

# Cued Speech Association UK Newsletter



Complete spoken language  
through vision

Summer 2008  
Issue 37

## BBC Lifeline Appeal, presented by Jonathan Dimpleby

We were very lucky to be chosen as one of the few charities to feature in the BBC TV Lifeline Appeal and delighted that Jonathan Dimpleby has agreed to be our presenter for the programme. This appeal should ensure that more families hear about Cued Speech and that they have the opportunity to benefit from it. Our BBC Lifeline Appeal will be broadcast on the afternoon of Sunday 17th August on BBC 1 and repeated at lunchtime on Wednesday 20 August on BBC 2. Put these dates in your diary now!

We are extremely grateful to Jonathan Dimpleby for giving his time to present our programme. We know that his professional experience and outstanding reputation for balanced broadcasting will be of great benefit to our appeal.

## Concert for Cued Speech

A superb concert was organised by Sally Somerville in Highbury, London to raise money for the Association. Highlights included 'Music for a While' by Purcell.

Despite having to compete with the first real 'summer' Sunday the afternoon concert raised an excellent £328.70. Huge thanks to Sally Somerville, soprano, Susan Bamert, flautist and Georgina Drew-Edwards, pianist for their wonderful and totally professional performances. It was a real musical treat!



Left to right: Georgina and Sally (Susan had unfortunately left before we found the camera)

Thanks also to Charles Jackson, Ray Palmer and Jim Robinson; the latter for giving free use of the Rosslyn Hill Chapel.

## Long-term plans

The open meeting held in London on Saturday 2nd February to look at the Association's long term goals was attended by 19 people and resulted in many interesting and positive ideas. Recommendations are summarised inside. Further work is needed to incorporate these within a robust business plan.

## Cueing Coincidence

Two English deaf young men who were both brought up with Cued Speech and who are in the USA on the first leg of a round the world trip had an amazing chance meeting in a cafe in Baltimore. John (they prefer not to use their surnames) wrote to family members:

'You'll never guess who I bumped into today... Dr Stanley Cornett! If the name isn't familiar to you, it should be - he's the son of Dr Orin Cornett. Giles and I were having lunch in a corner cafe - imaginatively called the "Cozy Corner Cafe" - and I was cueing to Giles, when this man walked up to us and introduced himself as Stan Cornett. He works at the Peabody Institute here in Baltimore and we had a chat about how we use Cued Speech and how it's different to the American style. He also explained about his father and what he did. Small world isn't it?'



Left to right: John, Tom and Giles

John and Giles also met, by arrangement, Cued Speech Tutor and Transliterater Tom Shull who put them in touch with other American cuers who have offered the legendary American hospitality. They would like to pass on their thanks to the cueing community in the USA for their welcome.

**Cued Speech Association UK**  
Making available information about and training in Cued Speech

## Cued Speech in Manchester Schools

**Teachers of the Deaf Tina Kirwin and Alison Paton** were invited to give a workshop about Cued Speech at the British Association of Teachers of the Deaf (BATOD) Conference on 8<sup>th</sup> March 2008 and to submit an article detailing the workshop for the BATOD magazine.

The following is based on the article first published in the May edition of the BATOD magazine.

We are teachers of the Deaf who have worked for the Manchester Service since the early 1990s. We have taught a wide variety of children of differing ages and abilities, but the majority of children have been profoundly deaf and with English as an additional language. Many have also arrived in Manchester only having had limited access to education and without access to hearing aids.

Anne Worsfold (Executive Director Cued Speech Association) was invited by Tina to give a talk to our Service in 2004. Anne spoke to our service about her own two profoundly deaf sons who had been introduced to Cued Speech at a very early age and had consequently both been able to read before they began school.

Inspiring! Also research shows that deaf children who have been brought up using Cued Speech can attain age appropriate levels in literacy. Since then Tina has been unstinting in her efforts to enable as many children, parents and staff in Manchester as possible to learn and to use Cued Speech.

Anne was invited to deliver Cued Speech training to several of our staff and parents which she did with June Dixon-Millar in the summer term of 2004. Since then we have attended Cued Speech Summer Schools in Exeter and the Cued Speech Association have also kindly held refresher/update courses for our staff, parents and children. A cueing club for staff and parents has also been ongoing since that time. Cued Speech is now used as part of our communication programme from pre-school children through to secondary.

