ReSound

For people with Cochlear Implants

Summer 2019 Issue 63

Quarry Bank mill in Styal Cheshire

Manchester CICADA a charity supporting implant patients

This newsletter has been produced on behalf of the Manchester CICADA Charity

contents

Editorial

Welcome to the Summer edition of Resound.

We are well into our program of events for the year and in this issue we report on three of the latest that have taken place. If anyone wants copies of photographs that we feature please let me know and I will send them via email.

We have a variety of articles for you as usual, ranging from developments in hearing technology to news from providers and reports from around the world.

On our Facebook site we also have lots of reports and photographs from activities we have been taking part in since the AGM so do have a look, and leave a comment when you can.

There are three more events on the schedule for the rest of the season, the dates are on the last page of the magazine, and details will be sent out to everyone very shortly.

Our apps, the Rehabilitation app and the Finger Spelling app, which are both available for Android and Apple phones have now hit three figures for downloads which is encourging, so a big thank you to everyone who has helped with feedback on them. New updates will be released shortly.

Our hardworking Chairman has received more recognition for all the work he does not only for us but for other charities associated with helping deaf people.

We are continuing to work closely with the Implant team at the MRI and also other hospitals providing help for both new and existing CI users so if you think that you could help your local hospital in any way do get in touch with anyone from the EC and we will do all we can to help.

We hope you enjoy this issue and if you have any comments, or stories to send along then please let me know.

Kevin Williams - Editor

Award for the Chairman of CICADA

We are delighted to be able to tell you that John Newton, our estimable Chairman has been given the Heather Jackson Award – 2019, from the National Association of deafened People.

John, as many of you may know, has mastered the art of time travel (I can think of no other explanation) and is involved with many organisations apart from ours.

- He is a volunteer for Hearing Link where amongst other things he helps run weekend support events for deafened people and their families from Lands End to John O'Groats!
- He is an active member of NADP and has served as a trustee for them.
- He has worked with the StageText organization.
- He has been involved in the introduction of NGTS (Next Generation Text Service, the BT designed phone app project)
- and has worked to improve accessibility inside the U3A group.

As well as that he also volunteers at MRI with the Drop In Clinic and also the Pre and Post implant meetings that the hospital team have with patients who are scheduled to have a cochlear implant.

John has been an integral part of CICADA for many years both as an EC member and for the past three years as Chairman.

This is an extract from the NADP release about John's award.

We are very happy to announce that John Newton has been voted to receive the Heather Jackson Award for this year. John was first diagnosed with mild hearing loss at university, and in 2009 he received a cochlear implant. John is a retired industrial manager and he has volunteered for Hearing Link for many years and in many varied roles. He has facilitated group programs, led talks, represented Hearing Link at many events and has supported people on a personal one to one basis through its Helpdesk and as a Community Support Volunteer.

He also served as a Trustee of NADP for six years from 2008 to 2014, and during that time was very active, especially campaigning for better access to theatre and cinema. As a cochlear implant user, he is the Chairman of the Manchester CICADA group and has delivered many talks to the group. He uses his influence to inspire and motivate others with hearing loss to become more fully engaged in society alongside hearing people.

He spoke at a Deaf and Hard of Hearing Group and received this feedback:

"You certainly motivated the members into speaking and asking questions. In fact after you left some of the members stayed until the caretaker came to lock up – they got into deep discussions as a consequence of your talk. That was unusual as normally people get up and go at the end!"

John has never let his deafness get in the way of his other interest, which was sailing. We had a brilliant series of bulletins from him in this magazine as he was trying to navigate around the Irish Sea telling us all about his adventures including the now famous Cochlear Implant Processor vs Harbour incident, which proved that the processor couldn't swim!

Graphene and Cyborg hearing devices

by James Murray

I have included the following article which appeared in a national newspaper recently, and although not directly related to CI users at this point there may be scope for the future (Ed)

Patients from tiny babies to the elderly are reaping the rewards of the pioneering work being done by Professor Kevin Munro and his team at Manchester University's biomedical research centre.

And as the unit celebrates its centenary this year, Professor Munro has given a rare interview on the life-changing breakthroughs bringing hope to thousands. He has high hopes of groundbreaking research on the so-called wonder material graphene, which he hopes will enable the next generation of cyborg-style hearing aids.

