



Welcome to the first edition of the new monthly newsletter coming to you from the secluded back room somewhere in't North where the sole occupant of the establishment has now taken up semi-permanent residence!

What times we live in! I'm still trying to get used to all the rules which seem to vary each day as another situation arises, however I will endeavour to persevere as we all must.

Because of the strict rules about isolation at this time and the fact that some of us don't get about as much as we used to anyway, I thought this would be a useful way of keeping in contact with everyone over the coming weeks.

If anyone would like to jot a few notes down about their own experiences at this time, amusing or serious, then I would love to include it in the next edition.

As well as having an 'Electronic chat' I encourage any of you who do have any questions about things, be they may have to do with the Corona Virus or support from the Implant Centre, then send them to me either an email, or post /text (if you can without breaking rules etc.) - Full contact details on the last page.

In this edition to start with, we have Suzanne Allen's reminiscences of Bills attempts to drown his CI (thanks Suzanne) as well as some useful support information.

The following article is by kind permission of Suzanne Allen following the latest issue of Resound which had John Newtons 'Lost CI' story. I must say that the 'Drowning CI' theme seems to be more common than I thought! (Ed.)

I've just read your interesting article 'The Lost CI' and it brought back a couple of memories.

In 2004, Bill and I were on a Ramblers Holiday on Samos, one of the Greek islands.

On the second day, after a relaxed lunch in a hillside taverna, we had to trek through a burnt out wood in the mid-afternoon sun which of course would have been in shade the previous year when our leader was last there.

We eventually arrived at the coast, all dehydrated, hot and sticky and desperate to get in the sea and it was at that point that Bill stripped down to his shorts and leapt into the sea, completely forgetting about his CI processor.

Of course he was devastated as he assumed this would completely ruin the holiday as Ramblers Holidays are very sociable affairs, walking, talking and dining together throughout.

Amazingly, a Swedish man and his son, using goggles, searched the grey pebbles for a grey CI processor and actually found it. Needless to say, despite Bill's efforts to wash out the salt with fresh water and dry out in the sun, the processor didn't work.

Fortunately, a 12 year old boy was very taken with the idea of learning how to fingerspell and then proceeded to teach everyone else. At mealtimes Bill was able to converse by some lip reading and writing key words on

the white paper table cloths the Greeks use in their restaurants.

The other memory is a trip to Scotland in 2007.

Instead of driving, we decided to take a National Coach to Glasgow, costing £5 each, spend a few days there, before taking the bus trip you did from Glasgow to Campbeltown to stay with a friend.

It takes as much time doesn't it – about



Cambletown Harbour

four and a half hours – for both journeys.

We didn't see much on the way there as it was dark after the first couple of hours but we returned in daylight.

What a delightful area the Mull of Kintyre is. We thoroughly enjoyed our stay and took some interesting trips and walks.

Suzanne Allen

A quick shout for our members on the front line



Angharad Hayes

Angharad works in a Retirement living/care home near Stockport.

She has worked there for nearly thirty years and is a longstanding member of Cicada having had her implant at MRI 15 years ago.

Lynn has been a care worker at a home in Wigan for many years and is well known throughout Cicada as an actor having been in several period based films and also on stage as well.

We are looking forward to her being able to restart her thespian activities once these challenging times are over.



Lynn Grimshaw

We would like to know how you are getting on at home especially in the lockdown period.

* Are you using online delivery services, do you get anything delivered by local volunteers or are relatives/friends helping.

* If you have an issue with shopping for example, sign up with your regular Supermarket to get emails directly from them about shopping arrangements. For example opening times (which have varied over the past weeks), special opening times for elderly and care workers shopping on behalf of others.

* Has anyone had problems getting batteries or support for faulty equipment? If you can't get them from your current supplier then I recommend to email the clinic.

* How many have been queuing and thinking back to past times and rationing!

Voluntary Services

Let us know if you have used local voluntary services and if possible how to contact them so we can spread the word. Here is one National service that has been in the news recently.

The Royal Voluntary service - whose latest request for volunteers now stands at 750,000 people and who had the distinction of crashing one of the governments computers because of the sheer volume of requests for checks!

Website: <https://www.royalvoluntaryservice.org.uk>

This is the warning section:

These are challenging times and the increase in activity of the criminal fraternity shows no sign of abating. Only this morning I heard of someone who was robbed by people saying that there had been a case of Corona Virus next door and they needed to disinfect her house! - **Never** let people in especially if you don't know them.

There are online scams taking place, I've had several emails from people offering \$1m to help the charity - the clue is in the currency there.

Email scams that abound include those saying you've been frozen out of your bank account and you need to click on a link in the email - **Never** click an email link.

Emails saying you've been selected for a hardship payment by the Inland revenue, just give us your bank details.... the list goes on. Always contact your bank the way you normally do from their own website, **never use a link.**

Contact details for articles: I would love to hear from anyone with an example of a service, good or bad, or an amusing incident in a queue (there are lots of queues these days)

Cicada: email: secretary@manchestercicada.org.uk - Text: 07533 217730 or postal address: 107 Manchester Road, Hyde Cheshire, SK14 2BX

CICADA support Links: <http://www.manchestercicada.org.uk/help-support/>

Any contacts you help me with will be added to our website and publicised on our facebook page: **Manchester Cicada club**. If you want to join just put in a request.

Manchester Auditory Implant Centre: Repairs and Battery Supply

Tel: for all repairs. 0161 276 8079

Email: auditory.implant@mft.nhs.uk for cochlear implants and BAHA