



Cambridge Campaign for Tackling Acquired Deafness, 8A Romsey Terrace Cambridge CB1 3NH
Telephone 01223 416141 Fax 01223 245800 www.camtadcamb.org.uk e-mail admin@camtadcamb.org.uk
Registered Charity No 27815

Dear all,

We have come to the end of another year for our accounts and statistics. I am delighted to say that you have, yet again, worked incredibly hard and you have seen more clients that ever before – nearly 20% more overall. Some of this is due to opening new clinics in the Huntingdon District and starting domiciliary visits there, but some of it is due to the effort you have put into all the sessions. The figures for home visits have recovered to the level of 2008, but I suspect that last year, you were not so good at telling me what you did!

I'm setting out below a table showing the figures, so you can see how they work out compared with last year. These will go into our annual report.

Hearing Help Sessions and Visits

Type of service	Client events 2010	Client events 2009
Home and office visits	1057	647
Residential homes	998	861
Clinics Cambs Districts	6482	6054
Clinics Hunts District (CAMTAD in Hunts)	779	248
Total overall	9316	7810

	2010	2009
Batteries	15469	12027
Clean/retube	9704	8144
Advice	420	329

We also made more equipment loans and with the help of volunteers gave more talks than last year.

I anticipate that we will have considerable work in the coming year, understanding and adapting to the new processes when the new audiology provider is in place and we will have an important role to play in explaining to our clients how the new system works. We should know more in the Autumn and I will be explaining what is happening to you as the process evolves.

We are working closely with Fenland CAMTAD to ensure that there is a smooth transition to the new system at the end of the year. Two Fenland colleagues are attending the volunteer training course in Bluntisham.

(I'm writing this on the first day of David Cameron's Government and I have realised that we too are going to have to work in a spirit of compromise and coalition! We are on trend!)

Following the election, cuts are anticipated and already I have been told that local



authorities are not replacing staff when they leave. Our clients may find social service provision less generous, or they may wait longer for help. CAMTAD is reliant on grants from the NHS and from the County Council but our funding is secure for this year and the indications are that organisations like ours, which mobilise volunteers, will be supported. However pressure may be put on us to do more for the money provided and I am aware that there is only so much that we can ask of our volunteers. We never want to push you to a point where the work stops being enjoyable.

As you know we lost Fran en route for the UK in the ash cloud but luckily she returned to us before I had time to panic too much. Thanks to all the volunteers who stepped in to manage whilst she was absent. Most volunteers seem to have stayed put over Easter but we may have a disrupted summer if the ash cloud continues to blow on and off. Last year we were worried about swine flu and Fran was also one of the few to suffer from that too. What is it about Fran?

My godmother aged nearly 90 who lives in Oxfordshire has been trying to adapt to hearing aids for about a year. She went back recently to the audiologist to be told that she hadn't yet been set to the full level. Apparently they started her off without the full volume so she could get used to the aids. Unfortunately no one told her this, so she was very disappointed when she started, as she felt the aids weren't doing any good. Has anyone else heard of this? In principle it sounds like a good idea but only if the client is kept informed and has a fixed date for a

review, and of course it sounds expensive for the audiologists.

Summer is supposedly around the corner although it is hard to believe with these cold nights. There are lots of activities in the pipeline. Deaf Awareness week is 26th June to the 2nd of July. so please think about having an event for us around that time. I will be trying to get articles in the local press. The first Resources clinic will also be at the beginning of July and you are all welcome to come along and see what we have to offer. Barbara Seekings has kindly agreed to have another Bring and Buy by which time I hope we will all be basking in sunshine and roses.

I hope to see you all at the AGM.

Frances

Correction: AGM Postcode

Many apologies for having given the wrong postcode for the AGM venue in the previous newsletter. It should be CB23 7BD **NOT** CB27.

I do hope this hasn't caused too much confusion. Full details are given again in 'Dates for your diary'.