Extracted from graphite, the substance forms a two-dimensional crystal just an atom thick, but is six times stronger than steel and even better at conducting electricity than copper, which makes it the perfect material to enclose miniature microphones for surgeons to insert inside the eardrum.

"This is blue-sky research," says Professor Munro. "We are at the very early stages, but it is very promising and could mean people with hearing loss don't have to have anything sitting on the ear. It would be much better to have the microphone down the ear canal where you are meant to hear from."

With no drugs currently able to prevent or reverse hearing loss, some 1.2 million hearing aids are handed out each year by the NHS at a cost of £60million.

While some of the professor's team at the UK's first and only hearing device research centre focus on designing better, easier, more convenient hearing aids, others are making huge advances in preventing deafness in the young.

It is a little known fact that antibiotics given to sick babies can lead to permanent, lifelong hearing loss.

Some 90,000 babies are given the antibiotic gentamicin to treat bacterial infections in intensive care units every year. It is highly effective.

But in a minority of infants, with a genetic predisposition, it can also cause irreversible hearing loss.

Another scientist at the centre, Professor Bill Newman, has developed a simple genetic saliva test currently being trialled in Manchester and Liverpool.

It can be done at the bedside, and within half an hour babies at risk of hearing loss will be identified and can be treated with different antibiotics.

Rachel Corry's premature son Hugo was given gentamicin at the neonatal intensive care unit at St Mary's Hospital, Manchester, and she welcomes the idea of having the new test, which wasn't available for her

son.

She said: "The decision to treat him with gentamicin had to be made quickly. Fortunately, we know now that he didn't have the sensitivity to gentamicin that would cause hearing loss. To have a test that could check for this would be an immense step in reassuring parents who are already coping with so much.

"When you're in the position we were in, time is of the essence when it comes to making life-saving decisions."

Rachel Corry's premature son Hugo was given gentamicin at the neonatal intensive care unit

Early results seem promising.

The research centre is also helping parents by taking the hi-tech equipment needed to assess small children with hearing loss right to their doorsteps with Professor Munro's "Ladies in the Van" project.

Professor Kevin Munro at work
(Image: Professor Kevin Munro)

It is difficult to test babies' hearing because they cannot speak or sign, so electrodes are attached to their heads which indicate a hearing response as a specific part of the brain "lights up".

Marsha Johnson from Northwich, worried that her now four-year-old son Logan had - hearing loss, says: "Having the research van come to our home has been hugely beneficial.

"When Logan was only a baby having to disrupt his routine to attend the hospital was a nightmare, so to have the ladies come to me and work around us was amazing.

"They had lots of toys available to entertain Logan too and if I felt he was getting tired we could take a break, they did everything to accommodate us. The project itself means so much to me as hearing loss in our family is hereditary, so this research will help massively not only for the future of infants with hearing loss but my son also."

Hearing tests on children used to be done only when they reached the age of 12 but since 2006 all newborns are tested and hearing aids are now fitted at 82 days.

"The statistics for school-age children with hearing loss are a cause for concern," says Professor Munro. "Seventy-five percent don't meet the Government standard of five GCSEs and they are four times more likely to be unemployed, so we have to do everything we can to help them with their hearing and that really now starts just after birth."

Currently, people tend to go to their GP with concerns about their hearing and are then directed to hospitals for hearing tests.

Now the professor and his team are working on a much simpler system which would involve people simply logging on to a website to take a hearing test.

"People can put on earphones while sitting on the sofa and listen to digits and respond and complete the test," he says.

"We are rolling this out for research in October, which is very exciting."

Many people complain about background noise affecting their ability to hear clearly, particularly at social events, so work is

underway to devise a test where background noise is present.

With more and more research, a clearer picture of the impact of hearing loss on people is emerging and some surprising trends are coming to light.
He says: "There is evidence to suggest people with healthier lifestyles are less likely to have hearing loss but we don't know exactly why. What we do know is that treating people for hearing loss improves their quality of life and has the potential to delay brain ageing and dementia."

He added: "The definitive study has yet to be completed but we do know there are clear correlations between hearing loss and cognitive decline. We have done modelling research that seems to show hearing aids slows cognitive decline.

"There is still a stigma about hearing loss which you don't find with glasses. We are trying to change the emphasis from hearing loss to healthy hearing with the aim of minimising the risk of hearing problems.

