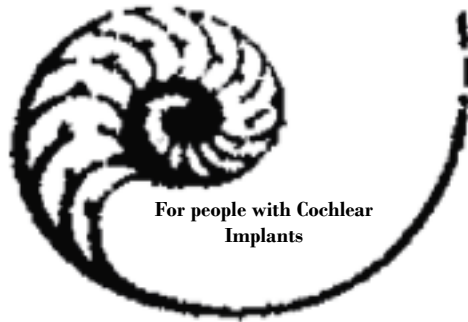


# ReSound

MANCHESTER COCHLEAR IMPLANT NEWSLETTER



For people with Cochlear  
Implants

Winter 2010

Issue 38



*Robin Redbreast - one of Britains best loved birds*



This newsletter has been produced on behalf of the  
Manchester Cochlear Implant Programme the Cicada Club and the HEAR Charity

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## Editorial

For the first time ReSound is in full colour so I hope you all enjoy the new look and the articles.

We now have a new 'your letters' page which I hope will come to be popular. The letter from Eve Lewis is the first young implantee letter and we hope to receive lots more.

Thank you for all the articles received, please keep sending them to be put into 'Your ReSound'.

We would like to hear of others experience of receiving a Cochlear Implant and how they are getting on with learning new sounds. Like Alan Corcoran on page 6 we think we know what we are hearing but sometimes is not like that at all!

MED-EL has sent two articles (see page 3 and 4) which I hope you will take advantage of.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL**

## Hedy Williams Editor

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## Messages from Manchester Cicada Club

This has been a very good year for Cicada thanks to the support of our members and hard work of our Hon. Secretary and committee. We have had a visit to Martin Mere, our Conference with speech to text support in Manchester, a Bowls event in Chester and the summer Barbeque in North Wales. We now look forward to the visits to theatre with captioned shows. We especially look forward to our Annual Meeting/Conference in March when Mr. Green will be talking to us about his work on cochlear implants and a visit from the Greater Manchester Fire Brigade.

We also have our new Facebook page and a regular Cicada Newsletter. Please check our up-to-date website page for details of activities.

We welcome all cochlear implant users to join us.

**Norah Clewes, Chairman**

**BEST WISHES TO ALL RESOUND READERS FOR  
CHRISTMAS AND THE FESTIVE SEASON**

To our Club Members I wish to express my utmost gratitude for your continued support, both financially and by your attendance at our events. Without you we would cease to exist.

The purpose of our Club is improving the conditions of life. As an information and support group we seek to provide interests of a social welfare and recreational nature.

I am always interested in learning how your life as a Cochlear Implant recipient can be improved. Each year we host a Conference designed to tackle an appropriate issue. If you have any ideas please contact me.

Kind Regards

**Jonathan Salas, Hon. Secretary**

**BEST WISHES TO ALL RESOUND READERS FROM  
MANCHESTER CICADA**

## ISLE OF WIGHT DEAF WOMAN TO RECEIVE PIONEERING SINGLE COCHLEAR IMPLANT IT WILL HELP HER HEAR PROPERLY FOR THE FIRST TIME IN HER LIFE

Specialists at Southampton General Hospital will perform a ground-breaking UK first operation today to help a deaf woman hear again.

Despite being deaf from birth the 44-year-old will have a small electronic device implanted in just one ear to help her clearly hear again using both ears.

The UK's first single cochlear operation will take place thanks to hard work by the South of England Cochlear Implant Centre at the University of Southampton.

The device has two parts, the first implanted in the ear to help send electronic signals to the hearing nerve and subsequently to the brain and an external piece to help process speech.

Julie Brinton, Joint Head of the Centre, said: "Over the past 20 years the South of England Cochlear Implant Centre has implanted over 500 people with different implants. Some adults and children have already received two implants, with one in each ear.

"The difference with the device being used on Friday is that, although information is delivered to each ear, there is only one implant."

A 44-year-old woman from the Isle of Wight will be the first in the UK to take the single cochlear implant which provides signals for both ears rather than just one and around 40 similar operations have already been completed in Europe.

Dr Helen Cullington, Clinical Scientist (Audiology) at the University of Southampton, said: "Following the surgery she will need to wait for four to six weeks before the device is tuned and she can begin to have auditory rehabilitation to encourage her listening with the new sensation she will experience.

