

NEWSLETTER

MAGNETISE

www.hccig.org.uk



Report from the Chair

Christmas is just around the corner once again that the Trustees and I send our greetings for a merry time to be had by all!

If you are going to miss out on our Christmas lunch then do join us for the Carol Signing Fundraising Event at Tesco and get into the festive spirit! We shall be signing to popular Christmas songs. This is an excellent opportunity for everyone to meet up and to raise money for HCCIG. Don't worry if you don't use BSL as you can pick some of it up copying members who do or follow the DVD we use. It certainly breaks the ice and if this gives you a taster to learn more then go to Action on Hearing Loss as they have a leaflet on this topic as BSL is especially useful communicating with all sorts of people not just those who are profoundly deaf. Some of our members still rely on it after implants and it is fun having a conversation across a room in noisy situations!

Just to let you know our Website is up and running again – sorry it was moved offline temporarily though it remains a mystery why or how this happened.

We know Christmas is not always a happy time for everyone as we can miss out if we can't hear in a crowd or find music isn't quite what it used to be. But I want to remember our friend Margaret who passed away unexpectedly not long after our Wine Bar meeting in the summer as she was a lovely example of someone who was a firm believer in seizing opportunities in life and would want us to go on being advocates for cochlear implants as she benefited so much from hers. Even so, as a BSL user she never forgot her deaf community and continued to use signing to include people in conversation. Let's follow her lead in looking out for those of our family and friends who may struggle at times with these social events.

Happy New Year!

See upcoming events opposite and I hope to see more of you soon.

Dates for your Diary CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Saturday 3 December 2016

Strand Palace Hotel

Details have already been sent out to those have booked places.

CAROL SIGNING

Sunday 11 December 2016

11:00 – 14:00hrs

Tesco Cheshunt Extra

Brookfield Centre

Waltham Cross

EN8 0TA

Parking/Restaurants on site.

WINE BAR

21st February 2017

6-9pm

Lounge 33 Wine Bar,

33-35 Brooke Street, Holborn,

London EC1N 7RS.

Nearest tube Chancery Lane Exit 2.

Just come along, join in and catch up on the latest CI chat.

Newsletter updates If you would like to submit an article for the next publication of Magnetise then send it to hccigs@gmail.com by **31st January 2017**. Your newsletter will be emailed to you unless you ask for a hard copy to be posted.

Remembering Margaret Oatway RIP

Born in India in 1958, and in her 58th year, Margaret was a strong and principled woman, full of love and very at ease with life.

As a 2 year old Margaret was taken by her mother to see a London Ear Nose and Throat 'specialist' only to be told that Margaret 'would probably never learn anything'. Mother and grandmother looked at each other and thought, 'we'll show him!' And with that support, Margaret took on the challenges of her deafness head on. As a family of 5 children we were all amazed at how well she coped with her handicap; the quality of her speech, her ability to use what little hearing she had; even using the telephone aurally, her academic achievements; including a second spoken language – French!

But Margaret loved her 1st language. At school she was 'enticed' to speak orally by some 'not so gentle' persuasion however she was undeterred. She and all the other pupils would Sign as often as they could, regardless. Signing was Margaret's natural expression and when, as a mature adult, she was offered her cochlear implant, Margaret told us that her main reticence was that it might alienate her from The Deaf Community; her community and something which she held very dear. However, Margaret not only remained a part of that community following her implant, but continued to be a very committed and supportive member of it.

Brian, her husband was hugely supportive during the process of Margaret's cochlear implant and the subsequent period of re-learning. The video of Maggie's switch on had the family in an emotional mess of tears as she heard her voice for the first time. And I think we all noticed a quieter Maggie as she tempered her approach to life somewhat when she could hear her cutlery scraping her plate and her fingers crashing across her keyboard.

Maggie told us of her of her first visit to the toilet. She was sent 'into town' by the implant staff so walked to Waterstones with Brian. Washing her hands after visiting their toilet she couldn't stop playing with the tap; slapping it on and off, listening to the water gushing and whooping with joy; We're surprised they didn't try to have her sectioned! One sister told her 'if that was good, you should try Velcro' Maggie said 'velcro doesn't make a noise' so she said 'try it' She gave her motorcycle boots and she was in aural heaven!

