

Welcome to the September + October news letter



CHATTERING SEPTEMBER + OCTOBER 2011

## Welcome

Dear John

School summer holidays are over. Is it the sign of getting older that they seem to stretch way ahead at the beginning, then suddenly – where did they go?? Not the best of weather but hopefully you all enjoyed at least a couple of BBQ's in true British fashion! The results of this Summer is certainly noticeable in the trees 'dripping' with every stone fruit imaginable and weighed down with apples.

We have a family write up about Summer school 2011, fund raising updates and this month we branch away slightly in our series about other Aural groups and join in the Congratulations of Connevans' 50th birthday celebrations. Apart from the wealth of equipment they supply, Connevans has a very special place in DELTA hearts (and stomachs!!) for the wonderful welcome and the breakfast they provide for the start of our annual bike ride.

*You will (WE HOPE) notice that Chattering this month is dual edition.*

**REASON 1)** We wanted to make sure that everyone knows about the AGM being held in Newbury on SATURDAY 22ND OCTOBER.

We are sure everyone who reads our newsletter is interested in, if not committed to the Natural Aural Approach and what DELTA as a charity exists for. We urge you to come along and help take DELTA forward through what are difficult times for a great many charities.

**REASON 2)** The small number of Volunteers currently running DELTA are all very busy people in their other lives and would really welcome help to keep DELTA going on a daily basis. A few hours of your time or expertise could well be invaluable, even it is just to help with a specific project. Please contact [edwardstuart@deafeducation.org.uk](mailto:edwardstuart@deafeducation.org.uk) or come to the AGM.

*The November edition of Chattering will return to being published at the beginning of the month.*

## Annual General Meeting

2011 has been a year where, for legal reasons, we have had to hold two Annual General Meetings, so please do not think you are experiencing déjà vue!

**On Saturday 22nd October**, we will be presenting our 2010 accounts at our AGM to be held at Mary Hare, near Newbury. We hope to run a family event during the day and a social event/ fundraiser in the evening, accommodation will be available onsite and is reasonably priced. We are on the lookout for additional volunteers/ helpers so please do get in touch with via my email address [Edward.stuart@deafeducation.org.uk](mailto:Edward.stuart@deafeducation.org.uk) or via the [office](#). Further details will be sent out to the membership very soon.

## Southport Family Writeup

The opportunity to attend DELTA summer school this year was great. The workshops are always relevant for your child, the information was made very clear and the handouts easy to read and great to keep and refer to as needed. I came away feeling more confident as a parent and that I now had the tools to be prepared in terms of their development and was more aware of the support that we should be expecting for Joshua and Matthew at school.



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Meeting other families gave me the opportunity to share experiences and feel in the company of people who understood some of the issues that we face from having deaf children.

Joshua and Matthew had a lovely time on the trips and enjoyed the mini bus rides. The volunteers were so good with the children that I never worried about how they would be coping without me. For the children to be able to mix with other children with hearing problems as well as some of the volunteers wearing hearing aids was invaluable.

Having photographs of the children's activities was a lovely touch and helped to encourage conversation and share their experience.

DELTA do an amazing job and the commitment from all the people involved is incredible.

Having older children share their experience is really encouraging and helps bring it home that our children will have successes and do well and have the ability to learn just as their peers.

Having attended the preschool summer school two years ago I was very excited to be able to attend a second time. I will always look back on the summer school with fond memories and be thankful for all the knowledge and expertise that I was able to gain and tap in to.

Many thanks Emma Tyreman (Joshua & Matthew)

*Thank you for taking the time to write in for us Emma. Good Luck for the future.*

## Connevens @50!

As Connevens Limited celebrates its 50th Anniversary, Laura Evans gives us a history of a family company. Connevens Limited was founded on 7th November 1961 and derives its name from Connie & Meurig Evans - my grandparents. Back then, Connevens was the first UK company to manufacture Language Teaching Laboratories, with installations all over the world; from Africa, to the Caribbean; South Wales to Venezuela. The late 1960s saw the business diversify into equipment for deaf people and, in 1969, Connevens designed the Auditory Trainer Unit



specifically for use by deaf students. When funds to purchase language laboratories disappeared in the recession of the 1980s, Connevens accelerated into production the first Connevens Radio Aid system. Our successful Radio Aid systems have seen many improvements since 1980, including the launch in 2000 of the fmGenie which continues to be a firm favourite in many schools. The company was founded on technical expertise and today, Connevens maintains its manufacturing base with products being designed and manufactured in our UK factory - a rare thing nowadays. We have also recently expanded



production capabilities to allow for increasing demand of IR classroom soundfield systems. Our technical background allows us to provide specialist support and professional on-site service & repair facilities. We pride ourselves on manufacturing products built to last, so for any Connevens-manufactured items we guarantee to support the product for a minimum of 8 years - helping prolong the life span of the product and improving sustainability. It is interesting, looking back at the progression of the company over the years, to see how we have come full circle while remaining faithful to the same central ethos. Meurig developed the language laboratories knowing that a good listening environment was key to effective learning. Now, in 2011, this is the central concept behind our Classroom Soundfield Systems. From the beginning, Connevens has always tried to embrace the very latest technology and this is even more the case in our 50th year. At our 25th birthday, we were proud to have "at least one computer for every two members of staff" - a major feat in 1986. Since then we have invested heavily in our computer infrastructure and expanding our website - [www.DeafEquipment.co.uk](http://www.DeafEquipment.co.uk) which



## Fundraising Report

Hello again

After dedicating our collection from the Christmas 2010 Concert to DELTA, we decided to do the same this Summer when we performed our concert in July.

