



Cambridge Campaign for Tackling Acquired Deafness, 8A Romsey Terrace Cambridge CB1 3NH
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Registered Charity No 27815

Dear all,

Thanks to all of you for your good wishes for my operation which I am happy to say was successful and for those of you who want to know the technical detail, I had tympanoplasty which is a repair to the ear drum. It really made me appreciate my good hearing aid because after the operation I was totally reliant on an aid in one ear until I was free of dressings. I felt a bit like Van Gogh.

I understand from NHS Cambridgeshire that they have had a good response to the audiology consultation and our Trustees and I replied on behalf of CAMTAD. The document is too long to add to the newsletter but if anyone wishes for a copy then please contact me, and I will send it to you.

I was invited to speak at an audiology providers' conference on the 16th March to put the patients' point of view and I am glad to say that NHS Cambridgeshire gave us a very good press and read out some of the responses to the consultation, which recorded how well valued we are by our service users. There are a number of private companies interested in taking over the audiology contract but they have been advised that their bids will be judged partly on how they demonstrate their willingness to work with not-for-profit organisations, such as ourselves and Fenland CAMTAD. There is currently no proposal to change the rule that the audiology service will be free at the point of access.

I have been busy training at the Hope Nursing Home, the Arthur Rank Hospice and the Addenbrooke's chaplaincy team. This work is only reaching the tip of the iceberg of the need within the care system for well trained and informed staff. Bill Morris told me that at one residential home he visited a nurse arrived with a clutch of hearing aids in her hand - she thought they were standard issue and interchangeable! We will try and train more care staff over the year. We have joined a group of hearing aid charities led by RNID and signed a letter to the Care Quality Commissioner requesting that the care for the hearing impaired be covered by the Quality Standards.

Some of you have met Katie Ackermann our work experience volunteer who is getting the stock of equipment for loan under control. This is in preparation for the launch of the Resources Clinics later in the year. We will be starting clinics in Cambridge, Ely and St Neots initially with 6 sessions a year in total to see how much demand there is for the service. With new technology we will not have to demonstrate every piece of equipment available; we will show popular samples and use a laptop computer to show other models.

We have had very good news on the funding for CAMTAD in Hunts. The Sobell Foundation has very kindly agreed to support us for the next 3 years, so we can confidently go ahead with our work in that area. This will go a long way to plug the gaps in funding from the public sector, which we expect to see over the next few years. But we will not slack off with our fund raising activities



because we expect the need for our work to keep growing and those activities bring us to the attention of more people, as well as bring in money. Deaf Awareness week begins the 28th June and I hope to use this time to highlight the needs of the deaf and hard of hearing. I hope to book a stall in the Addenbrooke's Outpatients department and I will be looking for helpers to look after the stall during the day. This will be providing information not just about CAMTAD but other Deaf Charities in Cambridgeshire. I would like as many of you as possible to have a coffee morning or tea in or around that date or just do something locally to draw attention to the needs of the deaf or hearing impaired. I have also asked Cambridge Regional College if they would like to be involved with some events or activities.

Following the success of the Barn Dance in Bluntisham, we plan a similar event in or around Cambridge for the Autumn and hope that you will want to join in to make it a wonderful evening.

I would like to encourage as many people as possible to book on the Refresher Training Course in July. The audiologists give us their time for free and we should take advantage of this. It is especially important for those of you who make home visits to come and see what may be new and remind yourself of the current standards and procedures. We will have a further Refresher training day in the Autumn, which is more accessible for the East and Hunts Districts.

Volunteer training starts at the end of April so please look out for anyone who you think might like to join. We are always looking for new recruits and you know yourselves that the sessions are getting busier.

I know the venue for the AGM will suit some and not others but we found it impossible to find anywhere in the centre of Cambridge on a

midweek evening in term time. I look forward to seeing you there.

Enjoy the Spring,

Frances

Design a Christmas card for CAMTAD

With Spring only just beginning to make an appearance, it may seem a little early to be thinking about Christmas!