What about regrets? Well, Maggie seemed very happy with her life, with the choices she made. She had great success in her career as a programmer; she excelled in her HNC in Statistics and Computing, as a mature student, in a regular college, winning the prize for Best Student. However, despite all this and A Levels in Maths, Pure Maths, Applied Maths and Physics, she told her sister once, that she didn't like maths that much!! She did it because she was good at it, but said she'd really like to have done English and Art. The family are sure the many deaf adults who Maggie gave literacy support to will have appreciated sharing Maggie's love of the English language.

And Brian has this to say:

Margaret was such a dear friend to everyone. She gave so much happiness. We have so many happy memories of her all too short life.

Whatever Margaret did she always put 100% into it. She will be missed by so many people.

She was kind, caring and concerned for others. She will be greatly missed.

Such a warm, active supporter of the deaf community with eager passion and commitment. She was a lovely lady.

Our lasting memory of her will be her infectious enjoyment of life, her church work, her work with charities and her love of her family.

Chrissie, Androulla, Anne and Ginny were able to attend her funeral and we hope Brian keeps in touch because the group is there for not just those who have implants but their families who are also affected by deafness.



<https://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/supporting-you/factsheets-and-leaflets/communication.aspx>



Hear now. And always

Kanso™ is the latest innovation from Cochlear – a sound processor that's so small it's barely noticeable and so comfortable you can forget you're wearing it.

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To find out more, please visit: <http://www.cochlear.com/wps/wcm/connect/intl/home/discover/cochlear-implants/kanso-sound-processor> or email: Kate King at kking@cochlear.com



Cochlear Implant Information Day

Venue: The Ear Foundation, 83 Sherwin Road, Lenton, Nottingham, NG7 2FB

Date: Saturday 28 January 2017

Time: 10am till 4pm (with lunch)

Cost: £25 per family or £15 per person

This one day course takes you through the journey from Assessment to Surgery to Rehabilitation to Outcomes. It will provide opportunity to speak with other users and families of children with cochlear implants at various stages of their journey.

- Do you have a child with severe or profound hearing loss?
- Do you have a severe or profound hearing loss?
- Are you considering a cochlear implant for your child or for you?
- Would you like to know more about what is involved with having a cochlear implant?

Then this information day is for you!

For further information or to reserve a place, please contact rachel@earfoundation.org.uk and put 'CI Info Day' in subject of your email or call 0115 942 1985

There is a whole host of other information on our Sound Advice Adult Days and a shop for equipment so take a look at the website at <http://www.earfoundation.org.uk/>

StageTEXT

Every word counts

Go to <http://www.stagetext.org/> to find out where captioning of performances will be available.

Accessible Subtitled/Captioned Cinema! More than 1,400 shows nationwide!

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Check the website regularly for full subtitled listings: Locations, dates, times & trailers.

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Testing Testing, Testing.

I have two aunts and, much to Bertie Wooster's admiration, I admit I hadn't seen them for many years until my father's funeral. I'd spoken with them occasionally on the phone but not met face-to-face for decades which would explain why, when I said hello to one of them, she replied "You're not Tony (pleadingly) surely!" I blame the lighting.

Turns out I've got three extended family members with impaired hearing. Not deaf,

but plainly struggling to hear, particularly if there's background noise and all moaning about how actors mumble on TV nowadays. The signs are obvious.

Have they had hearing tests or spoken with a GP? Nope, not one of them because:-

"I'm scared they'll find something serious and I don't want to pay all that for a hearing aid."

"Oh, it's not that bad, but I don't go out much anymore and I do get lonely."

"I know I'm vain, but I don't want to wear a hearing aid."

I chatted about their concerns, to no avail; they'll continue losing out on life. As for not wanting to wear a hearing aid because of how it looks – then stop wearing your reading glasses and stare at a page you can't understand.