"There is an individual programme for each patient; a computer is used to assess the levels and frequencies of sound that the patient can hear and tune the implant accordingly.

"This is a very exciting opportunity for a deaf adult to obtain hearing in both ears."

Consultant otolaryngologist Mark Pringle based at Queen Alexandra Hospital in Portsmouth, will undertake the operation.

He said: "Having two ears working makes it easier to hear in

noisy backgrounds and also helps with localisation, or hearing where sounds are coming from."

"Also, because there is only one processor and one internal receiver stimulator this makes this device significantly cheaper than two separate implants."

This article was in "The Southern Daily Echo" Friday 27th August 2010



## Children and Cochlear Implants

Media stories about deaf children and cochlear implants often make it appear that this is an operation that can end all problems of deafness for them.

An article on the web in the Columbia Missourian (USA) is more realistic and shows what hard work is involved for children, parents and teachers though it is very positive about the value of cochlear implants.

A four year old in USA had implants at 8 months old and is still learning how to hear. Her parents spend time talking to her, explaining words and increasing her vocabulary. Her elder sister also has an implant and both children work hard at listening at school. No wonder their mother says they are tired when they get home and need a period of quiet and rest.

A link to this interesting article is given on the new Manchester Cicada Facebook page. Contact the editor for the web link or to join our Facebook page, which is private and secure to Manchester CI users only.

**Norah Clewes - Chairman**



## SOUNDSCAPE MED-EL'S REHABILITATION EXERCISES FOR ALL AGES

Rehabilitation plays a vital role in enabling cochlear implant users to gain the most from their implant. Whether the challenge is speech development for a young implantee or better speech recognition in noisy listening situations for adults, MED-EL's "SOUNDSCAPE" has activities for all ages to help them with this important area.

**SOUNDSCAPE** is a free resource and can be found on MED-EL's new look website at <http://www.medel.com> in the User Support area.

### Activities for Teens and Adults Teens - Continents and Oceans

Improve not only listening skills but geography too with Continents and Oceans, the SoundScape feature for teenagers. The user can select a male speaker, female speaker or a combination of both. There are three levels of increasing complexity and it is a race against the clock. Downloadable quiz cards are available to accompany this feature.

### Adults – Sentence Matrix

This activity is designed for practising speech recognition while reading sentences. The user can set their own levels. They may select a male, female speaker or both. There are 3 levels of noise ranging from no background noise to a significant level of background noise, allowing the user to practise in realistic conditions. The rate of speech delivery can also be varied from slow, normal to fast.

Sentence Matrix is accompanied by free downloadable materials for further speech recognition practice. The additional materials contain different sentence matrices, useful tips for varying the level of difficulty of the exercise as well as how to introduce background noise. Score sheets are also included. Sentence Matrix exercises can be used with or without lip reading cues.

### Soundscape for Children 0+ years – Starting Out

Starting out provides good advice for parents on how to make listening fun from the very beginning. It explains about developing speech and language with a cochlear implant and has really useful information about what to do after your child's first fitting with their new cochlear implant.

### 2+ years - Old MacDonald's Farm and Ms. MacDonald's Shed

Based on the children's favourite nursery game, Old MacDonald's Farm features farmyard fun with Old Mac himself plus 8 animals. There are 6 levels of increasing complexity, the instructions are spoken by both male and female voices with opportunities to repeat

anything that is not understood the first time.

Ms. MacDonald's Shed introduces different types of vehicle and features bright and engaging graphics. Both activities come with free downloadable additional materials.

### 6+ years Let's Go Shopping

Let's go Shopping is inspired by the supermarket shopping experience, complete with produce, trolleys and shopping bags. There are 5 levels and a choice between a male or female voice plus the option to play with or without music. To add to the fun, Let's Go Shopping is played against the clock and just see what happens if you accidentally drop a piece of fruit ...

Again there are additional materials to download with lots more fun ideas.

### 10+ years Telling Tales

Careful listening is the key skill developed in Telling Tales. A series of 13 different short stories are available at 3 different levels of difficulty. Once the story has been heard in full, the task is to rearrange the dialogue in the correct order. Additional materials can be downloaded which provide extra practise.

### Remember...

Whatever age you are, there are free downloadable rehabilitation resources for you on MED-EL's website. It is well worth a visit! [www.medel.com](http://www.medel.com)

For further information about MED-EL's rehabilitation resources, contact [customerservice@medel.co.uk](mailto:customerservice@medel.co.uk).

