain.

Sensory hair cells and neurons are only produced in the womb during development, and cannot be regenerated or replaced once damaged. However, in severe cases of hair cell loss, provided the auditory neurons are preserved, the function of the hair cells can be replaced by a prosthetic device, the cochlear implant.

Recent developments in the use of stem cells could revolutionise the future of medicine. In 1998, researchers in the USA were able to grow, for the first time, human embryonic stem cells that had the potential to produce all the cell types in the body. This allowed scientists to learn a lot about these and other types of stem cell, which could be applied to different conditions.

A few years ago, the Centre for Stem Cell biology at the University of Sheffield started a

research program aiming to develop a new stem-cell based therapy for deafness. By using a cocktail of chemicals, they created conditions in a test tube, where stem cells from the cochlea could thrive. These stem cells were able to generate cells that resembled hair cells and neurons: the same cell types needed to heal a damaged ear. They even gave the correct functional response when electrically stimulated. By studying how human auditory cells form and mature, and how genes are involved in the many types of deafness, the team hope to develop and test medicines that that would affect the ear. Most exciting is the possibility of using these cells to replace damaged ones.

There is a long way to go yet; researchers need to see if the cells will survive once transplanted into a real cochlea, and whether it will be possible to restore connections with the brain so that they function properly. But they are optimistic that, as our understanding of the biology of stem cells and the way that the ear works is improving all the time, they are in a better position than ever before to tackle these challenges.

***Adapted and abridged from an article by Marcelo Rivolta, Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Stem Cell Biology. Published in 'Quiet', the Journal of the British Tinnitus Association, Summer 2009.***



## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### Training course for new volunteers

**15<sup>th</sup> Oct** at CDA (next door to CAMTAD Office)  
Introduction; Audiology

**23<sup>rd</sup> Oct** at the Scout Hut, Perne Rd  
CAMTAD basics; Tinnitus

**30<sup>th</sup> Oct** (Scout Hut)  
Infection control

**6<sup>th</sup> Nov** (Scout Hut)  
Social services

**13<sup>th</sup> Nov** (Scout Hut)  
Equipment; Volunteering

**20<sup>th</sup> Nov** (Scout Hut)  
Hearing dogs

### Resources clinic meeting

**23<sup>rd</sup> October at 2.30**

At CAMTAD Offices,  
8a Romsey Terrace  
CB1 3NH

Please contact Gillian at the office if you would like to attend.

### Holistic Therapy Weekend for Women with a Hearing Impairment



**Friday Nov 20th-Sun Nov 22nd 2009**

**Claret Centre, Buckden, Cambridgeshire**

Speech to text, loop, interpreter. One-to-one holistic treatments, fun workshops, optional pedicure and manicure. Full board in lovely old house.

Residential costs: Friday tea-time to Sunday lunch £220 (all meals included plus on-to-one therapy)

A non returnable deposit of £50 books your place. Booking forms from Jen Musgrave, BACT, Biglands House, Thursby, Carlisle CA5 6PE or email [info@lakelandbalancingact.co.uk](mailto:info@lakelandbalancingact.co.uk)  
Cheques made out to BALANCING ACT.

**Limited no. of Saturday places for only £50** (join us for fun workshops but no one-to-one therapy).