



*Dear all,*

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A very warm welcome to Fenland volunteers. Mike Royce, who has been Fenland CAMTAD's chairman and organiser has wanted to retire for some time and I attended the final AGM of Fenland CAMTAD where Mike's efforts were deservedly celebrated. But the role is now far more than a volunteer can reasonably take on and with the encouragement of the Sensory Services team, and with paid staff available as back up, we hope we can continue to provide people in Fenland with the hearing help service they need. It is very important that with increasing size we still keep our local connections with local people and it is the volunteers who keep these links alive.

We now have our end of year results which make interesting reading. You will probably be aware that the number of visits to hearing help sessions and home visits has dropped significantly but the cleaning and retubing numbers have been maintained and we are providing many more open fits. This suggests that an increasing number of people are taking

advantage of the batteries direct service and we have seen a drop in the number of batteries we give out which seems to confirm this. We are more concerned by the drop in home visiting figures as these are the most vulnerable of our service users and this year we will be making an extra effort to publicise this service but also to encourage volunteers to get involved with home visiting. The number of loans of equipment are back to our usual levels as we have had more equipment demonstrations this year. We have also seen an increase in the advice and talks given and we are already well ahead with bookings for talks for the current year. Details of the results are below.

We have analysed the data from five months of our patient satisfaction survey and we have an overwhelmingly satisfied group of service users. They rated our service very highly for convenience and timing. They were less certain whether it helped them to feel more confident or in

control of their hearing loss but they were emphatic that it helped them to enjoy life more. The comments added at the end were very appreciative of the friendly volunteers. There were a very few critical comments but a couple of the under 65s wanted the sessions to fit in better with their working hours. Everyone can feel they are doing a very good job. A copy of the report is available from the office if anyone would like a copy. These results are very important to us in showing that there is more to the service than simply fixing people's hearing aids and will help with funding applications in the future. The survey is ongoing and we hope to cover all areas of the county over time.

The date for our tea party to celebrate 35 years of our charity is Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> of October between 3 and 5 pm and it will be at the David Rayner Centre at Scotsdales Garden Centre in Shelford near Cambridge. Further details

will follow but please save the date as we would like as many of you as possible to come and party with us. The fundraising group is open to suggestions for activities that might take place around that time so bring any suggestions to the next fundraising group meeting (details in Dates for your Diary) or contact the office and we will pass on your ideas. This will be about celebrating the past achievements of CAMTAD and looking forward to the future.

We had a stall at the Anglian Methodist Synod staffed by Alan Jones, Roger Mallabon and Donald Monk. I was rung immediately afterwards and in-

vited to give a talk later in the year so they obviously made an impact.

It was also a great pleasure to welcome the Mayor of Cambridge to the art exhibition, 'Cambridge Corners', part of the sale proceeds



*Artist Andy Newman (centre) with Frances and the Mayor*

of which are being donated to CAMTAD. She gave a very supportive speech about our work to

people with whom we don't usually come into contact, so this was helpful in spreading information about what we do.

I am writing this before the AGM and of course the incorporation and name of our charity are on my mind, but the decision has still to be taken, so if you get this before 4<sup>th</sup> June please come and make your views known. Whatever the outcome, the process has been very useful to help us think about what we do and what we stand for. I am sure that you will all reach a thoughtful and considered decision which will take us forward.

*Frances*

## Can you hear the words?

*By Roger Mallabon*

That was the theme of the CAMTAD information stall at the East Anglian Synod of the Methodist Church held in Cambridge on 20th April, attended by about 150 delegates from Methodist churches in Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire. We had produced a special leaflet containing some advice and offers, and also publicising the theme of Deaf Awareness Week 'Get involved, get aware!' The advice included how churches can help those with hearing loss, e.g. briefing speakers on need for clear speech, installing a loop to help the listeners. The offers included CAMTAD talks, and equipment demonstrations; we had a few items to show, and of course we gave away copies of the DVD. The Leaflets were also distributed to each Minister via a Synod mailbox. We provided contact details for the equivalent

charities in Norfolk and Suffolk. Many delegates were interested in our theme, which linked to the guest speaker, and further enquiries are expected.

The guest speaker was Jennifer Crook, the Equality & Diversity Adviser of the Methodist Church. She was introducing the EDI (Equality, Diversity, Inclusion) national project that she is leading. One of the EDI goals is creating an inclusive culture which is confident with regards to EDI, where people are valued and are treated with dignity and respect. She started speaking at a cracking pace and a woman quickly halted her saying she couldn't follow her, so the speaker slowed down. Alan Jones went over to the woman and discovered she had insufficient hearing to use an aid. We lent her a Crescendo 50 with stethoset, she put it on and nearly jumped out of her

skin with what she could hear. Point made! She went home with a catalogue hoping her husband would buy her one. We also advised a minister who had difficulty hearing on the office telephone to try the Phoneplus Amplifier.

The photograph shows Jennifer Crook at the CAMTAD display with Alan, Donald Monk is behind the camera, and Roger Mallabon was talking to Jennifer's children. A few copies of the special leaflet are available from the Office.