"Loud sound damages hearing, so people need to be aware of that."

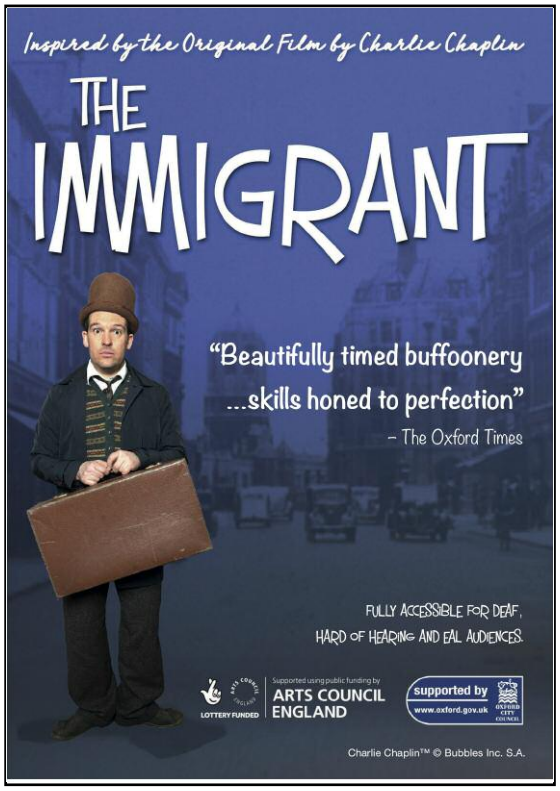
With so many more children and young people wearing earphones attached to their tablets and smartphones, the professor and his experts are alert to the potential of harm.

The jury is still out on that, he says, although parents should try to make sure the volume is kept down.

Government funding is just £5million, but there is huge scope for more research if extra cash were to be made available.

"One in six people is affected by hearing loss, so it is a major issue and I would argue hearing health should be a priority," says Professor Munro.
It is, perhaps, comforting to know, that even he, the country's top hearing expert, has trouble getting his 80-year-old father to wear his hearing aid regularly. "Dad is now benefiting from his NHS hearing aids but it has been tricky," he says with a laugh. "Yes, we had to bang on his front door until he finally heard us."

New Slapstick "The Immigrant" - Visual Theatre for d/Deaf audiences



We are a small theatre company based in Oxfordshire, and are delighted to be touring around England in the coming months with our silent comedy show, The Immigrant, which is completely accessible for d/Deaf and hard of hearing audiences. The show is visual theatre with no dialogue, and so d/Deaf audiences can enjoy it in exactly the same way as hearing audiences. We have also been researching the area of theatre for d/Deaf audiences and we are working with venues to make the experience of coming to the show as accessible and enjoyable as possible. This show is appearing in Manchester.

Thursday 3rd October, 8pm
The Met, Market Street, Bury, Greater Manchester BL9 0BW / Tel: 0161 761 2216 / themet.org.uk / From £15

8 tips for dealing with restaurant noise

Restaurant noise is challenging, coming from all directions.

There's the chatter of dining patrons, the backdrop of plates and glasses clanging, and more than likely a stream of loud music booming overhead as people scoot in and out of chairs scraping against floors. Even the chef may be audible:

The open-kitchen styles that are so trendy these days can mean kitchen clamour spills into dining areas.

Bustling restaurants full of energy are meant to be lively, but in the end, it can be enraging. If you have hearing loss or wear hearing aids, this means you can't dine unprepared and expect to have seamless conversations with those around you.

So, here are a few tips to help you navigate the noise:

Hearing tips for noisy restaurants

1. Pick the restaurant.

If you're planning the outing, pick a quiet restaurant rather than the noisy bar and grille on the corner.
If you can, select a restaurant with carpeting, heavy curtains, low ceilings, and a kitchen that's not viewable to diners.
All of these accoutrements cut down on the echo effect that disrupts clear hearing.
Also check the local restaurant reviews. Many cities are now implementing noise ratings in their reviews along with lighting. These ratings are great for those concerned with background noise and poor lighting.

2. Sit facing the primary speaker.

This might take a little juggling for chairs but it's important that you face the primary speaker head on. Even for people with no hearing loss, hearing in noisy environments is partly based on reading visual cues from lip movements—so the clearer you can see the main speaker's face, the better.
Of course, avoid a game of musical chairs as your group is seated, but get the best view you can. Bright lighting helps, too.

