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## *Dear All*

I am pleased to tell you that the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group (the NHS) have told us that it is their intention to continue to fund us with a basic grant for the current financial year. This will mean we still have a deficit, as our expenditure exceeds our income. We can cover this from reserves for the current year, although funding will be tight. There are some areas for negotiation about this and for future years, however this is very good news, and I thank the Trustees who contacted Councillors, MPs, Governors and our colleagues and partners who supported us in overturning the decision to cut funding.

Our AGM this year was held at Bluntisham Village Hall. The current Trustees and Officers were re-elected and special thanks to Sue Stanley who has completed her 3 year term but has agreed to serve for a further year.

Stephen Webster has stepped down as our President and Alan Jones has been elected to replace him. This is appropriate as Alan plays a prominent role in the PR and Fundraising Group and is very much the public face of the charity. Stephen has been a long term supporter of the organisation and is now appointed Lifetime Vice-President.

Thanks to Melanie for organising the event and to the volunteers who provided delicious cakes and desserts.

A few pictures taken at the AGM



We had an interesting talk from Sarah Allen from The Ear Foundation on their work to promote the use of technology, including hearing aids and implants, to support people with deafness and hearing loss. There is a lot of wonderful work on developing new technologies but there is a gap between what is theoretically available and the technology that is actually in use. Organisations such as The Ear Foundation and ourselves are vital to bridge the gap and improve hearing.



We need more Trustees so if anyone has contacts who would be willing to take on this role please contact me. They can be co-opted during the year.

We had a very successful new volunteer training course in Cambridge at the new C3 Centre and welcome 7 new volunteers to the team. We got excellent feedback on the toilet facilities in the new building! New volunteers have started working in the Hearing Help Sessions and are being made welcome by our experienced hands.

In Wisbech we have closed the Hearing Help session at the St. Raphael Club and we will concentrate our efforts on the session in the Tesco's community room in Cromwell Road. I am very pleased that we have been able to start visiting residential homes in Wisbech, and with the help of the volunteers in the area we hope to do more of this over the coming months.

Alan Jones and Polly McCartney have assisted Addenbrookes Hospital Outpatients' clinics to improve their system for calling patients in the waiting area. They have identified key positions which have the best sightlines for people waiting for their appointments, and the staff will stand in these positions every time they call so patients will know where to look when a name is called. It is hoped that people with hearing loss will be able to prepare to listen for their name, when they see a member of staff approaching the spot and will be able to see their faces to lip-read them more easily.

Cambridgeshire charities that are involved in Health and Wellbeing are working together in a new group called the Health & Wellbeing Network. The network aims to work closely with the local authorities and the clinical commissioning groups to involve the third sector in decisions about services. This may seem a bit ironic in the light of the threat to our funding but we are part of the group and hope that by being represented with some of the bigger charities our contribution will not be overlooked.

On a national level, the NHS is shortly to publish a Commissioning Framework for services for people with age related hearing loss. This is to try and ensure some consistency in commissioning so that local NHS services follow good practice and don't decide, for example, to offer just one hearing aid when two may be more appropriate. However there is no guarantee that money will be available to continue to provide all the people who *could* benefit from an NHS hearing aid.

The Cambridge News interviewed me about background music following the successful campaign to stop Marks & Spencer from playing music in its stores (see below), and I was pleased that I was able to make the case for stopping music in restaurants where the noise can be completely overwhelming. Why not visit our Face Book page to enjoy the interview.

*Frances*

## Background Music

From Wednesday 1st June all branches of Marks and Spencer will be free of piped music, following a decision by its executive. 'We've listened to customer feedback, and the licence to play music in all our stores has now been cancelled with effect from 1st June 2016' said Gary Bragg.

### Pipedown

The campaign for freedom from piped music



This decision, which will save Marks and Spencer money, is the result of years and years of determined campaigning by Pipedowners and other people, who have refused to be fobbed off with bland dismissals.

Marks and Spencer remains the UK's biggest chain store, a national institution. Therefore, this is a great day for all campaigners for freedom from piped music. This entry was posted in Pipedown news - <http://pipedown.org.uk/> on May 30th 2016.

## Congratulations

The ongoing work of our many volunteers is greatly appreciated. This year our congratulations goes to Christine Starkey and John Harnwell who are receiving awards for 20 years volunteering with CHH also, Bob Jones and Carolyn Bullman for 10 years. Well done!



## Audiology News

~ *Siemens* now have new semi open tips.

### **WARNING!**

Please be careful not to mistake these with the Oticon plus domes as they are very similar.



~ *Open fits* Audiology has confirmed that the minifit and minifit power domes and tubing are interchangeable. The connectors are identical for the two widths of minifit tubing so as long as all the components come from the minifit family the fitting will be safe. If you are unsure please check with your Session Supervisor.

~ *As from June 1<sup>st</sup> 2016* patients under CAHS can contact Addenbrooke's directly.

If required, the number for Audiology reception is 01223 217797.



## Our Busy Volunteers

A round of applause goes to Barrie Roland and Norman Hardy who raised £300 for CHH following a 3 mile sponsored walk at Grafham Water, organised by Huntingdon Lions Club.

There were 51 walkers who were representing 18 different groups.



Phil Gomersall says *"Please pass on our thanks to the volunteers for attending the seminar at the Anglia Ruskin. The discussions were extremely enlightening for the students, and this has been reflected in many extremely positive responses in the respective module feedback evaluations"*.



