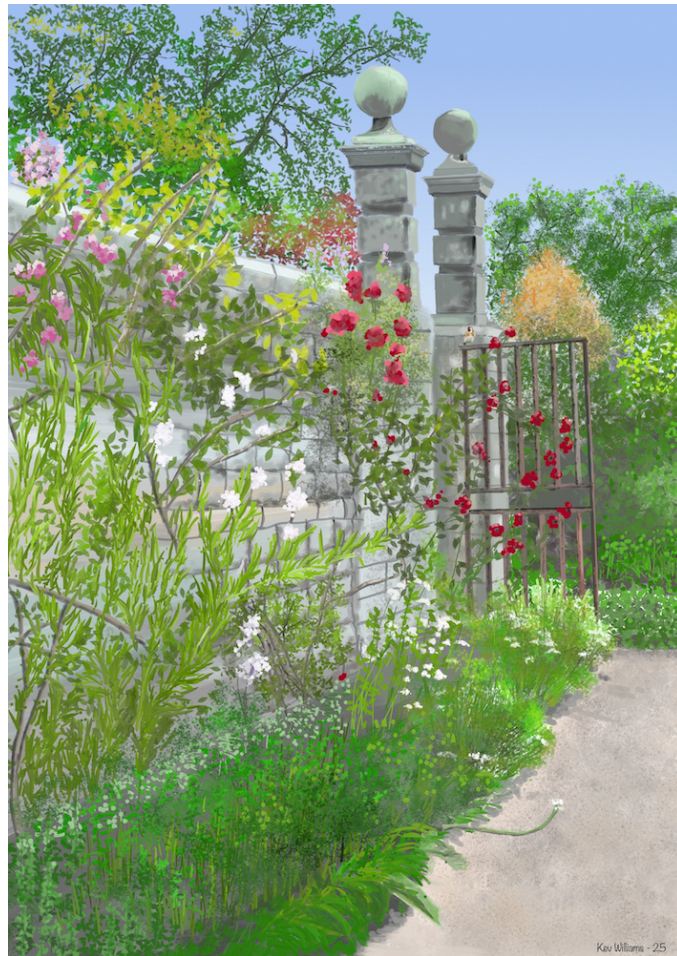


# ReSound

Spring 2026

For People with Cochlear Implants

Issue 89



Haddon Hall gardens



This newsletter has been produced on behalf of Manchester CICADA

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## Editorial

Welcome to the Spring edition of ReSound and so far, we've waited for change in the weather at last.

In this edition we have some articles again by members of the club which are very welcome as well as various updates in Cochlear developments.

If anyone has news or information that would be of interest for the next issue feel free to send it along no matter how small an item it is.

The events schedule is well underway with the next one coming up in May at the Ring O'Bells in Daresbury on 15th May so do let me know if you are able to come along.

We are exploring the best way of running workshop/help meetings to support members with ancillary equipment supplied by the Implant centre such as remote microphones and TV assist devices and will be updating everyone soon.

Many of our group are involved in a variety of different activities to help others, raising money for charities and helping each other with our own technical issues so please keep the news coming!

Back copies of Resound are available on both the Website and the Facebook group pages and if anyone

wanted a peek at our extensive history, then a glance at copies going back over twenty years may bring back some memories.

Enjoy this issue and as always feedback is appreciated and I look forward to meeting with you during the year. *Kevin Williams-editor*



# Ableism?

by John Newton

There are over half a million words in the Oxford English Dictionary. You might think that is enough for anyone wouldn't you? Except that new ones seem to pop up every day. This one, ableism may have been around for some time but is new to me, I had to look it up.

Wikipedia says it is "Discrimination in favour of non-disabled people" which intrigued me by the rather polite and positive terms with which it is expressed.

It seems to me that if you encounter it, it is more likely to be seen as "discrimination against disabled people." and especially if you count yourself in that category and you are the target.