3. Schedule your outing after the lunch rush or before the dinner rush.

Fewer people, less noise—it's that simple.

4. Don't nod in agreement if you didn't hear what your companion said.

You may have just agreed to "a million-pound contract" when you "heard" a "fill-in contact." Don't be afraid ask for clarification – your companions will appreciate that more than you being misinformed or confused.

Pretending to hear can become a bad habit.

5. Wear your processor.

Hopefully this goes without saying, but your processor is invaluable in restaurants. While it may still pick up some unnecessary background noise, it will help amplify the speakers closest to you, such as your waiter and your dining companions.
Today's digital CI processors can eliminate feedback with sophisticated technology and

many are able to interface with Bluetooth compatible phones.

6. Consider FM technology.

For people with more severe to profound hearing loss, the processor may not always be enough in a large group meeting where there are multiple speakers that need to be heard, especially in noisy restaurants. Personal FM systems, often referred to as assistive listening devices, can help. They consist of a small, FM transmitter microphone that is used by the speaker or placed in the center of the restaurant table, and a receiver that's worn by you. The receiver will transmit the sound directly to your proccessor either by direct audio input or by a looped cord around your neck. Your processor must be equipped to pick up the FM signal. Discuss this further with your hearing care professional to determine if your processor has this program.

7. Check your processor before your outing.

Most processors with disposable batteries will alert you when your battery is close to being drained, so be sure to carry a spare or two with you at all times. This will ensure you are never disconnected from the communication grid due to a power outage.

8. Finally, don't stress.

Restaurants are notoriously noisy places. No one will be surprised if you struggle to hear. However, it's still understandable to feel frustrated. Staying calm will ensure your mind is staying on task and taking all the necessary steps to improve your ability to hear. Breathe. Smile. Be your own advocate. Be honest. Be prepared. And most importantly, enjoy the food.

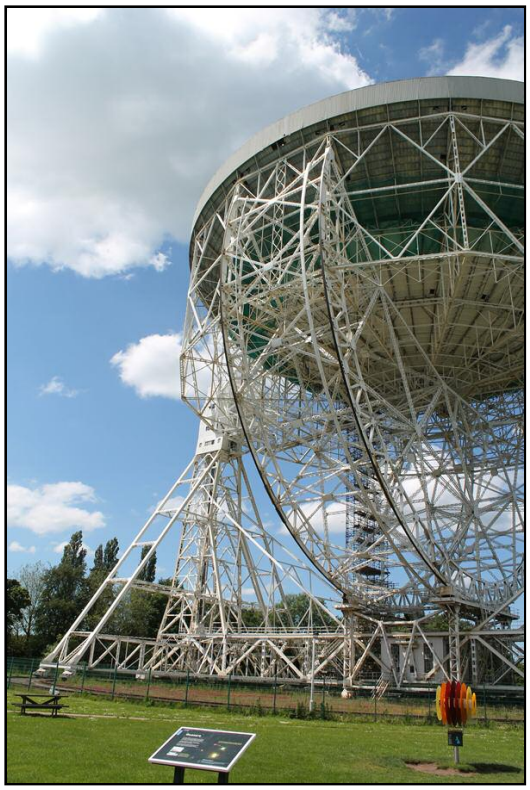
A scientific trip to Cheshire

by Kevin Williams

On a beautiful day in June we met up at the Jodrell Bank Discovery centre. After having lunch we decided to take a stroll outside to see what was there.

Whatever it was it was huge!

It didn't look too big from a distance



But up close it was awe inspiring!

and there were more radio dishes around the site for different purposes. On our way back to the car park we came across two dishes planted in the ground 50 feet apart facing each other.

If you stood on the platform and whispered someone fifty feet away could hear you. I could see Alan thinking about a new addition to his magic set, but they were too big for the car!

890 more children and adults eligible for cochlear implants on the NHS each year

Hundreds more people with severe to profound deafness will be eligible for cochlear implants each year, due to updated NICE guidance

The update comes after a review of the definition of severe to profound deafness which is used to identify if a cochlear implant might be appropriate.