## THE MANCHESTER IMPLANT TEAM



The British Cochlear Implant Group has updated their 'Recommended Guidelines on Safety for Cochlear Implant Users' guide which you can get from their website:

<http://www.cmft.nhs.uk/cochlear/index.asp> If not on the Internet you can request a printed copy directly from our Manchester Clinic.



## MED-EL'S FineHearing™ Technology

The enjoyment of listening to complex sounds such as music or discussions in noisy environments requires the ability to process and differentiate the enormous amount of sound information in a highly precise way.

MED-EL has succeeded in developing a completely new sound coding technology that provides a richer and more detailed hearing experience than ever before possible.

MED-EL FineHearing Technology opens a new dimension of hearing

by providing the fine details of sound for a hearing experience with unprecedented depth and complexity.

### Elements of Sound Envelope

The envelope is the “loudness contour” of the sound signal and is essential for speech understanding.

### Fine Structure

The fine structure contains the subtle details of a sound signal and enhances pitch and sound quality.

### A New Dimension of Sound Coding

With the introduction of FineHearing Technology MED-EL overcomes the limitations of envelope based “traditional” coding strategies. Similar to frequency coding in normal hearing, FineHearing codes a sound signal both in rate and in place.

The additional rate coding in low to mid frequencies mimics natural hearing better than ever before and provides fine structure information important for more complex listening tasks and situations.

The fine structure information of a sound is highly important for good music perception and sound localization.

Thus, MED-EL's FineHearing better represents both components of a sound, the envelope and the fine structure. By including the fine structure, the normal hearing process can be represented with greater accuracy than with the envelope alone.

For more information about MED-EL products, visit [www.medel.com](http://www.medel.com) or contact [customerservice@medel.co.uk](mailto:customerservice@medel.co.uk)

## HARD OF HEARING OR COCHLEAR IMPLANTEE? I CAME ACROSS THIS QUESTION SOON AFTER MY IMPLANTATION AND MY FIRST REACTION WAS...HARD OF HEARING!

To my surprise, some people could not understand that reply! Why, should my identity change, just because I received a vital tool helping me to hear well? Why, should I change membership from Hard of Hearing Club to CI Club?

As a hard of hearing person for most of my life, I see the CI as another hearing aid, just more powerful and requiring more will power and determination from me to make it work.

Obviously, you need to be brave enough to decide on the operation. My decision to have CI

came after sudden hearing loss. I found myself in total despair and if it wasn't for my friends I sought advice from, I would not have been able to see further afield.

When, I realised that implantation was my only chance to hear again, I started researching, and then proceeded with referrals. Soon enough, I was hearing again! One year after becoming completely deaf.

The road to recovery was not easy, but comparing to some people, relatively smooth. I will not bore anybody with all the details, as we all heard them from others.

### What I want to say is this.

The cochlear implant users and hard of hearing people are part of the same group, just using different gadgets to help them hear.

**I am hard of hearing, I use speech to communicate and I am proud of my new gadget —CI!**

**Lidia Best (UK)**



## FORTHCOMING CAPTIONED PERFORMANCES - 2010 and 2011

**Liverpool Playhouse** Box Office 0151 709 4776

Saturday 15th January 2011, 2.00pm *No Wise Men*

What would you do for the perfect Christmas?

Reality and the ridiculous collide in an enchanting festive adventure, whisking you between Victorian England and the present day.

From **Peepolykus**, the company that bought *Spyski* and the West End hit *The Hound of the Baskervilles* to Liverpool, and under the direction of Artistic Director **Gemma Bodinetz** (*Tartuffe* and *The Hypochondriac*), this is the extraordinary tale of a reckless man who risks everything one Christmas Eve.

**WARNING:** This show contains some scenes of a traditional nature.

A Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse and Peepolykus\_Production.

**Liverpool Everyman** Box Office 0151 709 4776

Saturday 22nd January 2011, 2.00pm *Sleeping Beauty*

Wake Up little Snoozie!

In the Kingdom of Aigburth, in the days of olde,

An epic tale was about to unfold.

When to the King and Queen a babe t'was born,

They threw a great party on the palace lawn!

They invited the world but forgot just one,

And that's when their nightmare had truly begun.