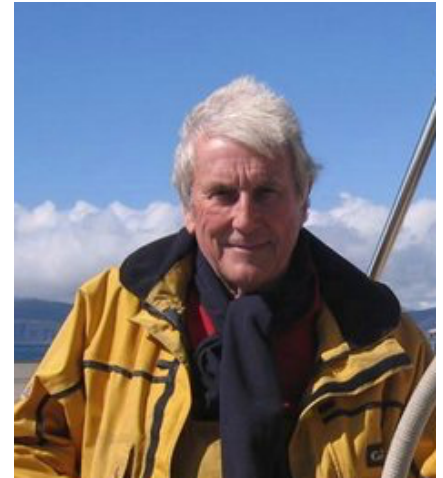
I lost my job because of my deafness which is a fairly serious consequence isn't it? But I never thought of it as ableism.

I have to think back a good number of years to try to recover the feelings I had about it at the time. For various reasons to do with my circumstances then, it wasn't quite the blow that it might have been and on balance I think I accepted the decision as not utterly unreasonable.

There was no doubt that my hearing loss was sometimes very inconvenient, especially my difficulty with phone calls.

I now realise that much of the difficulty arose from the general attitude towards disability which saw it as unacceptable to talk about. There was a rather macho attitude in my workplace which said, "if you can't hack it, hard luck mate". It was a long way from a caring supportive attitude to one's fellow workers which most of us would like to experience.

In my case as the management team of a medium sized manufacturing company, we foolishly tended to dramatize our work and see ourselves as corporate warriors rather than administrators. I am sure similar attitudes



prevail in all kinds of work groups and in society in general. Many people see that being disabled diminishes you as a person.

Why do we have such an attitude? Well most people never get to know a disabled person so we have no mental picture of what it means except in the single instance of our own disability.

When you do meet other disabled people through organisations like CICADA your perceptions inevitably change. I can think of a number of deaf people whom I've met who stand out for the brave way in which they meet the challenges of overcoming the problems which their deafness imposes on their lives. They are the opposite of diminished, veritable heroes.

But I think that term is more reasonably applied to what you might call simple abuse. There is no doubt that there is a tendency to describe deaf people as stupid, even my Mum used to sometime suggest that I was not attending rather than not hearing.

Daft not deaf! I have a feeling that negative attitudes to disable people is a relic of our long human existence as primitive hunter gatherers. For the vast majority of our time on earth we have lived in small precarious bands of hunters in which any disability threatened the existence of the group. If you couldn't hear the shouts or run fast enough you were just a burden.

Even within living memory there are instances of primitive tribes just abandoning old or disabled tribal members. Leaving them to die. Anyone who was not fit was a threat to the band. Does that attitude live on in our modern society?

The media are full of stories about discrimination, racism, anti semitism, islamophobia, colour prejudice, class distinction. Ableism doesn't crop up much. Is it a problem in the way that, say racism is a problem? I would be interested to hear what other deaf people think about it.

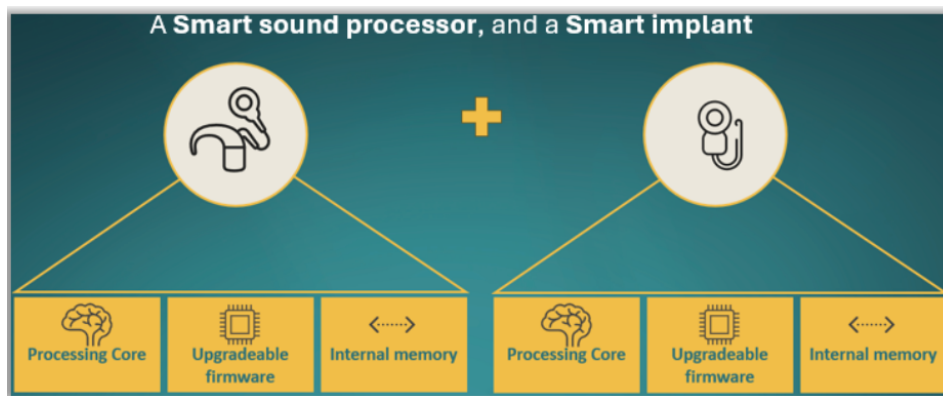
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# News from Cochlear



*The Cochlear™ Nucleus® Nexa® System stands alone as the world's first and only smart cochlear implant system' because it uniquely integrates true intelligence into the architecture itself.*

The Cochlear Nucleus Nexa System represents a fundamental technological transformation that changes what is possible for recipients over their lifetime. Historically, traditional cochlear implant systems have intelligence only in the sound processor. For a cochlear implant system to be smart, intelligence must



exist in both parts of the system.

