

To: Chattering
From: Chattering (Enquiries@deafeducation.org.uk / Standard)
Subject: Chattering August 2009

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Dear Reader,

Our 25th year of Summer schools could not be stopped by the weather, even the very soggy social evening at Winchester was a success, and rumour has it that some people braved the sea at Southport.

This special year still has some major celebrations to come –

PLEASE - check your diaries – book the dates – come along to one, two or all and join in the fun.



Families and helpers who have attended any Summer school or Information weekend over the past **25 years** are particularly welcome. However each event is open to everyone following or interested in following the Natural Aural Approach, their families, friends or indeed anyone wishing to support DELTA and of course our very important Members.

August 31st *Bank Holiday Monday at Weybridge in Surrey*

September 13th *Sunday at Beechenhurst in the Forest of Dean, Gloucester.*

October 24th *Saturday at Stoneleigh Agricultural Showground, Warwickshire*

See below for more information and contact details for tickets or details.

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Thank you... Thank you

Summer School Report... Thank you Meg and Steve

Home from Rome... The BELL family made it, looking fit with some unusual suntan lines!!! Full report with pictures and how much they raised next month.

A tale from Wales... Thanks to James and Emma Jackson for sharing this

Event details & Diary dates... Please note change of date for Carmen Event

Competition... Fundraising certificate - entries by 1st September please

PERSONAL ADS... copy and ads would be very welcome!!

44 out of 921... Every Click

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Thank you...

To everyone who donated or raised funds for Summer schools to happen

To everyone who worked so hard to make them a success

To everyone who volunteered but could not be used this time

To everyone who encouraged families to come

Winchester Summer School... – report

Belinda, Cate and Sarah have given me the privilege of writing a few words about Winchester Summer school 2009. After 16 years, what am I going to say? Well I was asked to do something different this year, use my hobby and take photo's of the helpers (when I managed to catch them all) and do a display. Thanks Amy for your help. Then catch the families, try to catch happy waking babies and do a booklet like Carol has done at Lancaster in the past for the families to take home with them. 12 families came this year bringing 22 children with them, and some grandparents or other supporters. Another family with 2 children dropped in for one day.

DELTA's message is still the same but the families children have got younger. This year not one over 5 years and the youngest was about 5 months, maybe, because we were for preschool. Even our youngest 'YDAG's to be' have reached the grand old age of 16.



A very soggy social with very soggy helpers, but everyone stayed – lots of brollies, we had a good time and raised some funds. The Bell twins dropped in to show off their cycling suntan, Ann Chapman was given a Memories of Summer School Book with a photo of us all – which was a challenge.



The parents always seemed happy, having their questions answered, but we did have trouble getting them back to the classroom when the Fire Brigade and Prison sniffer dogs and handler came to visit.



I really enjoyed my new role, hard work but fortified every morning by Bacon Butty Bill (the hardest person to catch to photograph!) I look forward as always to next time. **Megan H.**

Southport Summer School... – report

My 2009 Summer School experience started this year on an early Friday morning (4am) with moving the last of the office furniture from the current office in to a smaller office on the same site. (Address and phone remain the same!) (Thanks goes to Alfa House & staff for assisting during this period, so that the charity can benefit from further reduced running costs)

By 8am the new office was ready, with a few pieces of large furniture taking up the remaining space, as these were due to move to their new home when I returned from Summer School in 10 days time. (I checked my check list again to ensure that everything was needed for the next 10 days were safely stored downstairs ready for its journey to Winchester).

By 9.30am my ride to Newbury to collect the Mary Hare Minibus was here to transport all the equipment needed from the office. (Thanks Dr Tucker, Ian, Colin & John!)

Rest of Friday was taken up with driving across the counties of Berkshire & Hampshire collecting people, toys and materials for Winchester Summer School. Saturday saw the arrival of helpers & speakers, old and new faces soon were working together just like our usual DELTA Summer School machine. Whilst parents and grandparents were back to school learning about DELTA, the Natural Aural Approach their babies were being looked after and having lots of fun with our helpers.

A highlight for me before I had to depart for Southport was the Social evening which in reality should had been a washout due to the on going heavy rain fall! However it was enjoyed by all and DELTA would have raised even more money if we had some umbrellas to sell! I finally left Winchester at 10.30 that night and drove home in the minibus, a few hours sleep before I got up at 5.30am and loaded the minibus with all the toys and equipment now needed for Southport Summer School!

