

Chattering July 2007

Dear All

A slightly belated Chattering, we've had a very busy time as you'll see below!!

New Staff

Firstly I hope you all received a farewell email from our Chief Executive, Keith Gladstone who left in May; we wish him all the best with his new ventures.

Steve Matthews, formerly Chair of DELTA has been appointed as temporary operations manager for a temporary term. Alison Holmans who was Vice Chair of the Charity has now stepped into the Chair's role for this period.

Steve is proving to be a great advocate for the Charity, as the first profoundly deaf manager of DELTA, he has already attended conferences and meetings on our behalf promoting our message that listening and talking really does work. He also brings a wealth of experience from his previous background as a retail manager.

Summer Schools

A huge thank you to all of you who have rallied to our Summer school appeal, we are immensely grateful.

Our biggest success was thanks to Ross Moujahid and his Mum Karen. Ross is profoundly deaf and benefited from summer schools when he was little. Some of you may remember that Ross did a sponsored readathon of Harry Potter books to help our appeal 3 years ago. Off his own bat Ross contacted JK Rowling to ask her to sponsor him and she sent a whopping £10 K towards our appeal.

Ross, who is now 16, writes below:

Dear Wendy,

I wanted to help DELTA raise money for the summer schools so I wrote to J K Rowling and told her I was going to do a sponsored Harry Potter reading/kick up session which meant doing as many kick ups with a football as I could while reading Harry Potter to make it more difficult!



So I took her book "Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets" and started doing the kick-ups in our garden while my Mum counted how many I was doing. It was much harder than I thought - I had to keep my eyes on the ball and the book and the ball kept running off! It meant I was very slow reading! I kept going for one hour and in that time had done 642 kick-ups and was worn out!

It was worth it though as JK Rowling sent me a letter telling me she is giving a donation to DELTA to sponsor me. Hope you get this soon.
Best wishes,
Ross Moujahid

And she responded by sending another £10K cheque. He also got Mohammed Al Fayed to sponsor him for £200!

All I can say Ross is a huge thank you and perhaps you'd like to come and join us as a full time fundraiser??!!

More Thanks go to:

- Abi Cope from the North West Region. Abi persuaded Barclays, where she works to have a dress down day where they pay to come in their own clothes and the proceeds came to DELTA. She also organised a sponsored Bike ride around the Trans Pennine railway which Barclays matched pound for pound.
All in all she has raised just over £1700
- Hiten Laad from the East Midlands region and one of our profoundly deaf YDAG's not only ran the London Marathon for us but also rode the Reigate/Brighton Bike ride and raised just over £1000
- The East Midlands region, headed by Maria Jane, her daughter Hanna and stalwart YDAG, Ian McDonald, who organised a sponsored walk through a country Park in their area. They are still counting up the total

Our Thanks also go to the following:

All our Marathon Runners! Our Bike Riders and all the volunteers who helped run it, The Burwood Foundation, The Stickland family, Oticon, Advanced Bionics UK Ltd, Connevans, Rothchild Foundation, and Lancashire Masonic Lodge.

As a result of all the activity above, I'm very relieved to say that Lancaster Summer Schools and the Winchester Day are able to go ahead for 2007. We are full for both Pre-school and Primary at Lancaster.

We can still squeeze people in for the Winchester day on Saturday 28th July, please contact: Belinda for more details; [Belinda Davis](#) – or visit the website. [Winchester DELTA Day](#)

Bike Ride

The Bike Ride was a great success and had just over 70 riders who braved the pouring rain. Connevans gave everyone a huge welcome and breakfast at the start and after the 50 miles of driving rain and Ditchling Beacon!!, Ovingdean Hall School was the most welcome site of all and gave a warm and rousing reception.

Here's Ian's story:

It was a grey morning and we arrived in Reigate to be welcomed by the lovely Wendy who was busy making sure that everything was running smoothly.

24 June 2007 - 8:35

The weather doesn't look good outside.

The three of us left Reigate on our bikes at 8.50am. It was still wet but that didn't put us off. We had to cycle without our aids – and it was odd to cycle with rain dripping inside my ears!



Wendy working hard...

I cycled ahead of the boys and we arrived at The Rising Sun Inn within an hour – I think that was a record for us. We left the checkpoint at 10.00am and we had a few hills to overcome. It was difficult to cycle up the hills because of the weather conditions – checkpoint 2 was somewhere at the top of one of many hills!

24 June 2007 - 10:56

Arrived - alone. Sitting in a wobbly toilet cubicle to get away from the rain and my bum is wet.



Ian and Steve taking a break

We were offered hot drinks and we had a rest inside the opened double-garage. The lady of the house recognised me from the previous bike ride and I told her that I must have been mad to do the bike ride for the third time in a row. We left at 12.36pm for Brighton – it was time to get moving on.