Meindert Boysen, Director of the Centre for Technology Evaluation, said: "The appraisal committee listened to stakeholder concerns regarding the eligibility criteria for cochlear implants being out of date. Upon review it was concluded this needed to be updated."

"The new eligibility criteria for cochlear implants will ensure that they continue to be available on the NHS to those individuals who will benefit from them the most."

Severe to profound deafness is now recognised as only hearing sounds louder than 80dB HL at 2 or more frequencies without hearing aids.

A cochlear implant works by picking up sounds which are turned into electrical signals and are sent to the brain. This provides a sensation of hearing but does not restore hearing.

Currently around 1,260 people in England receive cochlear implants each year. These updated recommendations could lead to a 70% increase in that number, to 2,150 people, once a steady state is reached in 2024/25.

The annual cost of implementing this guidance is predicted to be around £28.6m at year 3. When the cost of a technology exceeds £20 million in any of the first three years it is said to meet the budget impact test.

When that happens NHS England may work with the companies to reduce the impact that funding the technology has on the rest of the NHS.

However, in this case NHS England has decided not to engage in discussions with the companies. As such, commissioners have 3 months from today to implement these recommendations.

International group working on hearing device, form of surgery for implant

by Delthia Ricks

Credit: CCO Public Domain

Since the 1980s, the cochlear implant has helped bring hearing to hundreds of thousands of people, but a new international effort aims to develop a new type of implant that will produce a keener, more natural form of hearing.

Scientists at the Feinstein Institute for Medical Research in Manhasset, fuelled by a $9.7 million federal grant, are part of a global initiative that involves physicians, surgeons, engineers and neuroscientists. They will develop not only a device, but a form of surgery to place the implant in the auditory nerve, which communicates directly with the brain.

"I will be helping to develop the electrode arrays," said Loren Rieth, a professor at the Feinstein and a leading researcher in the field of bioelectronic medicine, which will be key in developing a new form of implant to facilitate hearing.

"We want to develop an electrode that goes directly into the auditory nerve. And we therefore hope to stimulate a smaller population of nerve fibers to produce a more natural form of hearing," Rieth said.

The grant is from the National Institutes of Health's Brain Research through Advancing Innovative Neurotechnologies, an initiative that goes by the acronym BRAIN.

The grant will allow Rieth and his collaborators to develop the device and surgical approach, study the device's safety and effectiveness, and ultimately implant the devices in volunteers with hearing loss who are not able to use cochlear implants.

Since the mid-1980s, the cochlear implant has been used to treat deafness via an electrode array that is placed in a bony spiral—a snail-shaped bone—in the ear, called the cochlea, to stimulate the auditory nerve. And while the implant has revolutionized sound perception for people worldwide, it does not provide hearing at lower frequencies, Rieth said.

The National Institute on Deafness and Other Communication Disorders estimates a growing need for hearing assistance, especially among people who are profoundly deaf. The institute estimates more than 324,200 people worldwide have cochlear implants, about 96,000 of them are in the United States, including an estimated 38,000 children.

The device under development will be what Rieth calls "a quantum leap" over the cochlear implant because of its capacity to communicate directly with the brain.

In recent years, the Feinstein Institute has been studying and developing numerous bioelectronic implants to effectively treat a range of medical conditions, most resulting from inflammatory processes, such as lupus

and rheumatoid arthritis.

Researchers, led by bioelectronic medicine pioneer Dr. Kevin Tracey, the Feinstein's president and chief executive, have worked on numerous other developments in the field as well, including a device that controls postpartum hemorrhaging.

Rieth, who came to the Feinstein Institute two years ago from the University of Utah, worked on the electronic architecture of the Utah Electrode Array, an infinitesimal implant—a brain-computer—that can send and receive brain impulses. Research projects involving the Utah Array have focused on pain modulation and a bionic eye.

Now, Reith and his Feinstein team, who are collaborating with an international group of scientists, hope to produce a tiny device within five years that will achieve sound resolution that covers a wide range of frequencies.

"I'm excited by the opportunity to apply the nerve stimulation approaches of bioelectronic medicine to hearing restoration, focusing on the hearing nerve that travels from the cochlea to the brain," Reith said.

The research effort is being led by scientists at the University of Minnesota and will include those from six other institutions, including the University of Utah and Hannover Medical School in Hannover, Germany. Clinical testing on volunteers initially will be performed in Germany, Rieth said.