We find it gives profoundly deaf children access to phonics which they would not have through audition/lipreading alone and that it can enable signing children to extend their vocabulary when there may not be a specific sign for the word – eg – the names of different flowers rather than using the generic sign for flower followed by the fingerspelt name of the flower. We also find that many children become more relaxed and confident when introduced to Cued Speech as it takes away much of the stress of lip reading and provides a very structured and simple gateway to what can be a

puzzling maze of spoken language (in particular to children whose home language is not English).

At the BATOD workshop we showed a DVD from the Cued Speech Association which gives first hand accounts from parents of deaf children and young people brought up with Cued Speech. Cuers contribute an overview of Cued Speech and why it works. Quotes from the DVD included: *“I know that without Cued Speech I would never have understood the English language. I can only hear a few sounds such as vowel sounds but Cued Speech makes me aware of all the sounds I can't hear.”* (Profoundly Deaf 17 year old).

We also showed a DVD of children from our service – from reception through to secondary age – using Cued Speech. None of the children have English as their home language. It shows children using the system to identify initial letter sounds, to facilitate their segmentation of phonemes to assist spelling and to enable lipreading of very similar looking numbers - eg six, sixteen, sixty.

Workshop participants also played a game in which they had to lipread various short words which contained the /ue/ sound; first without and then with Cued Speech to demonstrate the effectiveness of Cued Speech in improving lip reading ability.

Those attending the workshop also sang *Old MacDonald* - with signs - but cueing the animal sounds (which cannot really be signed and are lovely for introducing the sounds to profoundly deaf pre-schoolers). They also cued the *ee i ee i o* bit - partly to show how we use sign alongside Cued Speech but also to show how easy it can be to start using Cued Speech with deaf children !

We demonstrated how Cued Speech can visually reinforce rhyming in a way that lip reading and BSL cannot by signing and cueing simultaneously a simple rhyming story. This also showed how we are using Cued Speech alongside BSL. (continued opposite)



Alison



Tina

## Cued Speech

Giving access to spoken language for deaf babies, children and adults



## A time for Growth

Authority for an expansion of our activities was given at a 'Strategic Meeting' attended by 19 key Cued Speech users, tutors and staff in February 2008. Having seen the outstanding successes of Cued Speech at first hand all those attending were passionate about Cued Speech and enthusiastic about improving the Association's support of deaf children and their families.

The recommendations of the meeting included:

- to develop our information-giving role into one which included advocacy and advice.
- to take a more proactive role in training - not only teaching the skills of Cued Speech but in developing its effective use. This endorsed our plans, based on feedback from parents and professionals, to create a new training project to deliver not only the high quality tuition we pride ourselves on but also additional information about how to use Cued Speech to best effect.
- that the aims of the organisation should reflect the documented achievements of deaf children who have been brought up with Cued Speech. Our current aim is to '....improve the communication

and literacy skills of deaf and hearing-impaired children and adults...'. It was suggested that research into Cued Speech use indicated that a more appropriate aim and entirely achievable aim would include 'that [through Cued Speech use] deaf children will have language and literacy levels on a par with hearing children'.

The meeting stressed the importance of a 'child centred' approach and the desirability of working with other organisations with similar aims. There was also a clear consensus to increase fees and to no longer offer free training for parents of deaf children, but to offer all prospective students a reduction in fees if they were in financial need.

There was a discussion about changing the strap line, currently 'complete spoken language through vision'. Suggestions included 'clarifies lipreading' or 'cueing clarifies lipreading' (both after Cued Speech) and 'Cued English clarifies lipreading'.

Members' comments on any of these subjects are welcomed. The recommendations of the meeting will be put to the Management Committee for approval and will inform the creation of a new business plan.

## Cued Speech in Manchester Schools (continued)

Finally we read two letters from Manchester mums of profoundly deaf children who are using Cued Speech alongside BSL.

*"I am a mother of a two year old child who is deaf in Manchester. I believe both sign language and Cued Speech is giving my child the extra support she needs to do well in life, as well as in education. I am currently learning Cued Speech and hope as I progress I can teach it to my child and it will help me and her to communicate.*

*I believe Cued Speech helps deaf children more than signing in their education, as I have witnessed this in my older children's school where there is a resource base for deaf children. From seeing the deaf children using Cued Speech in their education and seeing how much they are achieving it is amazing.*

*I was very worried at first but now seeing the children and their achievements, my confidence has grown. The teachers at MHNDS have all been very supportive and do a fantastic job" (Bilingual parent in Manchester).*