Hiten and ice-cream

At 1.30pm we arrived at the bottom of Ditching Beacon and there was a van waiting for us to take us up Ditching Beacon. I was feeling cold and regretted having that hot drink. Hiten and Steve had ice-cream (yes – and it was still raining outside). We cycled off towards Brighton and I could feel the cold salty breeze from the sea. Down the road I cycled towards Brighton – and I was cycling up to 24 mph down on the 30 mph zone! I looked behind me and I couldn't see Hiten or Steve. There were few traffic lights going red which didn't help – because I was waiting under the rain for the green light to appear. I looked behind and couldn't see the boys. There was lots of traffic in Brighton and one car nearly knocked me over (he didn't indicate left). I still didn't have my hearing aids on so I don't know if the driver (or drivers) honked at me.

I cycled past the pier and out of Brighton parallel with the coast – and the salty 'green' raindrops were dripping from my helmet onto my eyes. I was cold and my teeth were shivering. Only 1 mile to go and I was thought I was doing well despite the fact I wasn't cycling as fast as I was going at the beginning of the journey. I turned behind me and saw Hiten was creeping up behind me. He overtook me but I was too tired to get angry and aggressive! I followed Hiten and watched him arriving at Ovingdean Hall School before me. Bah – unbelievable. I only had a mile to go until the finish line and Hiten had to beat me by a minute or so.

After a warm-ish shower and some clean clothes on – it was time for some food! The dinner ladies at the school cooked splendid meal – sausages, chops and beans. Yummy! It was worth a ride.

This year's bike ride event was different to the previous bike ride events – and it was fun (yes – you heard me!). It was a tough challenge and I would do it again. But next time I will wear something warm – just like Hiten did.

Ian M

Thank you to everyone who took part, not only the Bike riders but also to the supporters: David, Wendy, Mary, John, Margaret, Pauline, Jenny, Gill, Richard and Deborah and all her team

Great North Run

We currently have 16 registered runners for the Great North Run in September. Please spur them on by helping them reach their target sponsorship. This is so easy to do by logging onto Justgiving.com or click here. [Great North Run](#)

Pink Clock

Our competition for the Connevens [Pink Alarm Clock](#) was won by Joanne Williams. Many thanks for all your entries and stories.

New Literature

We now have 2 new leaflets:



"Why DELTA", explains how DELTA was formed, what the Natural Aural Approach is and how we give support.

"Talking Matters" is a booklet with 6 case studies in of deaf children and adults who are following a Natural Aural Approach



We have them at present in paper copy but will soon be getting them printed to add to our lead leaflet "Deaf Children are Listening and Talking".

Please contact us if you would like copies of any of the above. [Contact us](#)

Developing a Listening Ear Conference

We were very pleased and honoured to be part of the "Developing a Listening Ear" Conference held at the Arlington Arts Centre, Mary Hare from the 9th to 11th July.

Not only did we have a DELTA stand but also held a symposium on "Why Talking Matters", led by our Chair, Alison Holmans. Alison has spent a huge amount of time collecting videos from around the country of deaf children talking naturally and also what it has meant to their families.

Alison was joined by parents and young people who presented their stories and also by Margaret Brown, Morag Clarke and Sue Lewis; all keynote speakers for the main conference who delivered their "pearls" of wisdom, and pearls indeed they were.

I am hoping that we will be able to write up a bit more about the conference in our next edition of Chat which should be out in October.

Now We're Talking Re-launch

The Now we're Talking campaign is undergoing some exciting changes which we're very proud to be part of.

Now we're talking started off in 1998, and led by the Ewing Foundation and DELTA. They were then joined by The Elizabeth Foundation in 2004.



This year it was re-launched at the Developing a Listening Ear Conference at which Steve Matthews spoke, this was well received by the delegates. NWT has new literature and new members consisting of the former 3 organisations and: Mary Hare, St John's Catholic School for the Deaf, Christopher Place, Knightsfield School and Ovingdean Hall school. The aim is "working together to promote deaf children's rights and opportunity to communicate through listening and talking, and to let them speak for themselves"

www.nowwetalk.org.uk

Regional News

- Family and Friends Fun day and BBQ at Beechenhurst, Forest of Dean. 22nd September [Wales Family and Friends Fun Day & BBQ](#)
- South West Regional Meeting; to be confirmed but we hope to run a family information day later this year, keep an eye on the website!

That's it for now. In the next issue we'll have a write up on summer schools and please keep the fund raising going. We need money to carry out all our events not just summer school. Have a great summer



That's it for now.

Please keep your comments coming in either by [contacting me](#) or phoning the office on: 0845 108 1437

Wendy
xxxx