Andrea



CAMTAD Christmas card



Just a reminder that the closing date for the Christmas card competition is 1st Aug. This makes it an ideal summer holiday project, particularly for younger members of the family! While I hesitate to suggest wishing away the summer weather, it would be great if people could temporarily summon up their Christmas spirit and get those entries flooding in!

If you have any questions, do contact me at the office.

Andrea

Direct Access Audiology Consultation

The Direct Access Audiology consultation period has now closed, and Audiology have written to us thanking everyone who took the time to respond.

They are now gathering all the feedback, which has been very good, and it is being analysed by an independent research company. The findings will be presented to the NHS board in June/July 2010 and the results made available on their website under the 'Have your Say' Public Consultation section www.cambridgeshire.nhs.uk

They will also provide updates on the decision around the future of Direct Access Audiology services in Cambridgeshire, following the Board's response.

Refresher training

Fran and Mike will be reminding you about the refresher training session, which takes place at Romsey Terrace on 1st July. Please contact us at the office to book a place.

VOLUNTEER HELP WANTED URGENTLY

To save the Cambridge Hard of Hearing Club from closure !

*Wanted: Chairman; Treasurer; Newsletter
Editor; Secretary*

Dorothy Parry formed the Cambridge Hard of Hearing Club in 1960, and then founded CAMTAD in 1978. It would be a shame if the Club has to close.

- Well established meetings
- Grant funded by Cambridge City Council and Cambridgeshire Community Foundation
- Meetings on last Thursday of month from 2.00 to 4.00
- Eight meetings with speakers
- Outing in July
- Christmas luncheon at November meeting
- Free Dial-a-Ride Service
- Speech-to-Text and Loop in use
- Out of pocket expenses

Write to Avril Dring, 99 Tavistock Road
Cambridge CB4 3ND or email
avrildring@tiscali.co.uk for further details.
Full support given to applicants



Battery corner



This feature was abridged from an article in Hearing Times, in which Paul Deeble, battery expert at Rayovac, answers questions about hearing aid batteries:

Q: How does my hearing aid battery work?

A: Most of today's batteries are zinc air batteries. When you remove the tab from the back of the battery, air is drawn into the cell through tiny little holes. The oxygen in the air reacts with zinc stored in the battery, to produce the energy needed to power the hearing aid. As the zinc store is used up, the battery begins to run out.

Q: What factors affect the life of a battery?

A: As well as size (a larger battery contains more zinc, and therefore more power) other factors include:

- Type of hearing aid: high powered devices like those for people with cochlear implants have more features and drain battery power faster than standard devices.
- Background noise: a battery will drain less energy at home compared with a restaurant or a concert.
- Volume: if the volume on the aid is set to maximum it will shorten the life of the battery.
- Sweat and perspiration; it is important to keep your hearing aids dry as excess moisture can cause shorting out.

Q: Does battery life differ from ear to ear for people with two hearing aids?

A: Yes – it is very uncommon for both ears to have equal hearing loss, which means that you shouldn't expect equal life from each battery.

Q: Is there anything I can do to protect the life of my battery?

A: Keep the tab on the back of the battery until you are ready to use it. Store your batteries in a dry place at room temperature – storing in hot or very cold places shortens the lifespan. Beware of carrying batteries in your pocket as metal objects such as coins can short them out.

Q: How can I recycle my old hearing aid batteries?

A: As well as CAMTAD and the local Council recycling points, a number of retailers have collection points for all types of batteries, including: Tesco, Morrison's, Boots, Argos, John Lewis, Waitrose, Homebase, Robert Dyas, Aldi and Netto.

FROM THE MEDIA

Survey finds misperception around hearing aids

According to a survey conducted by 'Hear the World' (a global initiative by leading hearing system manufacturer Phonak), despite significant advances in hearing technology, hearing aids were associated with old age more than any other accessories surveyed, including glasses, a wheelchair, crutches and canes for the blind.