A Liverpool Everyman and Playhouse production.

**Liverpool Empire** Booking for captioned performance 0844 3 72 72 72 or  
access4all.empireliverpool@livenation.co.uk

Thursday 16th December 2010, 7.00pm *Aladdin*

From the producers of this year's pantomime Peter Pan, First Family Entertainment present Aladdin.

Aladdin will be doing all he can to win the heart of the beautiful Princess, but the evil Abanazer will be trying to thwart his plans. With all your favourite characters including Wishee Washee, the Emperor, Chinese Policeman, and of course, the ultimate pantomime dame - Widow Twankey!

**Clwyd Theatr Cymru, Mold.** Box Office 0845 330 3565

Saturday 18th December 2010, 2.45pm *A Child's Christmas in Wales*

"One Christmas was so much like another ... that I can never remember whether it snowed for six days and nights when I was twelve or whether it snowed for twelve days and twelve nights when I was six."

*A Child's Christmas in Wales* is a classic Christmas story, which has become part of our tradition.

Saturday 8th January 2011, 2.00pm *Aladdin*

Its party time in old Shanghai and the Emperor is laying on a big banquet to announce the engagement of Princess So-Shi to her rich suitor, the mysterious Abanazer. Widow Twankey's woks are hot and Wishee Washee's in a spin, but when Aladdin and the Princess meet on the street sparks really start to fly. Can Aladdin defeat the evil Abanazer and claim the hand of the beautiful Princess? He's going to need help from a mischievous monkey, a powerful Genie and all his friends in the audience.

**Lowry, Salford Quay** Box Office 0843 208 6000

Wednesday 9th February 2011, 7.00pm *Hamlet*

Hamlet, the prince of Denmark, sees his father's ghost. Tormented with loathing and consumed by grief, he must avenge his father's murderer. What he cannot foresee is the destruction that ensues.

Friday 11th March 2011, 7.15pm *A Doll's House*

Ibsen's play set in its original time frame.

Nora loves her husband above everything. But when she risks her reputation in order to save him, the consequences force her to examine her devotion, and she finds herself struggling for her own life.

**New Vic, Newcastle under Lyme** Box Office 01782 717962

Saturday 11th December 2010, 2.15pm and Tuesday 14 December, 2.15pm *Peter Pan*

An ingenious new adaptation featuring aerialists, award-winning actors and a former lion tamer are flying into Staffordshire this Christmas, as the New Vic sprinkles some fairy dust over *J M Barrie's Peter Pan*.

## What was that?

*I have had my implants now for about 10 years, and was, I think, very fortunate in that I could immediately identify most sounds I was hearing. I do however remember one sound that I could just not place!*

I may be giving away too much here with regard to my age, but "when I was a lad", and I'm sure other Cicada members will remember this - on election days, especially at General elections, candidates would drive around the streets in a large car. On top of which, tied on with string, would be two very large, usually square loudspeakers, through which the candidates would bellow their message "Vote for Joe Bloggs, vote for Joe Bloggs", or something very similar.

A number of years ago now, I was in the back garden, and it just happened to be near an election day, when to my surprise I heard, indistinctly of course, a woman on a loudspeaker saying "Vote for me, Vote for me". I was very surprised to hear this nostalgic sound from the past and rushed to the front of the house to see whoever was reviving this old custom - NOTHING!! I was most disappointed!

A few days later the same thing happened again, the same woman, on the same loudspeaker, giving out the same message! This time I checked adjacent gardens, perhaps someone was having a party, but again all to no avail, I had obviously stepped into an Agatha Christie mystery!

Fortunately, not long after, when I again heard the same sound, my young granddaughter was with me.

"Can you hear that woman shouting on that



loudspeaker", "where is she?" I asked. Then there was "That Look", I'm sure you have all seen it, in fact I know you have! A blank expressionless face, wide - open staring eyes, perhaps just a hint of worry as regards your mental state!

You know what I

mean don't you? Then, slowly, a slight softening of the expression, the sparkle returning to the eyes, and then just the hint of a smile, my granddaughter turned to me. "Grandpa" she wearily said, but in her most gracious voice, "that's not a woman shouting - it's a blackbird singing in the tree".

