

# Chattering April '09

Welcome to the **APRIL CHATTERING**, we appreciate the saying, nothing for ages then 2 come along at once, but after a massive amount of backroom work by Steve and others we find we have so much great information to pass round, that in fact this could become a monthly newsletter again.

**News from the Boardroom** - We have a group of Trustees who are determined that the charity will survive because the message **HAS TO BE HEARD**. It is awful in this day and age to read of a parent of a child with a moderate loss still not automatically being encouraged to help teach their child to listen and talk, and to believe that they will.

The **AGM is** being held at **The Parish Centre, St James' Church, Weybridge, Surrey, KT13 8DE** on Saturday the **25<sup>th</sup> April 2009**, timings will be posted on the website shortly, join us if you possibly can. Members should have received their nomination papers. Only members can stand as Trustees, and only members can vote. Membership forms can be down-loaded from the website, and we can assure you that you are valued. If you can't be present please take an interest - have you noticed it is London Marathon weekend???? Come, stay and support our 6 runners!!! [Sponsor them here at our website!](#)

**SUMMER SCHOOLS 2009** - YES, thanks to some very special funding we are back this year to holding three Summer Schools for PRE School and PRIMARY School children with primarily severe/profound hearing loss and their families at:

- δ Winchester – University of Winchester from Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> July to Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> July 2009. (Pre School)
- δ Southport – Pontin's from Monday 27<sup>th</sup> to Friday 31<sup>st</sup> July 2009. (Pre & Primary School)

Details will be hosted within [Current Events](#) on our website. Please *spread the word* and encourage anyone interested to contact - [enquiries@deafeducation.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@deafeducation.org.uk) quoting 'Summer schools'

*Could you personally put up a poster (and leaflets) for us? Please get in touch!*



Please reply to:  
**The Con Powell Centre**  
**Alfa House,**  
**Molesey Road**  
**Walton-on-Thames**  
**Surrey**  
**KT12 3PD**

Tel: National No.  
0845 108 1437

Tel: Office  
01932 243018

Fax:  
01932 243018

e-mail:  
[steve.matthews@deafeducation.org.uk](mailto:steve.matthews@deafeducation.org.uk)

*"Promoting rights, choices  
and opportunities for deaf  
children and young people to  
listen and talk naturally"*

#### Patrons

Dame Evelyn Glennie, MBE  
Dr Morag Clark, MBE  
Malcolm McAlpine  
David Evans

#### Head Office

The Con Powell Centre  
Alfa House, Molesey Road  
Walton-on-Thames  
Surrey  
KT12 3PD

Tel: National Lo Call  
0845 108 1437

Tel: Office  
01932 243018

Fax:  
01932 243018

e-mail:  
[enquiries@deafeducation.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@deafeducation.org.uk)

[www.deafeducation.org.uk](http://www.deafeducation.org.uk)

Deaf Education through Listening  
and Talking (Limited Company)  
Registered Office: 201  
Bishopsgate, London, EC2M 3AF  
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2009 is the **25<sup>th</sup>**, yes, the **25<sup>th</sup>** year of **Natural Aural Group & DELTA** Summer Schools and we are arranging a major celebration later this year – see **CHATTERING MARCH** and keep watching our updated website.

## **We can very proudly boast that:-**

- δ **Natural aural children are achieving** and the work is still going on in our core Local authorities
- δ Children who came to summer school all those years ago are now graduating or attending vocational courses or in jobs commensurate with their capabilities rather than determined by their hearing loss.
- δ **DELTA** is still an accepted player at UKCoD, by NDCS and Ewing Foundation even though its paid personnel have dwindled.
- δ The new slimmed down **DELTA** has gone back to grass roots and needs its volunteers more than ever...  
*(Please get in touch, with however much or little you can do!!)*

## **We are a charity: -**

- δ Whose Operations Manager is profoundly deaf and who is a product of the approach we espouse.
- δ Whose young people are sought after as 'role models' and are at ease with each other whether they are deaf or hearing.