However, having come to the end of our supplies of the original CAMTAD

Christmas card (our thanks to Brian Downham, who took the lovely photo of a Polish snow scene), we thought it would be nice to commission a new one this year. In order to meet printing deadlines, that means starting the ball rolling now!

So we would like to ask you, and your families and friends, to come up with a design and send it in to us at the office. Perhaps a cartoon with a 'hearing' theme, a painting, sketch or photo. Entry is open to all ages so if you know of a budding young artist, do encourage them to have a go. All we ask is that it is original, i.e. does not break copyright. Please send in your design by 1st Aug. The chosen design will be printed as our 'official' CAMTAD card for 2010.

Andrea



Dates for your diary

AGM

Thursday 10th June (see attached invitation)

Deaf Awareness week

28th June-4th July 2010

Refresher training

1st July

10am-2.30pm

Cambridge Deaf Association,
Romsey Terrace

Refreshments included.



Hearing Dogs
for Deaf People

Did you know that simply by collecting used stamps from envelopes and packages, you can raise vital funds for Hearing Dogs for deaf people? Last year the Hearing Dogs organisation received nearly £5,000 for stamps collected nationally between February and November.

Barbara Seekings collects them on behalf of CAMTAD; you can take them to one of our clinics who will pass them on to her, or send them direct to: Hearing Dogs for Deaf People, PO Box 6198, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 9GW. Please tear or cut them with a ½ cm border and separate into foreign and British.

For more information on Hearing Dogs, please see their website

<http://www.hearingdogs.org.uk>

Holidays

Just a reminder for volunteers that with the holiday season fast approaching, please could you let the office know in advance when you are going to be away, so that we know you are unavailable for home visits, clinics etc. Thanks!

Equipment news

Eddie Trinder has drawn our attention to a small problem with the Mybelle phones. He has found that they only work satisfactorily with the cable between the instrument and the handset one way round (this is not referred to in the setting up instructions). If connected the wrong way round the phone either doesn't work at all or fails intermittently. So if you are having problems with the Mybelle 650, the solution could be to unplug the handset cable and plug it in the other way round

Now sunnier days are (hopefully) on the way, you may be spending more time out in the garden. If so, a portable flashing



door chime might come in handy. The RNID have recommended the Libra+, which has a chime and/or flashing blue light which are activated when the doorbell is rung. It costs £44.28, including bell-push (or £46.51 for a unit that can be used with existing doorbells) and has a range of up to 200m depending on obstructions. A telephone ringer which can be combined with the unit is also sold separately (at £39.99) or the two can be bought as a combination pack for £84.26.

Full details are available at
<http://www.rnid.org.uk/shop>



The following article is from the East of England NHS Strategic Projects Team. They are keen to involve the public in their proposals and would welcome any views you might have.

Securing a brighter future for Hinchingsbrooke hospital : The Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps Project

A new partner is being sought to operate Huntingdon's Hinchingsbrooke hospital. The net has been deliberately cast wide, and independent sector organisations as well as those in the NHS have been invited to apply for a unique operating franchise and propose ideas for how they would bring innovation to the hospital and make it sustainable in the longer term.

There are two main reasons why this groundbreaking step is being taken. The first is that NHS Cambridgeshire, which commissions services at Hinchingsbrooke, will be receiving decreasing funds, in real terms, over the next five to seven years. The effect of this will be less money available to NHS organisations, and greater efficiencies required by all. However, in its current form, Hinchingsbrooke is not of a sufficient size to make these efficiencies on its own. It also carries a considerable historical debt, in the region of £40m.

The Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps project is unique because it proposes that the clinical and non-clinical services at Hinchingsbrooke be provided via an operating franchise agreement with an experienced healthcare provider. Patients will continue to receive NHS services and staff and assets will remain protected within the NHS. This move follows a public consultation, led by NHS Cambridgeshire three years ago, the result of which was a commitment to continue to provide a full range of services at the hospital, including A&E and maternity ⁽¹⁾.

The first key stages of the tender have taken place and three independent sector companies, Circle Health, Ramsay Health Care UK and Serco, have been shortlisted to continue further with

discussions. While there are several more stages left to go, it is anticipated that the successful partner will be announced at the end of September.