Well, what could she possibly know? She must have it wrong! I was able to hear birds singing, they just go "tweet, tweet, tweet" don't they and I was also lead to believe that blackbirds have the most beautiful and melodious song. However, be advised, if you ever hear a woman, speaking a on a loudspeaker, canvassing for votes - just look for that blackbird!

Enjoy what you hear - no matter what it is!

**Alan Corcoran**

## THE LOST COCHLEAR IMPLANT

*There is a hoary old joke where the townee finds himself in some remote part of the countryside and asks a local yokel for directions back to civilisation, "well, I wouldn't set off from here if I were you" he is told.*

This is how I felt one beautiful morning last summer when faced with the problem of getting from Islay, one of the Hebridean islands, to Manchester. I had jumped happily off my boat onto the quayside and my cochlear implant fell off my head, bounced once and disappeared irretrievably into thirty feet of salt water. "Oh, something!" I said feeling that hollow sensation in my stomach which you get when you know something has gone really seriously wrong. I was in Port Ellen, a pretty coastal village on the island of Islay off the west coast of Scotland which is chiefly famous for its whisky distilleries. It's the first of the Hebridean islands which the wandering sailor meets when approaching from the south. To the east is the long peninsula of the Mull of Kintyre and to the south is the north coast of Ireland. To the west is a great deal of salt water stretching all the way to North America. It's not a particularly beautiful island, Jura, its northerly neighbour is much more mountainous and spectacular, Islay, is mostly fairly flat and boggy, but its situation is idyllic and it shares in the romance of these western isles in being remote and thinly inhabited. It's a place where traffic jams are caused by sheep and where the noisy adolescents are seagulls and the females on the beach are seals. But in spite of this beautiful situation my only thought at that instant was that it was a long way from Manchester.

I had been feeling pretty perky that morning because I had only the previous day been released from the bondage of the plaster cast on my arm and was at last free to continue my summer cruise back southward. Six weeks before that, in July, I had slipped on the foredeck while picking up a mooring and broken my wrist, so instead of a sailing adventure to the far north, my summer holiday had become a static one since I was quite unable to sail my boat with only one useful arm.

There are, of course many less desirable places to be stuck in, I had done some walking, got to know the locals and had a good few rides to other places on the ubiquitous Cal Mac ferries. And of course I had got to know the local medical services, which on Islay consist of what, when I was a youngster was called a Cottage Hospital an hour's bus ride away. It was a delightful contrast to most large hospitals, a place where they greet you by name as you walk in

because you are the only patient! I thought of the kindly nurse who had cut my cast off. "I can ask her to ring Manchester and get them to post a replacement" I thought innocently. I knew I had to get a replacement quickly. Although I managed for a long time on lip reading only, the implantation had almost destroyed the hearing in my left ear and I had very little residual hearing in the other. Life was going to be distinctly awkward for a lone sailor far from home without my CI.

I set off to the bus stop and anxiously scanned the timetable. Buses on Islay do not exactly chase each other's tails. Some days there are none at all.

"Terribly sorry" said Manchester "we cannot post a replacement, you have to come to the clinic in person". (readers will understand that I was having this conversation via the amiable nurse).

"Do they realise how far it is?", I wailed.

"Yes, but very sorry we are not allowed to replace the CI without seeing you".

Like most of their patients, I have a warm place in my heart for those miracle workers in the Ellen Wilkinson building so was very reluctant to cause a row by being too persistent. Reluctantly I began to



think about how to get to Manchester.

The first step was easy, the ferry dock was 100 yards from the watery grave of my CI so the following morning I bought a ticket, an uncomplicated procedure since the boat like most ferries has only one destination, and strolled aboard. I suppose that the Cal Mac ferries are not much different to other ferries but I am nevertheless a big fan. They do a good cooked breakfast and the view from your table is definitely better than you get in a Motorway cafeteria, they even have the morning papers, which in most of those islands don't arrive until midday. I cheered myself up with the Guardian and a dose of cholesterol on the passage to the mainland which takes about an hour.