*"I am one of the parents learning Cued Speech. Cued Speech was introduced to me 4 or 5 years ago when my son was 10 years old. Initially I thought 'its not going to work'. After a day's course going through the Cued Speech Association video and seeing people use it I was surprised. I started to develop an interest.*

*I did my foundation course and I passed. I also joined the Cued Speech club based at Alma Park, in order to interact and learn more about Cued Speech. I am using cueing at home with my son, he has not got any spoken language of his own, as he is profoundly deaf. Cued Speech is helping him a lot to develop his spoken language. He is gradually beginning to use his voice. He can say his name and some words, when he is looking at the cued handshape and the position of my hand. He is now able to say many words, such as come, tea, go, etc.*

*Cued Speech has really helped me a lot with his spelling too. Thanks to the person who introduced it and all the teachers using Cued Speech. Well done! It is a great achievement." (A Yoruba speaking parent of a profoundly deaf 14 year old).*

## Cued Speech

Giving access to spoken language for deaf babies, children and adults



## Forthcoming courses 2008/09

Course Dates	Location	Level
14 - 17 July 9.30a.m. - 3.30 p.m.	Exeter	Foundation
4 - 8 August 9.30 a.m. - 4 p.m.	Exeter	Residential Summer School - all levels
8, 9 & 10 September 9.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.	Edinburgh	Foundation
20 & 21 October 9.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m.	Exeter	Improvers
28 & 29 Oct & 17 Feb '09 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.	Peterborough	Foundation
Autumn (tbc)	London	Foundation
Autumn (tbc)	Surrey	Foundation
Dates tbc	Stockport	Foundation & Improvers

Although the summer school is almost fully booked we may be able to squeeze extra students in some classes. Get in touch if you want to attend. On-site accommodation is limited. A day-time crèche is available.

The Advanced and Intermediate classes at the Summer School will be taken by Cate Calder and Tom Shull who is a leading Cued Speech tutor and Cued Speech Transliterator tutor in America. His classes are always in much demand and we are delighted he can join us for a second year.

There will also be a class for those with a Welsh accent, and a class for French cuers who wish to learn the English cues.

Non-residential courses are continually being arranged to meet demand, sometimes at short notice. If you are interested in learning contact Kim - details opposite.

## Cued Speech - complete spoken language through vision

Cued Speech is a simple sound-based system comprising eight handshapes, used in four positions near the mouth, in conjunction with the lip patterns of normal speech so as to make all the sounds of spoken language fully comprehensible to deaf and hearing-impaired people.

### Cued Speech Association UK

is a charity which was established in 1980 to provide information about and training in Cued Speech.

This is achieved by:

- providing tuition
- creating and making available teaching materials
- maintaining standards by examining
- collecting & disseminating information about international research and good practice
- creating and disseminating information
- working with other organisations and statutory bodies.

### Contact details:

9 Jawbone Hill Dartmouth  
Devon TQ6 9RW  
Voice & textphone: 01803 832 784  
Fax: 01803 835 311  
E-mail: [info@cuedspeech.co.uk](mailto:info@cuedspeech.co.uk)  
Web: [www.cuedspeech.co.uk](http://www.cuedspeech.co.uk)

Executive Director: Anne Worsfold  
email: [anne@cuedspeech.co.uk](mailto:anne@cuedspeech.co.uk)  
Course Co-ordinator: Kim Fricker  
email: [kim@cuedspeech.co.uk](mailto:kim@cuedspeech.co.uk)  
Project Secretary: Sue Tweed  
email: [sue@cuedspeech.co.uk](mailto:sue@cuedspeech.co.uk)  
Administrator: Debbie Hawke  
email: [info@cuedspeech.co.uk](mailto:info@cuedspeech.co.uk)  
Accountant: Peter Allen

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**This Newsletter is produced quarterly.** We welcome comments, articles and news of your events. Please send copy for the next edition by 1st September 2008.

## Learn to cue or practice online

We continue to trial our acclaimed learn to cue website: [www.learntocue.co.uk](http://www.learntocue.co.uk), which was created for us by volunteer Andy Houghton. Some courses offered above expect students to work on the website in addition to face-to-face tuition. The site can also be used independently but some face-to-face tuition is strongly recommended. Please contact us if you use the site so that we can offer additional support.

## Staff Changes

A warm welcome to Debbie Hawke our new, part-time administrator. Debbie replaces Marion China who has left for a full-time post with celebrity chef John Burton-Race.

**Cued Speech was devised by the late Professor R Orin Cornett in 1966 and has been adapted into over 65 different languages and dialects.**