## Celebrating CAMTAD's 35th birthday

35 years ago I was invited to a simple lunch in the Old Addenbrooke's Hospital canteen along with Christopher South of the Cambridge Evening News and John Mellaney, Secretary of the United Cambridge Hospitals Board.

Our host was a diminutive Welsh woman, Mrs Dorothy Parry. Dorothy explained that she was a lip reading teacher at the hospital and was about to retire. She had a DREAM!

She wanted to start a charity to campaign for clear speech. She was convinced from her work that half the problem of hearing loss was the poor speech habits of the general population. She dramatised her message by using the metaphor of a pebble dropping in to a pond causing ripples to spread outwards. She wanted her charity to be that pebble, and the campaign the ripples.

I was convinced. As Director of Social Services I was ashamed of the poverty of services for hearing loss - a single handed Deaf Missioner working from Romsey Terrace, a small hospital audiology department and no social services to speak of.

We started to meet and CAMTAD was born.

The following years were an exciting roller coaster ride. The Cambridge Evening News ran a huge publicity drive to help us measure the incidence of hearing problems in the area. We

trained hundreds of retail and bank staff in deaf awareness. We were fêted in London as pioneers and copied elsewhere.

The Hearing Help Centres were started and quickly grew. We demonstrated equipment from a specially adapted Bedford van. We organised numerous exhibitions, filling the whole of St Andrew the Great in central Cambridge in 2003.

Lots of tins were shaken and financial support from the County Council and the NHS was attracted and retained.

Recently we have been strong enough to start sessions in Huntingdon and to offer help to Fenland .

We were the first charity in the country to work with Specsavers, one of the new private providers of NHS hearing aids the government has introduced. It is still early days but the effect is more hearing aids supplied and batteries offered by post.

So what does the future hold for CAMTAD ?

Some of our Hearing Help Centres may see a decline in demand, but there are other areas where access to services is difficult, gaps we can fill. The more frail hearing aid users will still rely on us for after-care and there are many "hard to reach" in their own homes who we can help.

Ironically the equipment to assist hearing loss has become

more effective, and more expensive, at a time when many cannot afford to buy it. Our equipment demonstrations, showing what works and what is affordable, will continue to be invaluable.

We have a growing elderly population, among whom only 20% of those who would benefit actually have a hearing aid. In care homes it is estimated that three quarters of residents have an unrecognised hearing loss. In the workplace, with an increased retirement age and older workers staying on because they cannot afford to retire, more issues about hearing loss will arise. Amongst the young the damage caused by listening to loud music through ear pieces needs to be addressed more locally.

In other words there are plenty of new challenges for CAMTAD. We are already planning our most ambitious Deaf Awareness Week ever in 2014 with money we have been given.

But first let us celebrate our 35<sup>th</sup> Birthday in style. We will have a Big Tea Party in a beautiful setting with lots of Parking. I look forward to seeing you there!

Yours sincerely,

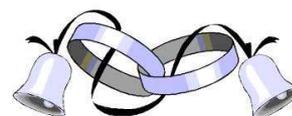
*Alan Jones,*

*Chairman.*

## Fundraising

The fundraising group welcomes new volunteers and they don't have to be CAMTAD regulars so if you know of any friends who might be interested please encourage them to come and join in. The next meeting is on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> June and details are in our Dates for Your Diary section. The next event coming up is on 8<sup>th</sup> June organized by Norman Hardy, which includes the opportunity

to view open gardens in Great Staughton as well as stalls and entertainment. The group are looking for volunteers for the Cherry Hinton Community Groups Fair on Saturday 14th September. Alan Jones raised £103 for a car boot sale from what remained from last year's Waterbeach stall and the art exhibition in Cambridge raised £600, with more to come in picture sales.



### Wedding Wishes

Congratulations to volunteer Andy Beavan and his wife Chris, who were married in March.

We wish them both every happiness for the future.



We recently received a letter from Hearing Dogs for Deaf People thanking us for sending them used stamps. Here is an extract: "Thank you for your kind efforts and help towards

stamp donations. With your help in 2012 we raised a fantastic £7,900 from used stamps! This achievement was only possible with the help of kind people like you taking the time and trouble to collect and send in their stamps. For many people deafness can be a very isolating and lonely disability.

Your gift will help us provide more hearing dogs that can transform deaf people's lives by increasing their independence, confidence and providing valuable companionship".

If you have any used stamps to donate, do please continue to send them to us at the CAMTAD office.

## Two major hearing loss charities merge

Action on Hearing Loss and Deafness Research UK confirmed on 2 April 2013 that the two charities have merged.

Both charities are known for their ground-breaking work in biomedical research, with Action on Hearing Loss currently funding UK and international work into treatments and cures for hearing loss and tinnitus, and Deafness Research UK focusing on UK research.

The merger will raise the profile of biomedical research, which will in turn boost funding for further programmes. Biomed-

ical research into hearing loss and tinnitus is currently significantly underfunded when compared with other medical conditions.