This misperception has serious consequences for the 700 million people worldwide living with hearing loss.

According to the survey, which polled 4,405 people between the ages of 14-65 years old in the US, France, Germany, Switzerland, UK and Italy, not wanting to admit to having a hearing loss in public was among the top three reasons for not wearing a hearing aid.

While 93% (USA 88%; UK 87%, Germany 94%, France 98%, Ireland 96%, CH 96%) responded that they would wear a hearing aid if it was necessary, previous research has indicated that many people with hearing loss do not in fact wear one.



In the US and UK alone, only one in four people requiring a hearing device actually wear one.

“Hearing loss and the solutions available to treat it have long been misunderstood, and the survey findings point to exactly that” said Dr Craig Kasper, chief audiology officer of Audio Help Associates of Manhattan. “Hearing aids have come a long way and it is important to the well being of those with hearing loss that these misperceptions be addressed. In fact, recent technology advances have made it possible for those who need a hearing aid to wear their devices with ease and confidence.”

The first devices created to assist those with hearing loss appeared in the 17th century and were called ‘ear trumpets’. Due to the stigma associated with the condition at that time, ear trumpets were often hidden in fans, integrated into walking sticks and some were even camouflaged as diamond-encrusted pieces of jewellery.

By the 1920s, hearing aids were developed that were small enough to carry in a handbag, and by the 1940s, the first pocket devices were introduced.

In the early 1960s, the behind-the-ear device (BTE) was developed and has since then undergone rapid innovation as micro-electronics has progressed.

Today’s hearing aids work with digital technology and are equipped with powerful computer chips, ensuring better sound quality, wireless connectivity, modern design and ever smaller dimensions to help users wear their hearing aids with minimal

detection. Often neglected due to the stigma associated with the condition, hearing loss can create social and emotional barriers for the individuals living with it or families of those it affects. In fact, research shows that when left untreated, hearing loss can lead to reduced earning power, disruptions in family life, and can cause a wide range of other psychological problems.

The Hear the World survey also found that frustration (46.8%), isolation (45.3%) and fear (36.8%) were the feelings most often associated with untreated hearing loss.

“What I see in my practice is that the unnecessary fear and frustration associated with hearing loss and hearing aids is often accompanied by a lack of information about ways to prevent and/or solutions available to treat the condition” said Dr Kasper. “This is unfortunate given that hearing loss is a condition that can be treated with great benefit for the individual, as well as for society”.

As a means of addressing this lack of information around hearing loss, Hear the World was founded in 2006 to raise awareness of hearing related issues around the world.

“As the world gets increasingly noisier, there’s never been a more important time to be aware of our hearing at every age and to educate others about this growing issue – and that is precisely what we hope to achieve through Hear the World” said Vanessa Erhard, Director of Communications for Hear the World.

Reprinted from *Hearing Times* April 2010



NOTICE BOARD

Dates for your diary

AGM: Thurs 10th June
Barton Village Hall,
School Lane, Barton CB23 7BD
Refreshments available from 6pm,
formal meeting starts 7pm

Deaf Awareness Week: 28th June-4th July

Refresher training: 1st July

Coffee morning/bring and buy:
13th July 10am-12pm
60 Cannon Street, Little Downham

**Closing date for Christmas card
competition:** 1st August



COFFEE MORNING WITH BRING AND BUY SALE



13th July 10am-12pm

60 Cannon Street, Little Downham

In aid of CAMTAD

All welcome!



HEARING HELP?

Come to our

Demonstration

Telephones, TV amplifiers, alerts and more,

Improve the quality of sound for you

6th July 2010 Drop-in 11.00 am to 2.30 pm

Scotsdales Garden Centre, Lecture Room,

120 Cambridge Road

Great Shelford, Cambridge CB22 5JT

Future demonstrations in Ely and St Neots contact us for details