



Dear all,

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Thanks you to all of you who were concerned about my safety in New Zealand. None of my family was directly affected by the earthquake but it was a sad end to a lovely holiday.

I'm enjoying the longer days and better weather at last. You have all kept going resiliently through the last few months and I hope you get your reward with a lovely summer. By the time you get this we will have had our first Equipment Demonstration at Scotsdales Garden Centre and I expect I shall be tempted to celebrate Spring, by buying some of their colourful plants.

Gillian is leaving us to work for East Anglia's Children's Hospices. We shall miss her and try and maintain her high standards in the office. She will be working for us for one morning a week until we find a replacement so you may still find her on the end of the telephone. We have advertised the post and if anyone knows of someone who wants to apply, the details are on our website or you can call the office for more information. The deadline is 15th April 2011.

I was pleased to give a presentation at the UK Council on Deafness national conference with Phil Linnegar of Hertfordshire Hearing Advisory Services. We spoke about our experiences of working for regional charities with the current changes in the NHS. The conference was well attended and one of the speakers was Stephen Lloyd, a newly elected MP. He has a passionate interest in deaf issues as he has had a hearing impairment all his adult life. Jackie Ballard of RNID spoke about the need for Deaf/deaf charities to work together to make more impact on legislators. It does seem that the need to respond to the government NHS proposals has galvanised the sector into acting in unison in the hope that we can get hearing issues a much higher profile.

The Cambridgeshire Adult Audiology Service launches on 1st April. Here are some changes that you should be aware of. Remember this only effects people over 50 with simple age related

hearing loss.

There is a new number for appointments for audiology for all areas in Cambridgeshire, 0800 0232984

People with a "new" hearing loss will still be referred through their GP as at present.

People will be offered an appointment at the audiology service nearest to their postcode and there will be more comprehensive audiology services including assessments from mobile units situated in doctors' surgeries. Details of the venues and times will be available to you via the hearing help sessions together with new patient information leaflets.

Addenbrooke's will still have the drop in repair service but other venues will need to book for repairs. The waiting times are expected to be short.

Patients will have the option to use a new postal system for batteries. They will be notified of this option when they next visit

the audiology clinic.

Some different details will need to be completed by receptionists at our Hearing Help Sessions and by home visitors. All receptionists in the sessions will be trained by me, Fran or Mike and we will be giving you extra help to manage the change over. I will be talking to all home visitors to explain the changes to procedure and you will be sent a written set of procedures with the new forms. I know that it will be an extra burden on your time to begin with and we will give every support we can. I am working to ensure that, in the end, there is no more paperwork

than we complete at the moment, but it will take a little time for the new procedures to “bed down”.

We are already getting reports that the new booking service, which is already active, is working well.

Our finances are secured for this financial year although we have had a reduction in our County Council grant by 3%. We are working on a year by year basis at the moment. Fund raising will be a focus for the coming year.

With Ely volunteers, I attended a celebration of volunteering at St Mary's

Church Ely at the invitation of the Mayor and Mayoress. It was good to be reminded of the wonderful work that it is done by volunteers in the community. We are facing a challenge to adapt to new procedures, but our service users are relying on us to continue to support them in the way we have always done and I know I can rely on you to do the best you can to help things run smoothly. Thank you for helping us through this.

Frances

A message from Gillian

It is with regret that I say 'Farewell' to CAMTAD after almost two years in the Cambridge office. My early months proved to be a steep learning curve as I got to grips with a new organisation in an unfamiliar environment but I have found the work to be both interesting and challenging and now fully understand what a valued service CAMTAD provides. I have been very lucky to work with some great people and to get

to know so many of the volunteers, all of whom have been happy to provide help and information when I needed it – so thank you to everyone!

I would not have looked for another role but for the past year I have been working as a volunteer in my free time for EACH (East Anglia's Children's Hospices) and out of the blue they offered me a post which I believe will be interesting and offer new

experiences and challenges.

I shall certainly stay in touch and hope there will be a chance to meet up with some of you in the future, but in the meantime I would like to say that it has been a real pleasure to be a small part of the CAMTAD 'family' and I wish everyone involved continuing success in the future.

With best wishes to you all

Gillian

WANTED: Chair for Cambridge Hard of Hearing Club. Do you know someone who would be willing to take over this position? There is now a good, strong, supportive committee.

Please ask them to get in touch with Avril at avrildring@tiscali.co.uk or write to 99 Tavistock Road, Cambridge CB4 3ND. Meetings are last Thursday afternoon of the month presently at Buchan Street Neighbourhood Centre, changing to The Meadows as from June 2011.



Hearing Dogs *for Deaf People*

Thank you for passing on to Fran over the past months your used postage stamps. I thought you would be interested to know how they help. This is what Fiona Jones, Supporter Services Administrator for Hearing Dogs for Deaf People writes:- " I am delighted to tell you that the income from stamps for the last

year - 2010 - comes to a brilliant £11,565.93p. Thank you to everyone who donates stamps to Hearing Dogs, I know they can be a pain to collect and save, but the outcome is terrific." When you save the stamps, please be sure to leave about 1cm. of the envelope around the stamp; cut or torn stamps are of no use.

Please continue to pass them on to Fran - I know that there are other charities out there who collect used stamps, but we shall be grateful to receive what you can spare Thank you.

Barbara Seekings

Fundraising events

There will be a tabletop sale at Cherry Hinton on Sunday 15th May, organised by Frances, Avril and Veronica. If anyone has any plants, or good quality 'nearly new' items they would like to donate, it would be much appreciated—please send them to us at the office.