I tutor languages to children who attend a local Montessori Nursery and local primary schools. Each Christmas and Summer, the children and I present a concert to their families and friends in our local church. We have a small church collection, which we donate to a local or pertinent charity. At Christmas, I asked the parents if we could make that charity DELTA and explained how important DELTA was to us after our daughter lost her hearing to meningitis at the age of two.

They happily agreed to DELTA being the recipient of this Summer's collection also and I was pleased to be able to forward that to Lynn back in July. We never tire of informing people of the invaluable work DELTA do with hearing impaired children from all walks of life and with varying losses and disabilities. For us, personally, DELTA gave us some light at a time when we appeared to be facing a very long, endless tunnel.

Bianca is now ten years of age, thriving and talking non-stop! I remember reading one parent's post eight years' ago, which said about wanting her deaf son to be quiet and couldn't believe how that could possibly happen. Our daughter never stops talking and, through DELTA and the aural approach, we were able to give her exactly what she pleaded with us to do back then, which was to "switch her ears back on" so she could listen and talk again. I can't say it's been an easy road, having an implant, rehabilitating a sick child and learning skills all over again, not least to recognize a 'different' sound and undo everything she had come to know as 'normal', but it has been a very rewarding journey, which has brought her to the confident, cheeky, bright, happy and beautiful child she is today, celebrating her recent tenth birthday with a pool party with her friends.

We home educate our daughter, not because of her hearing loss - she has lots of friends who are both home educated and those who are school educated - but it was a choice we made and one on which she thrives and goes from strength to strength. If anyone out



is now the UK's most comprehensive online shop for deaf and hard of hearing people! The company still enjoys a strong family atmosphere, where David Evans and Mary Cann, son and younger daughter of founders



Meurig & Connie Evans, lead the management team. They were joined in 2006 by David's daughter (me!), fresh from university. As Special Projects Manager I mastermind our website (among other things) and have even persuaded my Dad onto Facebook!

We recently oversaw the company's move to a new factory in Merstham, after 24 years at the Albert Road North site in Reigate. Bridge House, our new



building, is bright and modern - much more suited to the Connevans of today. David, Mary & I all have neighbouring desks in our customer services department and despite working so closely, we've not had a family feud yet! Indeed, the family feel spreads from the Evanses throughout the company. Going through the list of staff we produced at our 40th Birthday, there are many current faces. It is clear, looking at the joining dates, that the company longevity has been supported by and reflected in our staff loyalty. Ken Robinson, our Production Supervisor who joined the company when he was only 17 years old has now notched up a grand 44 years service. What's more, he's not alone - we are proud to have nearly half our staff with a service record that goes back at least 15 years!! With all this experience, it's not surprising that Connevans has a reputation of excellent customer service and support. We maintain the company policy of direct involvement of the directors and managers to answer customer questions which, combined with the dedication of the staff team, ensures the highest possible quality of response. In this world of large faceless corporate conglomerates, we're still a fiercely independent company with a human face. To paraphrase the old adage, with us 'It's not just business, it's personal'.

*Our heartiest congratulations to the Evans family and all at Connevans in your 'Golden' year - and thank you for your continued support.*

*Laura Evans*

## Calendar

there also home educates, do drop me an email on [beverley@barrysmithcars.co.uk](mailto:beverley@barrysmithcars.co.uk) - we would love to hear from you. Anyone who is reading Chattering for the first time - have heart. Finding out your child has a hearing loss or loses their hearing through illness, as we did, is devastating and heartbreaking. But with the right support and help, with the help of DELTA, you and your child will come through and live a full, active, talking life! *Beverley Smith*  
*Once again, thank you Beverley for the cheque, as you say - every penny counts. It really is much appreciated.*



## Christmas Present Idea!

The Tri Charity concert with the Dolphin Quintet and Jazz in the Nave organised by Mrs Dorothy Baylis in the Abergavenny area has resulted in a cheque for £200 for DELTA, with the same amount going to Diabetes Research Wales, and Great Ormond Street Hospital (Haematology Unit). *Yet again, many thanks Dorothy and all best wishes to grandson Oliver and family who are again staying at GOSH.*

I have been given 100 CD's of The Dolphin Quintet, which if all they sell for the £10 asking price (plus p&p), will raise a wonderful £1000 for DELTA. So please get in touch to arrange delivery of this very, very nice, professionally recorded double CD. They really will make wonderful presents - after all only just over 100 shopping days to Christmas!!!!

Please contact Lynn on 0845 0949 863 or

on [lghounsome@deafeducation.org.uk](mailto:lghounsome@deafeducation.org.uk)



## PLEASE check

both of these sites out, register and help us raise much needed funds.

[www.everyclick.com/delta](http://www.everyclick.com/delta)

[www.easyfundraising.org.uk/good-causes/delta](http://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/good-causes/delta)

Date	Event	Details
		If you arrange a local fund raising event for DELTA we can add it to the Calendar
22nd October	AGM	2010 Annual General Meeting, NEWBURY
23rd October	Great South Run	Places now taken
		Watch out for Christmas!

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Editor - Lynn Hounsome  
 (Trustee & Welsh Region Co-ordinator),  
 Published & Distributed by Steve Matthews  
 (Event Fundraiser & Volunteer)

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