## Smart Architecture

The Nucleus Nexa System has three essential architectural components working together:

- an onboard processing core capable of real-time signal processing and decision-making within the implant itself
- upgradeable firmware that enables the device to evolve without surgical revision
- internal memory for storing patient-specific settings, diagnostic data and processing algorithms.

These components reside within the implant, not the external processor, and are what qualify it as smart implant technology.

## Onboard Intelligence: Real-Time Processing Inside the Implant

The Nexa implant contains a computing engine that performs real-time analysis and optimization independent of the external sound processor. This onboard intelligence enables several clinically relevant capabilities. The Nexa implant continuously monitors and responds to its operating environment and stimulation requirements in real time, reducing clinical burden while optimizing patient experience.

One example of this onboard intelligence is Onboard Diagnostics, where the implant continuously monitors its performance and can detect and respond to potential issues before they affect patient outcomes. When the implant identifies suboptimal coil placement, it can notify the recipient directly through the sound processor, enabling immediate correction rather than requiring a troubleshooting call to the clinic. In the most extreme (and rare) cases where the implant detects conditions that could compromise safety or performance, it can reset or lock until the issue is resolved. These capabilities shift the system from reactive troubleshooting to proactive performance management.

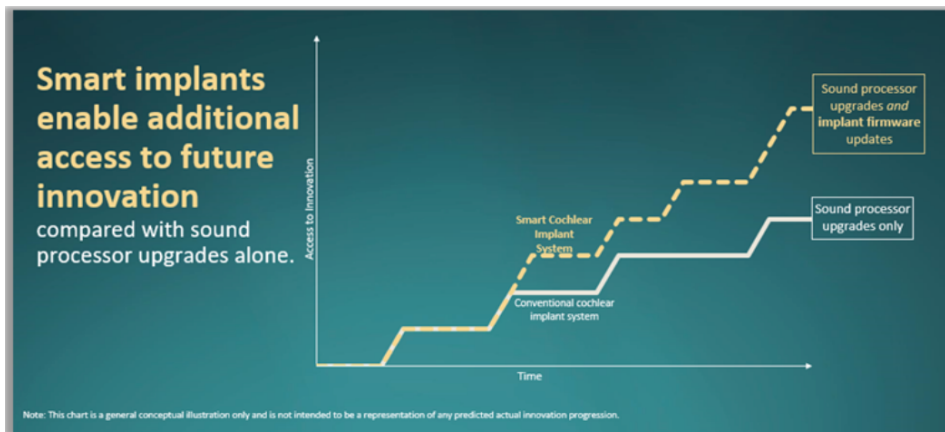
Another example of this onboard intelligence is Dynamic Power Management. The Nexa implant continuously monitors the power required for optimal stimulation based on each patient's individual MAPs and their current stimulation needs. The implant then adjusts how much power it requests from the sound processor in real time. For audiologists, this may translate to fewer patient complaints about inconsistent battery life, reduced out-of-compliance events that require clinic attention, and more predictable device performance across varying listening environments. For recipients, increased power efficiency means they can access even smaller sound processors without sacrificing all-day hearing. through the new Power Compact Rechargeable battery module.

### **Firmware Upgradeability: Evolution Without Revision Surgery**

Perhaps the most significant architectural advantage of smart implant technology is upgradeable firmware. Examples of devices that currently receive firmware updates to improve performance include medical devices such as pacemakers and blood glucose monitors, as well as consumer technologies like smartphones and electric cars.

The Nucleus Nexa Implant firmware can be updated through Custom Sound Pro. For patients who will live with their implants for decades, firmware upgradeability means the device they receive today can incorporate future advances. Examples of such advances that could be provided without requiring revision surgery include new signal processing and stimulation strategies, and diagnostics. For recipients focused on the newest technology, it provides assurance that their implant will remain current as cochlear

implant technology advances. Clinically, firmware updates enable providers to implement new features, optimize existing functions, and continue to improve patient outcomes.



## Internal Memory: Continuity and Diagnostic Capability

The third architectural pillar of smart implant technology is internal memory within the implant itself. The Nucleus Nexa System stores patient-specific programming parameters, diagnostic logs, usage data and stimulation history directly in the implant. This seemingly simple capability has several important clinical implications.