The Mull of Kintyre has only one public connection with the outside world, a thrice daily coach from Glasgow to Campbeltown at the foot of the peninsula (and back of course). Sir Paul must have had either a limo or a helicopter to get him to his residence there. The bus takes 3 hours and is generally busy in the summer. The prudent traveller books his seat, especially if boarding from an intermediate stop as I had to do. I had not booked of course. The ferry dock is at West Loch Tarbet which is just, well, a jetty, surrounded by woods and heather. The bus pulled up in front of a gaggle of waiting passengers and there ensued the usual scrum around the luggage locker. Veterans of coach travel will know what I mean. The driver shouted out something, which I of course could not hear. I did what I usually do in these circumstances, shuffled behind the person in front, climbed aboard bought my ticket and sat in a vacant seat and waited for someone to object. No one did. Phase 1 complete!

Its a wonderful bus ride as only bus rides can be in the Scottish highlands, looping around the heads of the long lochs which stretch northwards from the Clyde estuary, a lot of the route right beside the water and it delivered me to Glasgow by early afternoon. The busy city was quite a shock after two months in the remote western Isles. I marched through the crowded streets to Central Station, not wishing to complicate matters by trying to find the right local bus.

I have a soft spot for Glasgow Central station. Its a great place for seeing the Scots en masse. My previous visit had been on a Saturday when Scotland were playing an international soccer match so the station was full of their supporters. They have a terrifying reputation but they seemed a very amiable crowd to me. Many of them were in the Scottish soccer supporters' uniform of heavy woollen kilt worn not with the familiar accessories but with a T shirt and Doc Martens, which I thought was a big improvement on the Sassenach supporters' kit of an anorak with a striped scarf. On another occasion there was evidently some big "do" on in Edinburgh and there was a crowd waiting for the Edinburgh train in evening dress, the ladies in long dresses with plaid shawls and the men in dinner jackets worn with tartan trousers, very elegant.

On this occasion however I was faced with the sort of situation that any deaf person dreads, a huge crowd in a sort of untidy queue in front of the London platform and the timetable showing my train as "delayed". There were three blokes with "Virgin" on their jackets talking to parts of this crowd and one

deaf codger feeling his usual frustration at being unable to find out what was going on. It gradually became apparent that there was a problem with all southward trains. This big crowd trying to get out of the country put me in mind of stories about people escaping from advancing armies in World War Two, all desperate for information and trying to get the attention of the officials.

Since it was clear that no-one was going anywhere for a while, I found a seat to eat my belated M&S sandwich lunch. After a while things calmed down and I managed to get the attention of one of the officials and persuade him to look at me while he talked. I explained about my deafness.

"Where are you going?" he said.

"Manchester" said I.

"Follow me" said he, and five minutes after this admirably terse and businesslike exchange I was on a train and another five minutes later we were

heading south at Pendolino speed. What a wonderful relief! And full marks to Virgin Trains for recognising my problem immediately.

Of course it was too late to get to the CI clinic that day. My genial nephew (contacted via text message, where would we be without it?) and who lives near Manchester met me off

the train, took me to his home for the night and delivered me to the local station the next morning. A short commuter train trip and a bus down Oxford Street held no terrors by then. At the clinic, I had to fill in a form explaining how I had lost the CI and was re-equipped and out of the place in less than an hour. They were much too polite to scold me for losing such a valuable object but there was a hint that it might not be so easy if it happened a second time.

After another night with my nephew and his family I reversed the journey the following day. I had to admit that, after all I had had a pleasant three day trip, a wonderfully scenic journey, a sociable interlude with my nephew's family and surprisingly little hassle (except for an encounter with a Neanderthal bus driver on the way back).

I have been very careful with my bionic ear since then, before doing any leaping about I take it off and put it in my pocket. But how do parents of toddlers with CIs manage?

**John Newton**



# BARBEQUE AT WALES

*This years Cicada club BBQ was held at Denis and Heather Fitzgerald's remote small holding in the hills of North Wales near St Asaph.*

It was a great success for all who attended – all through the morning as members traveled from across the North West towards Wales the rain fell in a steady stream but as they approached St Asaph the sun came out!



Thirty adults and three children came and as everyone met up with friends old and new a magnificent barbeque and spread was set up by Heather in the marquee. All enjoyed the food and drink relaxing and

each variety's characteristic, unfortunately grey squirrels have been invading and they strip bark from some younger trees especially the cherry trees because of its sweet taste and the trees are being lost.



Perhaps the most surprising thing to find was how well the Eucalyptus trees have grown. There are some magnificent examples and in some areas of the wood it looked like a location from an Australian soap.

enjoying the wonderful views across the Welsh Hills.