Chief Executive for Action on Hearing Loss, Paul Breckell said: "Both charities believe that a merger is the most positive way forward for the future of biomedical research into hearing loss and tinnitus. For most of the 10 million people in the UK with hearing loss, and the six million people who suffer with tinnitus, effective treatments and cures cannot come soon

enough."

Vivienne Michael, Chief Executive of Deafness Research UK said: "There have been major breakthroughs in hearing research in recent years and work on potential stem cell and drug therapies for deafness holds particular promise. But the field is significantly underfunded. By working together we believe we have the best chance of raising the funding

Reproduced from the Action on Hearing loss website, [www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk](http://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk)

## Open fitting update from Audiology

You may see some different open fittings in the near future. Oticon have now started producing double domes (which they call power domes) in 3 sizes for their Corda 2 open fitting system. A double dome is pictured on the right.



but they are not the same.

**Siemens double domes must not be fitted to Oticon hearing aids.**

These double domes look very like the Siemens double domes

We are advising clients with Oticon double domes to come to an audiology repairs clinic for replacement .



Oticon Zest hearing aid



Siemens Impact L hearing aid

## Film review—*Lost and Sound*

Shown at the Arts Cinema on 11 and 16 May

By Avril Dring

This film is a moving documentary that follows three music lovers on a journey into sound and silence. We meet a young girl, deafened after meningitis at 14 months; a 20 year old who was born deaf, and an adult music critic, with a sudden hearing loss in one ear, with an enormous collection of music who confessed that at no time did he consider parting with it even when he had no guarantee of hearing and appreciating music again.

This was very sensitively produced by Lindsey Dryden who has experienced deafness herself, and has won some film awards for its integrity.

"Music is one of the greatest of all human experiences; millions of us fall under its spell every day, and it engages more parts of the brain than any other human activity, but 1 in 7 of us will lose the capacity to hear it. Does the end of hearing have to mean the end of music?"

This film demonstrated that, with the right support and encouragement, with strong self motivation, and with the aid of technology it is possible to achieve a good level of appreciation of music; in fact Nick Coleman, the music critic actually commented that he felt he was now hearing and appreciating music more fully than before because of his challenging journey.

Because I have experienced this situation myself I found the film fascinating and strongly applaud the Director Lindsey Dryden. We in Cambridge are privileged to have had the first viewing, with the Director, and Nick Coleman and our own Dr David Baguley in the audience, prepared to answer questions following the showing. I understand that it will be shown on TV at some future date.

I was implanted in 2006; there are still occasions, in my Circle Dance Class, when I recognise the tune only after the first 5 minutes of dancing, having depended on the rhythm up to that point, it is a continual learning process.

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## Sponsored cycle ride for Ear Aid Nepal

Elizabeth Hough and Phil Gomersall, Audiologists at Addenbrooke's Hospital are undertaking a 100 mile cycle ride near Aldeburgh on 22 June for Ear Aid Nepal.

Addenbrooke's Audiology and ENT departments have supported Ear Aid Nepal by fundraising and volunteering to work in the International Nepal Fellowship Ear Camps. Nepal is

one of the poorest countries with a high incidence of ear disease. These people suffer the lifelong effects of deafness and infection in their ears which can be transformed by access to medical care and hearing aids. Ear Aid Nepal and the International Nepal Fellowship are now raising money to build a specialist Ear Hospital in Pokhara. This facility will offer vital continuity

of care for patients and act as a base for education and research enabling the local population to take control of their own health.

If you would like to find out more please visit <http://www.earaidnepal.org/>. If you would like to sponsor Elizabeth and Phil please go to <https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/AddenbrookesAudiology4Nepal>

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## Four hear heres and a double ha-ha

*By Roger Mallabon*

A contemporary art commission can now be seen at Kedleston Hall (National Trust), near Derby. The picture shows one of the four *Hear Heres* in the park; each is a different shape and they look rather like giant ear trumpets. They are designed to pick up and amplify the sounds of the landscape, and they are linked by a signposted walk that includes a rather unusual double Ha-ha.



More information can be found at [www.nationaltrust.org.uk/](http://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/)

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## Dates for your diary

**Tues 4th June 2013**

CAMTAD AGM

Abbey Meadows Community Wing, Galfrid Road, Cambridge, CB5 8ND  
Refreshments available from 6.00pm. Formal meeting at 7.00pm

**Sat 8th June 2013**

Great Staughton Social Day

2-4pm, The Highway, Great Staughton

**Tues 11th June 2013**

Fundraising group meeting

2-4pm at CAMTAD office, 8 Romsey Terrace

**26th September 2013**

Equipment Demonstration

10am-12.30pm at The Priory Centre, St Neots

**Tues 1st October 2013**

Equipment Information Session

10am-12pm at Buchan Street Hearing Help Session

**Thurs 10th October 2013**

CAMTAD 35th Anniversary Tea Party

3-5pm, at Scotsdales Garden Centre, Great Shelford

**Fri 29th November 2013**

Equipment demonstration