When patients replace external processors or lost or damaged equipment, their custom settings are preserved in the implant and automatically transferred to the new processor via Smart Sync—Cochlear’s seamless data transfer system. This eliminates the need for clinic intervention and ensures continuity of their hearing. Internal memory also enables more sophisticated diagnostic capabilities, as the implant can track performance trends over time, identify patterns that might indicate developing issues and provide clinicians with objective data about device function and patient usage.

## Guiding Patient Decisions with Confidence

Over a recipient’s lifetime, their implant may remain in place for decades. As clinicians who guide patients and families through one of the most important decisions of their lives, understanding what makes an implant truly smart matters. It’s the foundational architecture that enables clinical adaptability and determines whether the device implanted today can evolve to meet changing patient needs throughout their lifetime, without requiring another surgery. The Nucleus Nexa System is the only system with this architectural foundation to meet these needs and offer patients more possibilities for a lifetime of better hearing.

# On hearing bird song

by Ali Hargreaves

I am relatively new to having a Cochlear Implant. I had my operation at the very end of August 2025 and was switched on at the end of September.

It has been a bit of a miracle for me and I am still discovering things that I can now hear which I'd forgotten even existed!

I know I'm not alone when I say that one of the most beautiful sounds is hearing birds again. I feel so lucky and so privileged to be able to hear them after decades of birdsong silence. I go out into my garden and just sit and listen to their joyful tunes. It gives me immense pleasure.

Spring is such a special time for birdsong. I forgot just how incredible it is. When I'm gardening they seem to be singing out just for my benefit! When I go for a run or a walk....I can hear them so clearly serenading my journey.

I made it my mission to hear and see a skylark this year...and I first saw one in February. I was so excited! I can now recognise the song and have seen a few more since. I believe the Skylark's song was probably one of the first songs I noticed I couldn't hear any more.

I have got the Merlin App on my phone now to help me recognise the birdsong and it really helps to know what I'm looking out for... as well as to identify what I'm hearing. A couple of weeks ago I visited Foulshaw Moss to view the Osprey there.

On the walk we sat at the bird hide and watched the birds feeding there. I saw and heard so many birds including a redpoll. The air was filled with an orchestra of chirpy music!

I'm following a guy on Instagram called "Beginbirding" and he is helping me to know what to look out for. The Great Tit for example cries "Teacher... teacher" and the Wren produces one of the loudest songs (which includes a



kind of machine gun roll) despite being one of the UK's smallest birds.

I am an artist and I like to portray my experiences sometimes through my art.

I have begun painting a series of paintings of birds singing made over music scores.

The idea is to try and illustrate how special birdsong is to me now I can hear it again.

I've more pictures like these, let me know if you would like to see them.

email: [ali@alisart.co.uk](mailto:ali@alisart.co.uk)



## Catching up around the club

I'm pleased to report that Ali Cookson has returned to running after a break and is getting back into events. I'm sure that her four legged friend appreciates the chance to scoot about as the weather improves.



We are pleased to announce that having braved the tremendous heat found in this far away location, Lynn has safely returned from the other side of the pond, Florida to be accurate, without incurring the interest of the American authorities!

We look forward to hearing tales of derring-do amongst the settlers.



# Events update

We have had several well attended events so far this year with more to come. The first of which was at The Swan with Two Nicks.



As always at these meet ups there are lots of discussions not only about the weather and food, but issues that have happened with equipment or situations that may have caused problems.

*'A problem shared is a problem halved'*

It's not all about the talking though, it does go rather quiet when the food arrives :)



I think I may have said something!



Another month and another location, all the way over to Frodsham this time, just down the road from Chester.

We were back at the Netherton Hall location managing to avoid Market Day locally and we took up our usual table in the large room.

It was extremely busy nevertheless and while we were waiting someone noticed three paintings on the wall of gentlemen from the Tudor Era.

Of course the next question was who are they?



With no Name titles under the paintings, the next issue was to check them more closely.

We found out later that the three pictures are prints of paintings done by Hans Holbein the Younger and include Sir John Godsolve, Thomas Cromwell and one other! Our more adventurous

member, newly returned from the far east and with no problem with heights was obviously the one needed to have a closer look.

