

# Cued Speech Association UK Newsletter



Complete spoken language  
through vision

Summer 2011  
Issue 48

## Summer Camp

Warm days and light evenings are here again, and that means the Summer Camp is just around the corner!

This year promises to be something special with Bicton College

(new venue to us) providing our record-breaking number of cuers with a variety of out-of-class activities including canoeing, animal centre visits and a zip-wire.



A big thank you to the Hilton Foundation who have partly funded the Summer Camp. See you all at Bicton, 30th July - 3rd August!



## Cued Speech with deaf children who have English as a second language

Tina Kirwin is a senior teacher of the deaf in Manchester who first learnt Cued Speech in 2004. She and her team use it with children from varied backgrounds and we asked her to tell us about its effectiveness with children who have English as a second language; she wrote:

'Deaf children in the UK can benefit from the use of Cued Speech regardless of their home language. In Manchester it is successfully used with pupils aged from 6 months to sixteen years both in schools and in the home. The pupils' home languages include British Sign Language (BSL), Polish, Arabic, Nigerian dialects, Somalian and Urdu.

'The benefits include: improved lip reading of both their home language and English and the production of spoken English. The teachers of the deaf found that some deaf pupils who were silent prior to Cued Speech being introduced began to use intelligible speech relatively quickly afterwards. Cued Speech significantly improves the spelling skills of deaf pupils regardless of their home language as it enables them to see the phonic sounds within words, which previously they had no access to through audition. Subsequently reading skills develop as the child is able to read phonetically. Cued Speech is an excellent method of developing the strands of the literacy strategy.'

## Department of Health Information Standards

We are applying for Information Standard (IS) certification; but what is it? And how will it help us to promote Cued Speech? On their website the Department of Health say:

*'We know that people use information to support them in making decisions about their health, healthcare and social care. Quality information empowers people to make choices that are right for them.....' 'The Information Standard is a new certification scheme for health and social care information producers. Those organisations that meet the criteria of The Information Standard will then be entitled to place a quality mark on their information materials so people searching for health and social care information can easily identify it as coming from a reliable, trustworthy source.'*

In practical terms when parents or professionals see the IS quality mark on information they will know it has been verified as true.

We are committed to achieving full certification by the end of the year. So look out for the logo on our new literature!

## THRASS materials rejected by Government

If you have already downloaded the free THRASS Phoneme machine from their company website, or used the THRASS resources you will know what an excellent programme it is for teaching phonics for deaf and hearing children. The Government announced that match-funding of up to £3000 will be available for schools to buy systematic synthetic phonics products and training from an approved list which meet the Department's revised core criteria - but Thrass is **not** on the list. This is because, apparently, it is no longer thought to be appropriate to use pictures or the alphabet when teaching phonics - despite the fact that less than four years ago an almost identical government assessment gave the scheme 10 out of 10.

Deaf children will be disadvantaged by this as schools, understandably, will be inclined to choose the hugely subsidised resources over those of THRASS. If you wish to complain to the government email them at: [phonics.mailbox@education.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:phonics.mailbox@education.gsi.gov.uk).

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



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## The Cued Speech Interview

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**This month's interview with people in the Cued Speech world is with Cate Calder** who is a Cued Speech tutor, transliterator and an interpreter-level BSL user. She works for the Cued Speech Association UK, at Exeter Royal Academy for Deaf Education (ERADE) and with the Devon Hearing Impaired Support Service.



**So, how the devil are you?** Reeling from five days at Glastonbury festival! So much mud, so much madness and so many men in fabulous dresses – what is that about?

**Have the last 12 months been good for you?** This last year has been book-ended by house moves – next one in 2 days time. AARRRRGG!!

Other than that it's been a good year – I've loved working in the primary department at ERADE, the children are brilliant at keeping me focused on what really matters in life – getting enough bits of banana at snack time, how to do a 'goal scoring' dance when getting any answer right, why why why can the letter 'A' make **so many** sounds, that sort of thing. It has also been fascinating to work in lots of primary schools around Devon; it's really opened my mind to how successful mainstreaming can be for a deaf child if the support is good. Also I seem to have watched every episode of Star Trek Voyager ever made ...must get out more.

**What's coming up on the horizon?** Can't wait for Summer Camp - as well as teaching this year I'm hoping to master archery and tractor driving!

**3 reasons to be cheerful?**

Green and Blacks chocolate.