At 6.30am my journey started in the most horrendous rain but ended in pure blue skies and hot sunshine as I arrived at Shoreside Primary School in Southport 5 hours later! And here we go again, round two of unloading toys and equipment and setting up and preparing with the helpers who were totally unfazed a brand new site with the families arriving in less than 2 hours!

We were soon ready for the families to arrive, helpers were quickly eating lunch and the speakers were preparing and making last minute changes to their presentations. Soon the school was filled with the noise of babies and children, and their parents were sitting down once again in a classroom! The older children were taken to the beach and met a ranger and enjoyed an open air class room session about the beach and its wildlife.

Once the first day of Southport summer school was over, we then allocated the families and helpers their keys and off they went to find their flats down the road at Pontins! This was to be the start of my daily trips with the minibus for helpers and families who needed transport to and from Pontins and the school.



Day two, the babies went to crèche, the parents to their classes, the older children went to Camelot, and all the helpers & speakers went to work! Another great day enjoyed by all with many tired children by the end of it, but all were soon back at the school to enjoy a social evening with wine and cheese and a deaf entertainer! Great fun was had by all and soon retired back to Pontins!

Day three was similar to day two except the older children went to

Past editions of chattering are here at www.deafeducation.org.uk/members



Martin Mere Wetlands Centre, where they went on a guided walk and after lunch were building dens and enjoying the play area.



After the school had ended that day, a large group of the YDAG's and younger helpers went off to the dodgems and managed to totally take over the ride for one session!



The beach was next and a short walk (long) to get there; soon there were some in sea having been told to take off all hearing aids and CI's!!

Day four was soon swinging in to action and once again babies and children along with their helpers were doing crafts and songs, Carol A kindly took plenty of photos and printed them to show their parents what they had got up to whilst their were sitting in their classrooms! The older ones enjoyed a trip in to Southport to go bowling, and then enjoyed an afternoon sports day on the fields of the school.

We ended the summer school with a bring and share tea party, with the helpers and speakers being thanked for their efforts by the families! We also thanked Eddie the Shoreside Primary School Caretaker for his help during the week! The speakers this year were great and many parents simply just wanted more! The helpers enjoyed their meals being catered for by Carol M and Catherine W for the duration of the school, but it was time to give everyone a break and enjoy an evening meal together. So it was glad rags times and down to the restaurant in nearby Ainsdale for a carvery meal, some went into Southport for the rest of the evening to celebrate a few birthdays!

On Friday most families and helpers departed leaving a few behind to try and get some rest before a long journey home, we sadly spent our Friday evening contacting everybody who had attended Southport Summer School regarding a possible swine flu case. We are glad to report that despite some being issued with Tamiflu none have caught Swine Flu.

We know that everybody has enjoyed both summer schools this year, and that we are now fundraising for both our 25th Celebration Day in October and for the 2010 Summer Schools so watch this space and do contact us if you wish to help or fundraise for DELTA. **Steve Matthews.**

Home from Rome... Sarah starts to tell the story of their Home to Rome Ride...



A tale from Wales... let loose – a 7 yr old with his cochlear implant! – a cheery tale from the wilds of Wales!

Just wanted to share a story about our son, Sam Jackson, who at 7 years old is currently away on camp at Glan Usk Estate near Crickhowell, Wales. Sam was born profoundly deaf and after a series of both analogue and digital hearing aids was given a cochlear implant at the age of 3. To say Sam is outgoing would be an understatement, and if I shared part of his school reports summary 'Sam always leaves a room in laughter and chaos' it might give you a good idea of his exuberant nature.

So when it was announced that Sam, and his big sister Amy (10) had the opportunity to go on the bi-annual St John's camp whilst the kids were very excited, Emma and I were slightly trepidatious- about sending Sam in particular.

So time went by and camp approached, Sam and Amy got more excited, kit lists were supplied and fulfilled, but we were still concerned about how Sam would get on, and how the organisers would deal with his additional needs.

But the day came and they went off with fully laden backpacks - which Sam attempted to carry himself before almost falling backwards with the weight! Emma and I decided we still needed re-assurance so travelled up to the campsite separately so we could see the setup and be able to visualise them.

The minibus arrived and we saw them into the registration point (along with their fellow members of the Roath Park St John's Ambulance Brigade) and left.

There followed several hours of 'concern' until we got a call from Sue, their Badger leader, to say all was well. Since then we've had a couple of calls and each time everything has been fine - Sam is fully settled into his tent with 3 other boys (one of which is his friend at Badgers) and is sorting himself out night and day and even managing to pass the regular 10 am tent inspection!