The rest of us just watched in awe :)



Once the food arrived of course it went very quiet and we forgot about the pictures.

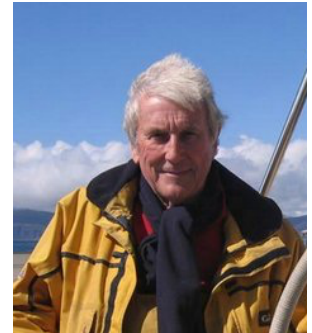
The events schedule for the year is on the last page of the magazine.



## PAGO PAGO

by John Newton

It's pronounced pango pango and is a small island in the south Pacific which belongs to the United States. It is famous for having a very good natural harbour. A "natural" harbour is one which provides shelter from winds and seas without any man made construction. In this case a deep bay with a dogleg in it. Because of this advantage it has been of interest to various countries since the 17th century, a time when the UK, France, Spain and others were exploring the world in fragile wooden sailing ships.



Ownership of the island was disputed from time to time, not least by the native inhabitants until around 1900 when the USA was accepted as being in charge. In modern times it was made famous when Somerset Maugham wrote a story about it featuring a femme fatale called Sadie Thompson which was the basis of a successful film.

In fact it is administratively part of the USA which was why I was visiting it towards the end of the last century. I knew I could get US Dollars there from a cash machine. These are a sort of universal currency in many parts of the world, especially in small poorer countries.

I had sailed there from Hawaii on a route which took me due south and into the Southern Hemisphere therefore, crossing the equator for the first time. This was always an important rite of passage for sailors and I think may still be on some ships when the first timer can expect an uncomfortable hazing by "Father Neptune". Being on my own I had to be content with watching the latitude on the GPS screen count down to 00.00, still quite a moment.

The route into the famous harbour took me past the town and business area which, I learned later, included the Harbourmaster's office. Turning the corner, the spacious and beautifully sheltered haven opened out before me and included the welcoming sight of a small group of other "blue water" boats. I headed for them, found a space and dropped my anchor.

After an ocean passage getting securely anchored is always a special moment. One leaves behind the never ending restlessness of the open sea for the stillness of a calm and quiet anchorage. The tension which is always present at sea melts away. It's euphoric, and, in this case the mood tends to last for quite a while which was fortunate in view of my dealings with the Harbour Master later in the day.

I smartened myself up, launched my little rubber dinghy and paddled ashore.

The route to find the Harbourmaster's office took me first into a busy town square, distinguished in this place by a crowd of the colourful local buses, individually owned and gaily painted. It also had a cash machine. I took the opportunity to replace my modest stash of dollars, feeling slightly guilty since I was not yet "officially" there.

Enquiries of passers by took me to a undistinguished brick building and the Harbour Masters office on the first floor. The man himself appeared shortly and, it seemed not in a good mood. Like many Polynesians he was an impressive figure, large and with a big head and face. His compatriots are valued as rugby players. I introduced myself and presented my credentials. "Do you realise Mr Newton" he responded "I could fine you an immediate \$100 dollars for not calling and asking permission to enter the harbour, and in addition to other penalties?"

This meant, of course, that I now had to explain about my deafness and difficulty with using the VHF radio. In this quiet office, and one to one when I have little difficulty hearing, he was clearly reluctant to accept my explanation as any more than a weak excuse. After some more conversation he announced severely "I must consult my colleagues, wait here!" and disappeared.

From where I sat, I had a view across the harbour to the greenery of the island countryside, refreshing after days of looking at the sea. I was also still infused by the euphoria of making a safe landfall so my mood was quite calm "What can they do to a solitary old codger like me?" I asked myself (very naively I realise now).

My interrogator returned. "Well John" (Using my first name must be a good sign, I thought), "I have decided that you are an honest man". The atmosphere warmed a little.

"However, you must return to your boat immediately" he continued severely, "and not go ashore until you have been cleared by the Customs".

With a sense of relief, I walked back to the dock and my dinghy where I found two young men leaning casually against a van bearing the name of the US customs. "Are you on your own?" they said. "Yes, but the Harbour Master said I must return to my boat before being cleared"

They looked at each other significantly. "Where have you come from?" I explained about my recent passages. They laid a form on the bonnet of their van and invited me to sign. "That's it?" I asked. "Yes, no problem, enjoy your stay".