On Sunday 12th May there will be a CAMTAD collection outside Saisbury's in Huntingdon (opposite the Priory Fields surgery). It will run throughout the day in two-hour slots, so we would be very grateful if anyone can volunteer to help out for a couple of hours.

Mon 2nd May to Sun 8th May is Deaf Awareness Week. As part of this, CAMTAD will be having a stand at the Disability Info Day on 6th May, from 10am-2pm at St Ives Free Church hall.

Lipreading campaign

We have been asked by Joy Badcock, the lipreading tutor at Addenbrookes, for our support in the petition being organised by by RNID to get Lipreading classified as an "essential skill". Many course providers in Adult Education have recently

been lumping Lipreading together with "leisure" activities, then charging a very high fee, with the result that the number of classes nationwide has been falling alarmingly. Also, not surprisingly, the number of tutors is falling, with few new ones

currently in training.

The link for the petition is <http://bit.ly/lipread> so the more names, & (optional) comments the better. RNID also has a link for paper petition forms to print off.

Hearing loss could be 'early warning' for dementia

Older people who suffer hearing loss are more likely to develop dementia, according to study which could lead to early interventions against Alzheimer's disease.

Researchers have found a close relationship between losing your hearing and losing your memory and believe the former could be used as an early warning or the latter.

They say that interventions that could delay the onset of dementia by even one year could lead to a more than 10 per cent decrease in the prevalence of dementia by 2050.

Dr Frank Lin, of Johns Hopkins Medical Institutions in Baltimore, and colleagues studied 639 individuals age 36 to 90 without dementia.

Participants initially underwent cognitive and hearing testing between 1990 and 1994 and were followed for the development of dementia and Alzheimer's disease through to May 31st, 2008.

Of the participants, 125 had mild hearing loss (25 to 40

decibels), 53 had moderate hearing loss (41 to 70 decibels) and six had severe hearing loss (more than 70 decibels).

During a midpoint follow-up of 11.9 years, 58 individuals were diagnosed with dementia, including 37 who had Alzheimer's disease.

The risk of dementia was increased among those with hearing loss of greater than 25 decibels, with further increases in risk observed among those with moderate or severe hearing loss as compared with mild hearing loss.

For participants age 60 and older, more than a third (36.4 per cent) of the risk of dementia was associated with hearing loss.

The risk of developing Alzheimer's disease specifically also increased with hearing loss, such that for every 10 decibels of hearing loss, the extra risk increased by 20 per cent.

Dr Lin said that the two conditions may share the same cause.

"Hearing loss may be causally related to dementia, possibly through exhaustion of cognitive reserve, social isolation, environmental deafferentation [elimination of sensory nerve fibres] or a combination of these pathways," he said.

"If confirmed in other independent cohorts, the findings of our study could have substantial implications for individuals and public health."

By the year 2050, an estimated 100 million people or nearly one in 85 individuals worldwide will be affected by dementia.

The research was published in the Archives of Neurology.

By Richard Alleyne,
Science Correspondent

Reproduced from the Daily
Telegraph, 14 Feb 2011

Football Appeal



Great Britain Deaf Men's Football need money to fund players to go to the European Deaf Championship in Denmark. It costs £1,500 for each player and they are looking for as much as support as possible. If you would like

to make a donation you can send a cheque our office made payable to GB Deaf Men's Football and we will pass it on, or you can drop it into Addenbrooke's audiology reception at Clinic 10.

Background noise on TV campaign

You will probably all have heard the current debate raging about background noise on TV programmes, sparked by the popular BBC science series 'Wonders of the Universe' with Professor Brian Cox (or 'Wonders of Brian Cox and his orchestra' as it has been dubbed!)

A spokesman for the RNID said 'This is probably the thing that incenses our members the most. A lot of people have hearing loss in just one ear and for them it's difficult to differentiate between different sounds. Loud background music affects their ability to hear'.

After many complaints, the BBC has agreed to reduce the volume of the background music for the rest of the series, although Prof Cox has been reported as saying he thinks this is a mistake. If anyone with a Facebook account would like to support the RNID's response to this they can post a comment on the RNID fanpage at:

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/RNID.Fanpage>

The RNID are also asking for people to take part in the general campaign by offering to make a short comment on your local regional radio or television station, speaking

about your experiences of television background noise. If anyone is interested please contact Rohini Simbodyal, rohini.simbodyal@rnid.org.uk at RNID's PR Team, providing your name, address and telephone number.

For more information please see the RNID's media website: at

<http://www.rnid.org.uk/mediacentre>



Prof Brian Cox

Dates for your diary

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| 2nd-8th May | Deaf Awareness Week |
| 6th May | Disability Info Day at St Ives Free Church |
| 12th May | CAMTAD collection outside Sainsbury's Huntingdon (opposite Priory Fields surgery) |
| 15th May | Tabletop sale
9am-12.30pm at Cherry Hinton Hall |
| 9th June | CAMTAD AGM
7pm (refreshments from 6pm)
Girton Pavilion, Girton Recreation Centre, Cambridge Road, Girton CB3 0FH |
| 16th June | Equipment training for Ely demo volunteers
10am-12pm
8a Romsey Terrace |
| 29th June | Demonstration of Hearing Equipment
10.30am-1.30pm
Ely Methodist Church Hall |



**THE CAMBRIDGE CAMTAD
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

will take place on
Thursday 9th June

at

Girton Pavilion
Girton Recreation Centre
Cambridge Road
Girton
CB3 0FH

Refreshments available from 6.00pm

Formal meeting starts 7.00pm

Please contact the office for more details