Just knowing the good ship Voyager is out there bravely traversing the Delta Quadrant, ever heading for home. Eating Green and Blacks while watching Voyager.

**Any reason to be miserable?** One tries not to dwell

on such things.....

**When you explain Cued Speech to someone, what do you say?** Hmm, it's different every time. Most recently: Sit down darling – you're going to be amazed. Imagine what it would be like if you didn't have the English language (or any spoken language) in your head; if you couldn't hear speech at all. What would it be like to watch all those lips moving as people spoke to you, to look at all those English words written everywhere? Do you think it's possible to lip-read a language you don't 'think in'? Do you think you could read a language you've never heard?

How do you get a language of sound into a child that does not hear? You turn those sounds into something the child can SEE. The way to do this is called Cued Speech. When you speak English you are simply using 44 little sounds in many combinations to form the words. Cued Speech gives each one of those sounds a visible component, either a handshape or position around the face alongside the lip-patterns. The child can now see what they cannot hear and are able to build up a memory for the spoken word. Just like hearing children do – only theirs is a visual memory rather than an auditory memory. The effect is the same. The deaf child can now think in a language of 'sound' they need never hear. Now they have a relationship with words that they will lip-read and now they can learn to read and write those words for themselves. That's what I told my friend Charlie anyway and now he's coming to the Summer Camp!

**And the one person who really needs to hear that is?** Everyone who lives with or works with a deaf child.

**What are you reading at the moment?** A letter from Devon Constabulary who seem to think I did 38 in a 30 zone – **surely** they are mistaken?

**Twitter or Facebook?** Lord preserve us from both.

**Anything else to declare?** I always drive really slowly, honestly, ask my son – I drive like a little old lady in an electric milk cart... there must be some mistake.

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### Trip to France to look at Cued Speech Support

In April Cate Calder and Nicholas Orpin from the CSAUK with Lee Fullwood, Head of School at ERADE and cueing parent Sarah Collinson went on a 3-day Cued Speech fact-finding mission to St Brieu, Brittany at the invitation of Pascal Geanty and Patricia Bert, both professional cuers who came to our 2010 Summer Camp.

The trip enabled the group to see how Cued Speech

support is delivered in mainstream primary and secondary settings and bilingually with sign language (LSF) pre-school. The information gathered will help the Association build a profile for qualifications for Cued Speech Transliterator in the UK and also to strengthen ties with France where Cued Speech is widely available.

The pre-school children were particularly amazed to meet a man called Lee, as 'lit' means bed in French!

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## Cued Speech

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



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## 'See Hear' TV programme

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Cued Speech, used in various ways, was featured on BBC Two's 'See Hear' programme, broadcast in June. Filming for the programme took place in locations around the country.

Parent Sarah Collinson was filmed at her Devon home with her profoundly deaf, and very articulate son, Will, and a big group of his friends.

At the Cued Speech Association UK's office in Dartmouth, Executive Director Anne Worsfold explained how parents can learn to cue in only 20 hours and at Exeter Royal Academy for Deaf Education (ERADE) Cued Speech tutor Cate Calder used BSL to describe Cued Speech and how it is used in the school.

In Thatcham, Berkshire, Derek Cunningham and grown up daughter Lyndsey explained that Derek learnt to cue over 30 years ago when Lyndsey was a pupil at Heathlands in Hertfordshire. Lyndsey, who went on to get a degree in graphic design and is now also a BSL tutor, described how Cued Speech helped her understand and write English.

Staying in Thatcham, director Paul Newman went to the Nature Discovery Centre with Pearl and Eugene Orpin and school friend Holly Hobson where he even rolled up his trousers and filmed from the lake! Holly told viewers how, having met Pearl at



From left to right: Eugene and Pearl Orpin and Holly Hobson

school research shows between 80% and 95% of language is accurately cue-read.

Go to our website for a link to the Cued Speech feature.

school, she taught herself to cue by watching Pearl's Teaching Assistant and from the e-learning website!

Anne Worsfold says: "The feature was an excellent opportunity to explain how Cued Speech unlocks English and to demonstrate its effectiveness. Working with director Paul Newman and researcher Louise Buglass was a great pleasure."

Please note, however, that the programme starts with ambiguous 'facts': it mentions that deaf children in general can only lip-read about 30% of what they see - which, according to research, is approximately correct - but it goes on to say 'by the time they're teenagers deaf children who lip-read with the help of Cued Speech are believed to understand up to 90% of what they hear.' There is no research on teenagers but after only two or three years exposure to Cued Speech at

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## New ways to learn Cued Speech

How, when everyone seems to have less time and less money, can we make our training even more accessible?