It's really shown us how robust and independent Sam is and how he seems to have no issue with his hearing impairment - sorting out his own batteries each day and storing his processor safely at night in the make shift 'porta-dehumidifier' we sent him on camp with.

Of course we have had the one phone call... but that was from Amy, saying she wanted to come home. She didn't as it happens, it turned out to be a fear of the dark that was giving her worries and since that realisation the organisers made efforts to make sure she isn't 'in the dark'. A trip to Dolaucothi gold mine being the pinnacle of overcoming this fear!

And when Amy was upset and wanting to come home, what did Sam say to Sue 'if Amy goes home I want to stay 'cos I'm having fun'!

James & Emma Jackson

Sounds like Sam will be at the front of the queue shooting arrows at Beechenhurst again this year James – looking forward to seeing you all again. (LH)

A NEWSY TITBIT FROM WALES...



This week I met a family with a 4 yr old, who was implanted 2 yrs ago. She is very vocal. They have moved 10 -15 minutes away from the aural unit and school, but into Blaenau Gwent.

Here they are being offered a place at a TC unit 45 minutes away. The family wish to continue the aural approach and to stay at the aural unit. Cross border funding is likely to be an issue.

This morning I heard on BBC WALES, that Ebbw Vale (Blaenau Gwent) has been awarded £46 million to host the National Eisteddfod in 2010. My immediate thought was – wouldn't it be nice for a group of aural deaf children to perform there. Any takers???????????? (LH)

Event details & Diary dates...

All events are open to whoever wishes to attend especially families & friends of DELTA.

Bank Holiday Monday 31st August 2009 - 12pm - 6pm

SURREY - St James Parish Centre - Weybridge

DELTA Social Event & BBQ with bouncy castles, fun games etc
 Ticket sales in advance, contact [Steve Matthews](#)

Sunday 13th September 2009 - 10am to 4pm

GLOUCESTER – Forest of Dean – Beechenhurst Events Area

5th DELTA Funday and Bar B-Q, with Archery and silly games
 Ticket sales in advance, contact [Lynn Hounsome](#)

Saturday 24th October 2009 - Times - TBC

Stoneleigh Agricultural Showground, Warwickshire

DELTA Celebrates - 25 years of Summer Schools - Please join us and help us to celebrate 25 years of Summer Schools. Our AGM for our members will be held too. Details are being finalised and will be published shortly via Chattering and our website, keep your eyes peeled! For further details contact [Steve Matthews](#)

Saturday 5th December 2009 - 10.30am – 3pm

Greenmeadow Community Farm, Cwmbran. NP44 5AJ

The 6th **DELTA** Xmas party at www.greenmeadowcommunityfarm.org.uk

For further details contact [Lynn Hounsome](#)

Sunday 6th December 2009 * NEW DATE* - rehearsals beginning at 10.30am & performance starts at 7.30pm

*** NEW DATE*** for the Carmen Challenge see July Chattering - music making money for DELTA (Thanks Monmouth Music Theatre) www.carmenchallenge.com

Bike Ride 2010 - Reigate to Brighton

we have provisionally booked the date 9th May 2010, it is also the 21st year of our Bike Ride. It promises to be a fun filled day, so if interested then please drop an e-mail to Steve so that he can record your interest!

Competition...

COMPETITION for a COMMEMORATIVE FUNDRAISING CERTIFICATE

2 X £5 VOUCHERS ARE UP FOR GRABS!!!

Children's entry / Adults entry

Design a Certificate on A5 sized paper in landscape or portrait which includes;

'In the 25th year of NAG/DELTA Summer Schools'

OR

'25 years of NAG/DELTA Summer Schools'

Space for the name of the person/group responsible for Raising Funds

Space for the Amount, signature & date

Space for DELTA Charity details

**All entries (with senders details including age if under 16yrs)
to be submitted before 1st September either
by post to: The Con Powell Centre, Alfa House, Molesey Road,
Walton on Thames, Surrey. KT 12 3PD
or by e mail to: [Steve Matthews](mailto:Steve.Matthews@deafeducation.org.uk)**

Results in the September edition of Chattering

PERSONAL ADS... column. Please contact enquiries@deafeducation.org.uk regarding anything you see here, or with anything you wish included.

Would you or your boss give a donation for an advert?????

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DELTA'S fundraisers are using Buy AT for their Internet Shopping



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