**YOU BET WE ARE PROUD!!!!**



*Chris Gardner-Medwin, one of our trustees, and a long standing member of DELTA, was deafened in 1947 at 16 months. He was taught to speak and lip-read. We are delighted that he was accepted for the Cochlea Implant programme, he is one of the longest deafened people to be so. Here is the first serialised extract of his experiences -*

32 years ago I had an article published in 'Talk' (NDCS Summer 1977 no 84 "Methods of Communication") in which, among other things, I suggested that "there will be a great deal to be said for pushing all out research into vibro-stimulus aids ... electric (electronic) stimulus aids ...".

My news now is that I had a Cochlear Implant three weeks ago and I am awaiting 'switch-on' next week! (Early April). I could have had this earlier in 2003 but I postponed this because I was out of the country for a while.

While waiting for the 'switch-on' it has been an interesting experience to face a world of TOTAL silence for so long. Fortunately, as a lip-reader, this caused no problems save the constant tinnitus of hissing and bell like noises emanating from between the ears and the immediate loss of control of volume of my voice. The voice control was soon 'corrected' by my tactile sense at the throat (and people telling me whether I was speaking loud enough!).

I await the 'switch-on' with not a little trepidation and very low expectations but the optimism of others especially in DELTA (Deaf Education through Listening and Talking) has kept me going. At the very worst, things cannot be worse than they are today and confronting total silence will have to wait until I cross that bridge! On the plus side, if all goes well, I will simply be enjoying the whole new world that the deaf face today far removed from the days of relative inefficiency of lip-reading and the reliance on other forms of communication.

Life hopefully will be easier for me but I have no illusions that it will be hard work (nothing new there as lip-reading was!) to 're-learn' (like a new born child!) the new electronic sounds. However, I see all around me many people with cochlear implants and they are doing wonderfully well as almost perfectly hearing people! Our Brave New World has arrived!

My hoped for 'OAT' (Oral Aural Tactile) system is now simply the Natural Aural method. The technique is available now but in order for it to work it must be done properly with highly experienced people who can train teachers, parents and above all their deaf charges who can also have a Cochlear Implant shortly after birth or after diagnosis of deafness. Natural Auralism is not only for Cochlear Implantees but also for all deaf children using the best that technology can offer.

My persistence in getting the Cochlear Implant has been in no small way been due to the massive support from many in particular within DELTA - ([www.deafeducation.org.uk](http://www.deafeducation.org.uk)) and the many highly experienced and motivated people within it.

***To Be Continued.....***

## NEWS HEADLINES:

Tom Baxter, 15, has been selected to swim for Great Britain at the forthcoming Deaflympics, which will be held in Taipei in September 2009 and will compete in several events against other deaf swimmers from around the world.



Tom, who is about to take his GCSE's at Wimbledon College, trains at Leatherhead Swimming Club, 12.5 hours per week, over 7 sessions, and has recently won 9 gold medals in the multi-disability category at the Surrey Championships. Tom says "I am really happy to have been chosen to swim for the GB Deaf team, and I want to thank all those who have helped me and supported me in getting to this point. Once my GCSE's are over, I will be working really hard to be on peak form for my races in September. The British Government has, unfortunately, decided not to fund British athletes competing in the 2009 Deaflympics, so together my mum and dad, I will have to raise the money needed to get to the games, as well as to fund my training costs over the summer. I don't understand why there is money for Olympians and Paralympians, but not for the deaf, but I am determined to be part of this Great Britain team." *Well done Tom, what a terrific result for all the commitment, congrats to Margaret and Brian as well - (To support Tom, contact Margaret Baxter 01372 464761 or on [brimar.baxter@tesco.net](mailto:brimar.baxter@tesco.net))*

*And from someone well known to DELTA in the South to someone well known to DELTA in the North*

Freddie Millman has this news to share.

DELTA has received a cheque for £150 from the Scott Trial charity fund. This is an annual Motorcycle Trial, organised by the Scott Trial committee of the Richmond Motor Club. One of the most famous endurance trials in the world, it covers approximately 70 miles. It attracts many competitors and spectators from far and wide, and their entry fees contribute to the charity fund.



Described as the greatest tests of both man and machine, it is an event in which the clubman riders can still compete on the same course as top international stars.