And I did. The saintly American Baptist couple who ran the Mission to Seafarers gave me a warm welcome and provided various facilities including a Fax machine. This was just before email took over. They even took me to Church one Sunday where the vicar, proved to be a Polynesian and retired US Marine officer which I thought was a particularly American combination.

ED: This is one of the many stories that will shortly be appearing in a collection of stories of deaf people against the odds.

Details will be published on our Facebook site.

## Late News

**Northern Ireland will become the first part of the UK to provide free sign language classes to all deaf children and their families, through a new sign language law that was passed on Tuesday.**

The Sign Language Bill (Northern Ireland) 2025 will put a duty on the Department for Communities to provide free classes for deaf people under-25 and their close families, guardians, and carers.

Anthony Sinclair, who is profoundly deaf, said he is relieved after campaigners like him "had to fight for such a long time" for the law. "We're starting to see systemic change where we're seen as equal and we really do look forward to feeling that respect for our language, our culture and our values."

As the bill passed its final stage at the Northern Ireland Assembly, members of the deaf community, who filled the public gallery at Stormont, cheered and applauded as MLAs voted through the bill unanimously.

Democratic Unionist Party (DUP) Communities Minister Gordon Lyons, who used sign language when introducing the bill, said: "This bill is about rectifying long standing inequality; it reflects values shared across this assembly, fairness, dignity and inclusion.

"These have not been the reality for members of our deaf community for far too long, that ends today."

The bill now awaits royal assent before becoming law.

## PROPOSED EVENTS SCHEDULE 2026

Details of each event will be advertised on our Facebook site Manchester CICADAclub as we go through the year and in addition for those members not on Facebook information will be emailed as well.

The Griffin Arms Bold Heath	20th Feb
The Swan two Nicks Bollington	20th Mar
Netherton Hall Frodsham	24th Apr
The Ring O'Bells Daresbury	15th May
Worsley Old Hall Manchester	25th Jun
Cheshire Cat Christelton	17th Jul
Lamb Inn Chinley	21st Aug
Worsley Old Hall Manchester	18th Sept
Royal Oak Inn Riley Green	16th Oct
The Swan two nicks Bollington	20th Nov

### Website:

[www.manchestercicada.org.uk](http://www.manchestercicada.org.uk)

This website includes pages such as the *Accessory help page*, listing devices that can be supplied to new implantees to work with their new processors. This includes remote microphones, television amplifiers, mobile phone wireless connections for remote Processor control and other devices.

The page has links to YouTube videos on how to connect these devices.

### Facebook group:

Manchester CICADA club

**Editor direct contact:Text 07533217730**

**Email: [celtictyke@gmail.com](mailto:celtictyke@gmail.com)**

## National Support organisations

**British Tinnitus Association:**

<https://www.tinnitus.org.uk/>

**Hearing Link:**

<https://www.hearinglink.org/>

**RNID (Action on Hearing Loss):**

<https://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/>

**Disabled Travel Advice:**

<http://www.disabledtraveladvice.co.uk/>

**Meniere's Society:**

<http://www.menieres.org.uk/>

**National Deaf Children's Society:**

<http://www.ndcs.org.uk/>

**National Association of Deafened People (NADP):** <http://www.nadp.org.uk/>

## Equipment Suppliers for Deaf People

**Sarabec:** <https://www.sarabec.com/>

**Connevans:** <http://www.connevans.co.uk>

**Hearing Link UK:** <https://www.hearinglink.org/>

**RNID (Action on Hearing Loss):**

<https://www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/>

## Accessory help

The accessory help page has links to videos about how to connect your processor to different accessories, such as remote microphones, TV support etc. that may be supplied to you by the implant centre.

<https://www.manchestercicada.org.uk/accessory-help/>

## Manchester Implant Centre

The Richard Ramsden Centre for Auditory Implants, Peter Mount Building, Manchester Royal Infirmary, Oxford Road, Manchester, M13 9WL

Main Contact Details:

Tel: 0161 701 6931 ( Appointments)

Tel: 0161 276 8079 (repairs and spares)

<http://www.manchestercicada.org.uk/implant-clinic/>