Alan Jones writes... It was 4 degrees on the thermometer and a bitter north easterly was blowing across the fens when Paul McCloskey, Brenda Hutchison, Penny Lambert and I set up our stall in the main street of March on Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April. We used our stands as windbreaks and secured all our publicity material to the table as Brenda's balloons exploded above our heads like rifle shots. The highlight of our stall was the Deaf Awareness Snakes & Ladders Game which Frances had devised and Norman Hardy's son had beautifully reproduced in colour for us. We held 102 valuable conversations which had an impact on attendance at our St Peter's Church Hearing Help Session the next day.



Our next engagement was at the Wisbech Rose Fair on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> June, an annual festival attended by hundreds of mainly elderly people from Cambridgeshire and all the surrounding counties.

This time it was warmer, but heavy rain forced us to stop soon after lunch on the first day. Our team was Brenda, Frances, Diane Edwards, Brian Sandall, Penny Duce and myself. We talked seriously to another 88 people with a hearing loss and know that we helped many of them to move forward. We hope that several will start coming to our Hearing Help Session at March and Tesco's in Wisbech. This is part of our effort to make sure that people know about our services. Despite all our publicity there are still many who don't know about our Sessions even when one is right where they live!

If you would like to help us with the work of the Publicity & Fundraising Committee please let Frances or me know.

While I am writing, thank you for electing me as your President, CHH is very close to my heart and I will do all that I can to help ~*Alan Jones*

## *Volunteers' Holidays*

Please inform the office if you are unavailable for Home Visits, Residential Home Visits or Hearing Help Sessions.

Thank you!



## *Unique Interactive Hearing Exhibition Attracts National Celebrities*



**19TH JULY 2016**  
**10.00AM TO 5.00PM**  
The Marriott Hotel • Peterborough • PE2 6GB

Hearing experts and high profile celebrities will be joining forces on Tuesday July 19th at The Marriott Hotel, Peterborough for the first interactive hearing exhibition, HearClear Expo 2016.

BBC Radio 2 broadcaster and national treasure Johnnie Walker MBE, Mat Gilbert, Vice President of the England Deaf Rugby Union and former number eight with the Worcester Warriors, who is the UK's only profoundly deaf professional rugby union player and high profile Heart Radio breakfast presenter, Kev Lawrence will be headlining on the day adding glitz and showbiz to the unique one day exhibition. All three will be discussing how they overcame their hearing loss. In addition, leading industry professional and clinical paediatric audiologist, Josephine Marriage, PhD, will be presenting alongside the national children's charity Auditory Verbal UK.

"HearClear Expo 2016 is truly the first interactive hearing convention ever that's been held for the general public in Cambridgeshire and its aim is to give people the opportunity to touch and experience first-hand some of the most advanced hearing solutions available to them," explains Mike Stanley, Managing Director of Healthy Hearing Ltd (the main sponsor of the event).

"This event will bring together hearing aid manufacturers, medical experts, charities and celebrities to present the latest in hearing technology, high tech accessories, information and offer help and advice to anyone with a hearing need - of any nature.

"Whatever their situation, whether they have difficulty hearing, are profoundly deaf, suffer with tinnitus or simply need wax removing - help, advice, direction and solutions will all be available under one roof on the day."

Young children, teens and adults are all being urged to come along and try out some of the latest gadgets and equipment supplied by top global manufacturers and suppliers of specialist hearing equipment. Visitors will get the chance to test new technology ranging from specialist telephones and music speakers designed to help the user hear more clearly, to the latest in hearing aids and other hearing related devices.

In addition to hands on equipment, there will be many local and national charities taking part, offering information and lifestyle advice on all aspects of hearing. Breakout areas will allow visitors to talk one-to-one if necessary.

There will be an opportunity for visitors to take advantage of a free hearing test/ear check. There will also be a chance to learn about sign language and lip-reading, befriend a Hearing Dog and find out which organisations locally are deaf friendly (there are many!).

Exhibition visitors will get a chance to win an overnight stay in a suite at the prestigious George Hotel of Stamford, including an a la carte evening meal and breakfast. Anyone booking their tickets by July 8<sup>th</sup> will be entered into a prize draw to win a B&O Play by Bang & Olufsen Beolit 15 Bluetooth Speaker worth £400.00

**HearClear exhibitors include:** Phonak • Widex • Unitron • Oticon • Puretone • GN Resound • Hypersound • Healthy Hearing • Starkey • British Tinnitus Association • Hearing Dogs for the Deaf • Cambridgeshire Hearing Help • Action on Hearing Loss • Communication for Blind and Disabled People • Peterborough National Deaf Children’s Society • Age UK • Cambridge Deaf Association • Posh Deaf • AV UK and Chear • The Ear Foundation

**Hear Clear Expo 2016 will run from 10-5pm.**

**Venue: Sir Henry Royce Suite, The Marriott Hotel, Peterborough Business Park, Lynch Wood, Peterborough, PE2 6GB.**

**Visitors can book their free ticket or find out more by contacting:**

[info@hearclearexpo.co.uk](mailto:info@hearclearexpo.co.uk) ☎ 0800 298 7265 or by visiting: [www.hearclearexpo.co.uk](http://www.hearclearexpo.co.uk)

## *Diary Dates*

Last Friday of each month

Demonstration of Hearing Help Equipment at our Hearing Help Session held at St Andrew’s Street Baptist Church, Cambridge, CB2 3AR. Opportunity to try out specialised hearing equipment or discuss your hearing difficulties with a trained volunteer. Drop in between 10.00am – 12.00 noon.



**WATCH OUT** for upcoming dates this Autumn for Refresher Training and an Equipment Demonstration.

*Chair: Ruth Kern 01954 202093 Vice Chair: Roger Hill 01353740021*