Each year the Scott raises money for the "Scott charities" - non-profit making organisations who are often too small to attract grants from the usual sources. It makes grants to a number of worthwhile causes each year - normally to charities in the local area of Swaledale and surrounding areas, but also to other national charities which support people who are disabled and disadvantaged.

This year the Scott Trial secretary, Mrs. Chris Wallis (Freddie's aunt) selected DELTA as her nominated charity. The cheque was presented to Freddie Millman by the winner of the 18th Scott Trial held in 2008 as part of a charity evening at the Bridge Inn, Grinton, North Yorkshire, where we were also treated to a superb buffet supper. *Great job, thank you once again Millman family.*

## **Red Tape / Bureaucracy**

Meg Hounsme tried to book her Theory Driving Test on line. She came to the part that asked if there were any Special Requirements and filled it in. The next page asked her to wait for an e mail reply as the system was unable to complete her request.

The reply asked her to e mail or to phone or ask someone to contact a number in Manchester. Now she has to provide an official letter of proof that she is deaf, together with a letter of explanation and what she requires i.e. loop system and extra time. So the facilities have improved – but nothing is ever straight forward is it!?!?!?

Have you come across something like this? Have your say in Chattering!!

All contributions welcome.

**Finally for this newsletter, news about someone known to DELTA nationally and internationally who makes no bones about what she has always believed in:-**



**APPROPRIATE AMPLIFICATION  
+  
BELIEF, BASED ON EVIDENCE  
+  
APPROPRIATE INTERVENTION  
=  
A LISTENING CHILD**

This was the final slide when Morag, via her power point presentation gave us a quick tour of the world, and we met children conversing in their own language with their parents and teachers as a result of the programmes she has set up.

On Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March about 40 folk gathered to celebrate the 80<sup>th</sup> birthday of Morag Clark MBE, a founder member of NAG now DELTA and to listen to her talk.

The key organiser was Ann Chapman who trained to teach the deaf alongside Morag in Manchester in 1954. Leadenhall School, Salisbury kindly gave us the use of their beautiful premises which were ideal for the occasion.

The celebration continued with a delicious buffet lunch followed by a champagne toast with Morag cutting a beautifully decorated birthday cake. The occasion was

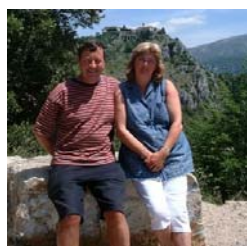
particularly enjoyed by everyone as several had not seen each other for many years, having come from all corners of England plus Wales, Scotland and France. There were at least a dozen founder members of NAG present.



Liz Rothwell, who was Morag's deputy at Birkdale School spoke about her energy, enthusiasm and insight which influenced so many young lives. Dr. Ivan Tucker OBE (Chief Executive of Mary Hare) also spoke of her many achievements in the world of deaf education.

Everyone agreed that knowing Morag, no-one was expecting her to slow down and will be looking forward to the next instalment. (By Margaret Glasgow)

That's all for now!



Happy Singing, Chatting & Gardening!

Lynn & (Tony) Hounsome

## P.S.

Steve Matthews would like to thank Lynn Hounsome (Co Editor) and Pixie Mason (Copy Writer) who last month offered to help me with our newsletters CHAT and Chattering!

Chat is published twice yearly for our PAID membership only, and welcomes items for future publications, please forward them to [enquiries@deafeducation.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@deafeducation.org.uk) with the subject of 'CHAT'. Previous editions can be found at our website. If you would like to become a member then please download our membership form [here](#).

Chattering is hoped to be published monthly and welcomes items for future publications, please forward them to [enquiries@deafeducation.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@deafeducation.org.uk) with the subject of 'Chattering'.

If you would like to be added to our mailing list for chattering, then please send a blank email to [delta@delta.talklist.com](mailto:delta@delta.talklist.com) with 'Join DELTA - Chattering' in the subject heading.

Alternatively send an email to [enquiries@deafeducation.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@deafeducation.org.uk) with 'Join DELTA - Chattering' in the subject heading and we will do it for you.



Keep Fundraising!

Steve Matthews