It's not for me to suggest what people do or don't do (not sticking fingers in the shredder apart) but isn't it better to use an aid whilst it's possible? I'm surprised how many hearing aids I see on a daily basis and this week I met two people with bad Tinnitus. I guess I'm more aware of these problems or just willing to talk about them. I do wonder how many people struggle without being recognised by the medical system. What is the true statistic for impaired hearing?

Perhaps it would help to compare hearing difficulties with driving. If you ignore the oil warning light in the car and then the 'Engine Fault' alert you'll have problems later, so getting a hearing check is worth the effort. Who am I to talk though? I should have had our car checked before the gearbox detonated. Instead believed the online advice that it was a sensor error. Cost a bloody fortune too; at least that was repairable.

Reprinted courtesy of article at <https://www.hearinglink.org/blogs/partners-view/testing-testing-testing/>

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Hertford Heritage Day at Hertford Castle

Sunday 11th September



As part of National Heritage Weekend, a number of us visited Hertford Castle and had a really enjoyable afternoon in the sunshine.

The Castle itself was most interesting as we were able to explore the basement, dungeons, robing room and Downshire Suite.

The Castle lawn hosted a medieval encampment, falconry and had various crafts to see plus we had a very instructive session being shown the armour, clothing and weapons of the times. Naturally we repaired to a local hostelry for refreshments after though some of us did partake of the fare on offer at the event and watched too the archery. We just made sure we didn't cross the soldiers keeping guard!

We even posed for the local paper so excuse the grainy picture below.



VISITORS: Andy Stevens, organiser, and Steve Gumble in uniform, are pictured with members of the Home Counties Cochlear Implant Group

Disclaimer – HCCIG A voluntary group funded by members

HCCIG accept no responsibility for any information relating to third party organisations featured in this newsletter. While HCCIG makes every effort to ensure details are accurate, we advise our members to check these with the organisations concerned. HCCIG does not endorse any product or service of, nor does it verify any preferential treatment, offered by the organisations. All queries should be directed to them. Certain of the offers and services featured in this newsletter are only available to customers of those organisations. HCCIG does not provide medical advice or make recommendations with regard to any particular implant and no article in this newsletter should be construed as doing so.

Contacting HCCIG

Please use email as the main way to contact Jenny as she is often out and about on HCCIG business or busy with family commitments. That way you can be sure your messages will be picked up and a reply returned in due course. Thank you.

Chair: Mrs. Jenny Burdge
17a Maxim Road
Winchmore Hill
London N21 1EY

Tel/Minicom: 020 8360 0514

Email: hccigs@gmail.com

Treasurer: Darren S Pallet BA FCA

Trustee: David Gordon

Observer & Newsletter Editor: Claire Johnson

Website/Social Media: Tina Lannin

Contact details below:

Royal National Throat, Nose & Ear
Hospital, Cochlear Implant
Department, Gray's Inn Road, London
WC1X 8DA

Cochlear Implant Department
Telephone: 020 3456 5382
Fax: 020 3456 5003
Text: 07899 748 917 (Strictly text
only)
Email: cirepairs@uclh.nhs.uk

Email: cioffice@uclh.nhs.uk

Adult programme

Telephone: 020 3456 5001
Email: Jeanette.Sanders@uclh.nhs.uk

Paediatric Programme

Telephone: 020 3456 5002
Email: Lorna.White@uclh.nhs.uk

Batteries are sent out by 2nd class post.

Social Media Update

Website – www.hccig.org.uk

If there is anything that you feel should be displayed on our website get in touch.

Facebook –to find us search for Home Counties Cochlear Implant Group and feel free to add comments, photos or updates on any member news.

A Voluntary Group Funded by Members and various Grants - Registered Charity number 1099169

Trustees Mrs Jenny Burdge, Mr Darren Pallett BA (Hons) FCA, Mr David Gordon
17a Maxim Road, Winchmore Hill, London, N21 1EY

www.hccig.org.uk

e mail hccigs@gmail.com