"The study brings together eight institutions from the United States and Europe to advance new devices for hearing loss," said Tracey, who also noted that collaboration across fields of expertise and institutions is critical to the success of bioelectronic medicine.

Quarry Bank Mill tour

In July a group of us went on an organised tour of the Quarry Bank Mill with our own personal guide. Using the neck loops which we purchased we were able to hear the guide clearly even above the inevitable noise of the machinery and the holiday crowds.

Quarry Bank Mill (also known as Styal Mill) in Styal, Cheshire, England, is one of the best preserved textile mills of the Industrial Revolution and is now a museum of the cotton industry.

Built in 1784, the mill is recorded in the National Heritage List for England as a designated Grade II listed building, and inspired the 2013 television series The Mill. It was established by Samuel Greg.

The mill was notable for the innovative approach to labour relations, largely as a result of the work of Greg's wife, Hannah Lightbody.

Our small part in its history is not recorded however we left the place intact and in working condition!

The weather outside was appalling but inside we all gathered to go and have some lunch before the tour started.

After a leisurely lunch we strolled across to the gift shop (as you do) before the tour started.

At each stage of the tour we stopped to see demonstrations of the development of cotton manufacture with the guide giving us a running commentary on the demonstrators work.

Here the lady is demonstrating the beginnings of the hand process combing the wool first of all before stretching it out into threads using the spinning wheel.

Here the demonstrator is showing the next stage of development where multiple bobbins are being used to weave the cloth.

The nearest machine to the camera is a machine called 'The Spinning Jenny'. For people in houses who had a loom, when they died then it was passed on giving rise to the term 'Heirloom'

As we went on the tour the machines got bigger, noisier and more dangerous!
This machine ran the whole length of the building and apparently never stopped running. Children were used to dart in and out of the machines picking up material off the floor. The term 'Shoddy' was used to refer to discarded cotton which has been picked up from the floor.

After an extensive and very informative tour we said goodbye to our guide in the baseball hat and splashed our way back to the car park!

An excellent and very informative day which complemented our previous visit to see the Apprentice house on site.

MED EL

NEWS

Now available SONNET 2 with app and AudioLink connectivity

Don't fit your life around your audio processor — choose a processor that fits your life! With automatic sound management including adaptive intelligence, the AudioKey app, an all-in-one connectivity device with the AudioLink, and the new FineTuner Echo remote, the new SONNET 2 package is now available in the UK.

NEW: SONNET 2 for easy listening

Whether at school, or in work; on the playground, or at the beach; our new SONNET 2 is made for you.

With the special Adaptive Intelligence and noise reduction feature you never need to change a setting again thanks to an intuitive design that detects changes in the environment and adapts for you, whether

you're listening to music or with friends in a busy restaurant.

This means that you / your child always has optimal hearing, even in the most challenging environments.

Adaptive intelligence and noise reduction are standard within the latest Automatic Sound Management technology, only from MED-EL.

AudioKey is also the only app that allows parents to pair more than one audio processor (or bilateral pair) with their phone, which is ideal if you have multiple children with cochlear implants.

NEW: AudioKey app for iOS and Android

With the new AudioKey app you can change settings, 'find my processor' to an exact location, and check advanced hearing stats including accessory use —all directly from your Android or iPhone.

NEW: FineTuner Echo

Don't worry if an app isn't for you, the new FineTuner Echo remote control makes it easy to change settings and it even allows you to test the microphones of your audio processor, so you can quickly check if your device is working correctly.

(Image, l-r, AudioLink, AudioKey app, FineTuner Echo)

NEW: Guardian Controls only with MED-EL

The AudioKey "Guardian Role" allows parents to check their child is hearing their best, adjust the settings on their child's audio processor from their phone, and keep a record of their hearing stats.

NEW: Connect whenever, wherever, and to whatever with AudioLink

Why use multiple wireless streamers for different situations when you can simply have one!

The AudioLink is an all-in-one device that's ideal for making calls, listening to music, docked next to the TV, and even acts as a remote microphone for meetings or at school.

Included as standard with all SONNET 2 kits so you don't have any extra expense.