A big breakthrough was the e-learning website developed by Andy Houghton and Anne Worsfold. Now our Development and Fundraising Officer, Nicholas Orpin, is giving remote learning the human touch by developing a programme to offer support through Skype.

Nicholas has been supporting parents - including some outside the UK - for a few months and he's now started support for professional groups.

One parent wrote: *'Your skype program really helps a lot especially in guiding me as to what words and phrases my daughter and I can start with. .... Thanks so much for the opportunity that your organisation gave to parents of deaf children. It works wonders and will continue to enrich our lives.'*

The sessions clearly work best if the student has some basic skills or has used the e-learning website. A group of Communication Support Workers in Yorkshire arrived at the first session already able to cue at word level just from using the e-learning site: [www.learntocue.co.uk](http://www.learntocue.co.uk). Please contact the office for more information about remote learning.

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## Courses and Workshops

Dates	Location	Level
30 July - 3 August 2011	<b>Residential Summer Camp</b> Bicton College Devon	Foundation Improvers Advanced English for French cuers Children's course Day-time crèche
23 September 2011	London	One-day Workshop (RCSLT Quality Assured)
23 November 2011	Nottingham	One-day Workshop (RCSLT Quality Assured)
14 - 15 November (TBC)	London	Two-day Workshop

**One-day Workshops include:** the basics of the Cued Speech system, research and information about how to use Cued Speech.

**They are suitable for:** parents and professionals who wish to start to learn Cued Speech or who just want a 'taster' **OR** professionals who need to pass on accurate information to parents.

Workshops cost £80 per person **OR** are costed for a group (please enquire).

### Training on demand

We now deliver an increasing number of courses specifically for one family or group of professionals. Don't wait until there is a course in your area; contact us to talk about organising a workshop or course for your group.

### Costs a problem?

**Contact us if the cost of fees is a problem.** We are committed to ensuring access for all.

### For training information contact:

For general enquiries or to book training contact Kim Fricker:  
training@cuedspeech.co.uk or 01803 832 784.

To discuss training options contact Anne Worsfold:

AnneWorsfold@cuedspeech.co.uk or 01803 832 784.

**Sadly, the two-day Experienced Cuers course** which was due to precede the Summer Camp was cancelled because guest tutor Tom Shull was unable to attend for family reasons. We plan to re-schedule!

### The Cued Speech Association UK's recent activities included:

- ◆ giving a workshop in Berkshire for trainee Teachers of the Deaf on 15th April.
- ◆ attending the City Lit Conference in London on 16th April, where we exhibited and gave a presentation.
- ◆ attending the Institute of Fundraising Spring Conference in Bristol on 19th May.
- ◆ attending the UKCoD 'Big Society' Conference in London on 21st June.
- ◆ giving a workshop in Nottingham for working Teachers of the Deaf and Ear Foundation staff on 22nd June.
- ◆ giving a workshop in Okehampton for education professionals.

## Cued Speech - complete spoken language through vision

Cued Speech is a simple system which uses eight handshapes in four positions near the mouth together with the lip patterns of normal speech to make spoken language fully accessible to deaf and hearing-impaired babies, children and adults.

## Cued Speech Association UK (CSAUK)

is a charity which was established in 1975 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
- working with other organisations.

### Contact details:

9 Jawbone Hill Dartmouth  
Devon TQ6 9RW  
Voice & textphone: 01803 832 784  
Fax: 01803 835 311  
E-mail: info@cuedspeech.co.uk  
Webs: www.cuedspeech.co.uk  
and www.learntocue.co.uk

Executive Director: Anne Worsfold  
email: AnneWorsfold@cuedspeech.co.uk  
Deputy Executive Director: Sue Tweed  
email: SueTweed@cuedspeech.co.uk  
Development and Fundraising Officer:  
Nicholas Orpin  
email: NicholasOrpin@cuedspeech.co.uk  
Course Co-ordinator: Kim Fricker  
email: training@cuedspeech.co.uk  
Administrators: Debbie Hawke  
and Louise Creed  
email: info@cuedspeech.co.uk  
Accountant: Peter Allen  
Educational Development Officer: Cate Calder

Charity No 279523 Company No 1477997

**This newsletter is produced quarterly.**

We welcome comments, articles and news of your events. Please send copy for the next edition to Anne Worsfold by 1st September 2011.

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