Then in two separate groups led by Denis and Heather we had a guided walk around the woods which had all been planted by them since they moved to Cefn Du.

In all they have planted ten thousand trees on the once bare hillside, originally the trees were planted as a windbreak but then over time different planting arrangements and different trees were planted to try to establish which variety of tree would be the most efficient one to grow to provide a sustainable energy source.

Lots of different varieties of trees were planted to compare

When they moved there twenty six years ago the land had been used only for a few sheep grazing. It now provides enough wood for Heather and Denis to be self-sufficient for fuel in the house and laboratories as well as providing an environment for much more varied animal wild life and plants.

We drove home in sunshine having spent a really enjoyable day in the fresh air thanks to Heather and Denis for their hospitality, and all to those members who came along and helped in any way.

**Thanks to Norah Clewes for her contributions to this article.**



## **COCHLEAR IMPLANT PROGRAMME**

### **CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR REPAIR CLINICS**

The Cochlear Implant Programme at the University will be closed on Thursday 23rd December 2010 and will re-open on Tuesday 4th January 2011.

If you require spares or repairs during this time, a member of the implant team will be on call and you can contact them on:

Tel: 0161 275 3364

Fax: 0161 275 3795

Email: [deniece.walker@manchester.ac.uk](mailto:deniece.walker@manchester.ac.uk)

**Please note that this service will not be available on the Christmas and New Year Bank Holidays**

**HAPPY HOLIDAYS FROM ALL THE IMPLANT TEAM!**

# your letters

## Following her talk to Cicada at the annual meeting in March, Amanda Howard has sent this message

I have received several e-mails from people who were attempting to have a go at the DLA. I am delighted to say that at least two people have been successful so far. I would like to say a big thank you to them for letting me know.

I am sure there will be others who's paper work will still be in the system or maybe even have had a knock back but will be appealing (ALWAYS APPEAL). The key to being successful is to have all your evidence together. Letters of support. Treat the form carefully, get someone from Welfare rights or a benefits adviser to fill it in. Never assume that this person has an understanding of Deafness their skill is in competing the form YOU have to tell them how it is!

The other big thing to remember, the information you give must be clear. You must talk about what you cannot do, not confuse matters by saying "sometimes I can and sometimes I can't". If there is something you can't do occasionally e.g. answer the phone then say you cannot answer the phone. You must always talk about worst case scenario.

Good Luck to everyone else who is attempting to claim.

**Amanda Howard 2010**

## A Voice from the Committee

I thought the day was very successful, and I could see everyone getting stuck into conversation and socializing - the whole point of our group! It is days like today that will help our group to grow and to attend more activities that we put on - next one the Christmas meal!

So I would like to thank everyone who had any input into it, and particularly Jonathan Salas our Honorary Secretary for all of his careful organizing and arranging to make the day so well attended. Speaking for myself, I could listen to Denis Fitzgerald all day;

not only is he a mine of information, but obviously a very dedicated scientist in his field and I very much enjoyed our little tour of his laboratory and trying to understand his specialization about measuring densities - fascinating!

Best wishes,

**Bill Allen to Cicada Committee**

## My Cochlea Implant

My name is Eve Lewis and I am ten years old. I could hear until I was sixteen months old until I had Meningitis but I don't remember that, my mum told me about it. When I was three I had my first cochlea implant for my right ear at Manchester. At first I couldn't hear but I had speech therapy from Emma and my mum and dad and I learned to hear and to talk. The cochlea implant team said that I could have a second implant and a doctor at Manchester asked me why I wanted another one and I said "when I am in between friends I can only hear the friend on my implant side and I want to hear both of them". Also I wanted a cochlea implant because I was desperate to hear better.

My wish came true! I had my second implant in September 2010 at Manchester. I was in hospital for a day and a half and my mum stayed overnight in a cot next to my bed. I was off school for two weeks but my teacher, Mrs Kelly came to see me with some school-work. I got lots of cards and presents from my family and from my friends for being brave.

It was switched on a month ago and I am still struggling to hear because it just sounds like beeps and sirens and when I switch it on it makes me a bit dizzy. The lady called Liseann at Manchester said "This is what it's supposed to be like!" After Liseann said that it made me feel better.

When I'm learning how to listen with my new cochlea implant my mum reads easy books with familiar words to me so that also helps me.

The implant team at Manchester are very nice and kind.

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