To find out more visit www.medel.com/sonnet2

First deaf juror in English court

by Howard Swains/Guardian News item

Matthew Johnston overcame precedent to serve as foreman and hopes others will follow him

Matthew Johnston read subtitles from courtroom stenographers and used lip-reading skills to participate in jury deliberations.
Photograph: Martin Godwin/The Guardian

A 54-year-old technology consultant from London is believed to have established a legal landmark this month by becoming the first profoundly deaf person to sit on a jury in a crown court in England and Wales.

Matthew Johnston served on three trials during a two-week period at Blackfriars crown court, concluding last Thursday. He read subtitles from courtroom stenographers and relied on his lip-reading skills to participate in jury deliberations. Johnston has a small amount of hearing as a result of his cochlear implant, and is able to speak.

"It's all about inclusivity, isn't it," Johnston said. "It's a big thing for me … We don't want to turn our backs to society, we want to be part of society. We want to feel included. I feel great that I can be one of a jury."

Deaf people have previously been denied the opportunity to serve on juries in the UK as many rely on sign language interpreters. English and Welsh law prohibits the presence in the jury deliberation room of anybody except the 12 sworn jurors, and an interpreter would be considered a disqualifying "13th stranger".

After receiving a jury summons in January, and initially having a request for a stenographer refused for lack of finances, Johnston arranged a meeting with court officials to discuss how he could still fulfil his civic duty. Johnston assured them he did not require a sign language interpreter, and also noted that the round table in the jury deliberation room would allow him to lip-read his fellow jurors.

Johnston said deaf people are usually automatically precluded from selection, but insisted that was a mistake as effective methods of communication exist for many. He said: "They wanted to see me, how deaf I was, how well I could lip-read, and when they met me there was no problem."

After being convinced of Johnston's ability to serve without hindrance, and discussions with a judge, the officials secured financing for a two-person team of stenographers to transcribe everything spoken in court, which Johnston read on a tablet device from the jury benches.

He sat on separate trials for sexual assault, violent disorder and actual bodily harm. In two of the three cases, Johnston served as foreman of the jury – a measure that would have encouraged his fellow jurors to speak clearly and direct their words at him during deliberations.

"I think it made the deliberations clearer, more structured," Johnston said, adding

that the decision to make him foreman made him emotional because "they had confidence in me".

Deaf people have served on juries in Ireland, Australia and the US, but challenges to existing laws to permit the same in England and Wales have consistently failed.

In 1999, the then chief executive of the British Deaf Association (BDA), Jeff McWhinney, lost a court battle to allow a sign language interpreter to accompany him. A judge ruled that a 13th person in jury deliberations would amount to an "incurable irregularity".

There is no record of a profoundly deaf person having served on a British jury and the Ministry of Justice did not point to any previous examples when asked.

Johnston is not the first deaf person to seek to set a new precedent recently, however. In January, Pauline Latchem, from north London, was left "annoyed and irritated" when her request for a sign language interpreter to help her attend jury service at Wood Green crown court was rejected, with the jury summons board stating "jurors are not allowed to have interpreters" and that it "may well impact on my ability to carry out my jury service".

A deaf woman from Essex recently said she had appealed against her disqualification to a judge, who ruled that she should be allowed to appear on a jury and provided with an interpreter in court and a speech-to-text converter in the jury room. She has yet to receive a court date.

A Ministry of Justice spokesman did not comment specifically on Johnston's circumstances but said: "Every effort is made to make sure people with hearing difficulties can serve on juries, and we are harnessing technology like hearing loops and computer-aided transcription services to improve accessibility even further."

The MoJ says it is examining developments in potential new technology, including voice recognition software or simultaneous transcripts, that could provide technical assistance to those who are profoundly deaf.

Anthony Jarvis, who was on the same jury panel at Blackfriars as Johnston, said: "The processes in court seemed like they were in no way negatively impacted by having a deaf juror and that the court handled it very well. The trial carried on as if having a deaf juror was standard procedure. It didn't feel like this was the first time."

Johnston himself said that apart from a couple of small teething issues – his tablet ran out of battery charge at one point, and he also could not hear the announcements in the jury assembly area calling him to court – his time was entirely fulfilling.

"It worked. It can be done," he said. "It means that more people with hearing impairments can go on a jury. You've got a bigger pool to select."

His ultimate aim is that closed captioning is introduced to courts as a matter of course, and not only if someone on the jury self-reports as deaf. Eleven million people are hard of hearing in the UK, and Johnston said the option of reading subtitles could also help people for whom English is not their first language.