From the very outset of Hinchingsbrooke Next Steps, patients, staff and public have been encouraged to get involved. It is only with the input of those with a real interest in the hospital, that the organisations steering the project can be sure that they are shaping a future Hinchingsbrooke which meets the public's wishes and needs.

Everyone can have their say and make a difference. You can do this by:

- Attending the stakeholder or public meetings (see www.eoe.nhs.uk/strategicprojects for dates and venues)
- Asking a question through the website
- Inviting the Strategic Projects Team to come and speak at a meeting of your group or organisation
- Joining our Twitter dialogue (<http://twitter.com/NHSEoEStrategy>)
- Getting in touch using one of the methods below:

Freepost:

Strategic Projects Team
NHS East of England, SHA
Victoria House
FREEPOST, RRLU-YTGH-RZYL
Capital Park
Fulbourn, CB21 5XB

Freephone: 0800 923 3001

Email: Strategic.projects@eoe.nhs.uk

Twitter: <http://twitter.com/NHSEoEStrategy>

⁽¹⁾ Services on the Hinchingsbrooke hospital site provided by other organisations, such as Cambridgeshire Community Services through contractual arrangements with NHS Cambridgeshire, are unaffected by this franchise offer.



FROM THE MEDIA

“Till deaf us do part”

Relationships throughout the UK are failing because of unmanaged hearing loss, according to a survey commissioned by Specsavers hearing centres last year.

The survey questioned 1,500 people over 55 years old with hearing loss and revealed:

- 44% said that relationships with partner, friends or family had suffered because they couldn't hear properly
- 34% have lost touch with friends, and in some cases seen marriages fall apart, as a direct result of the breakdown in communication caused by hearing loss
- 69% said their hearing loss seriously hinders their ability to take part in everyday conversations with friends and family, causing 52% of those surveyed to feel left out and ignored in social situations.
- 72% of women were found to be more affected by social exclusion because of their hearing loss than men.
- 49% said that losing their hearing is the worst thing about growing old

Actress and recent Celebrity Big Brother contestant, Stephanie Beacham, who has been completely deaf in one ear since birth said “This research doesn't surprise me in the slightest. Having a hearing issue is extremely frustrating and socially isolating. It is so boring having a conversation that neither person can engage in properly, shouting louder and straining to hear is not good.

“I can see exactly why relationships break down and it is so sad to think that a loving couple can go through life happily together and then, because of hearing loss, the effect on their relationship can be unnecessarily devastating.”

Stephanie continues: “No one should suffer in silence. Whether it is you, a partner or friend with hearing loss, the main obstacle we have to overcome is the stigma. Like many other conditions, hearing problems can be managed in most cases with hearing aids; however, the crucial first step is to have a hearing test”.

Survey commissioned by Specsaver hearing centres, conducted online by onepoll.com and face-to-face at the Pensioners Parliament, held by the National Pensioners Convention.

Reprinted from *Hearing Times* February 2010

Selective hearing really does exist, scientists say

Selective hearing – filtering out unwanted noise and chatter – really does exist, according to research that could combat deafness. The study suggests it is the brain and not the ear that “zooms in” on sound, acting like a radio by tuning into certain noises while ignoring everything else.

It is hoped the new research could help explain why people with hearing difficulties lose this ability and are swamped by background noise. This so-called ‘cocktail party problem’ is especially acute for people with hearing aids and cochlear implants.

“We are only just beginning to appreciate the role of the brain, and this research gives us hope for improving not just the performance of implants and hearing aids, but the lives of people with hearing disabilities everywhere” said Vivienne Michael, chief executive of Deafness Research UK, whose scientists are carrying out the study. The team at University College London Ear Institute is interested in why some people are better at zoning out background noise. Finding the brain pathways that allow this ability could help to repair the ability in deaf people.

By Richard Alleyne, Science Correspondent
The Guardian 15th March 2010



THE CAMBRIDGE CAMTAD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Will take place on
Thursday 10th June

at

Barton Village Hall,
School Lane, Barton

CB27 7BD

Refreshments available from 6pm

Formal meeting starts 7pm

Please contact the office for more details