He said that Blackfriars crown court had already sought his feedback with a view to increasing its accessibility, but he also recognised that some new technology aimed at producing automated and near-instant transcriptions from spoken word was potentially still too unrefined. "If it changes the dynamic of a deliberation, I don't know if it's a good thing," he said.

An afternoon in Buxton

by Kevin Williams

For a first time visit (for a long time anyway), we recently visited Buxton the 'Capital of the Peaks' as its know locally. As there is a lot to see in Buxton, but spread over a wide area we decided that a tour on a bus would be the best solution. The 'Bus' however as you can see from the picture was not very large? In fact it was a converted milk float designed especially for local tours!

Inside the bus, which could accomodate eight of us there were several things to make the commentary easier for us especially to hear.

The tour guide/driver wore a radio microphone linked to speakers inside the passenger area and as well as have a broad Geordie accent he was a very clear speaker.

At the front of the compartment above the small hatch was a video screen which was used to show us 'before and after' pictures of various things as we went around which was very useful.

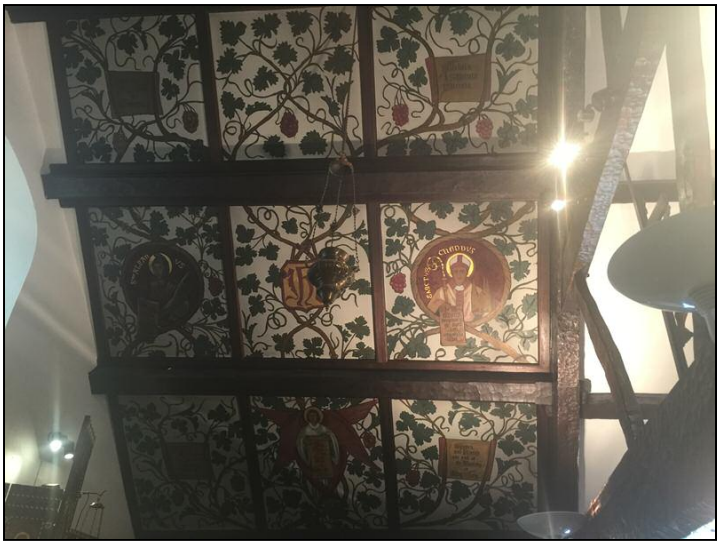
We set off from outside the Buxton Opera house which was the base for the tours and wound our way at 4mph throughout the streets of a busy Buxton.
It took some getting used to!

The driver was suitably attired in a frock coat and bowler hat which was very brave seeing as it was rather warm.
Buxton has certainly changed over the years although the presence of the Duke of Devonshire's investments was never far away.
Below is the inside of what used to be a massive collection of stables built in a circular building

that had no roof as it does now. It is a huge building but is now used by students from the University of Derbyshire as a refectory/ study area and has a dome built on top as large or larger than St Paul's cathedral.
When standing exactly in the middle of the building below the centre of the dome noises create tremendous echoes but only standing exactly on the correct spot. Needless to say we had some fun with that!

The tour then carried on across Buxton to places that even people who live there had not heard of.

The last of which was a very old church build from an old barn. What made it really special was the decorated roof which had been done in the Arts and Crafts



style which of course we had been looking at recently when we went to the Walker gallery in Liverpool to see the Charles Rennie Macintosh exhibition.

At the end of the tour we went our separate ways although I think someone was thinking of a second career as a 'Clippie'?

Notes for the diary

Upcoming events:

Royal Liver Building tour	28th September
Mill Hotel Chester lunch	26th October
Ramada Hotel Southport (End of Season Meal)	November 23rd

Full details will be sent out shortly to everyone and any updates can be found on the website at: www.manchestercicada.org.uk/events-2019

Chairman	**Honorary Treasurer**	**Hon Secretary**
John Newton	Alan Corcoran	Kevin Williams
32 Queens road	45 Polefield Road	107 Manchester Road
Buxton	Prestwich	Hyde
Derbyshire	Manchester	Cheshire
SK17 7EX	M25 2GN	SK14 2BX
chairman@manchestercicada.org.uk	treasurer@manchestercicada.org.uk	secretary@manchestercicada.org.uk