

Cued Speech Association UK Newsletter



Complete spoken language
through vision

Spring 2009
Issue 39

New free resources launched The Cued Speech Association UK e-learning website

The Cued Speech Association UK's (CSAUK) free e-learning website was officially launched at the British Association of Teachers of the Deaf National Conference and AGM in March 2009 by Executive Director Anne Worsfold and e-learning designer Andy Houghton.



Andy Houghton and Anne Worsfold
at the BATOD conference and AGM

The website will enable parents of deaf children and professionals to learn the basics of Cued Speech online.

It has been trialled for over a year and learners have been reaching high standards; they are also very enthusiastic:

"Wow! Fantastic and sooooo very wonderful to see!"

"That's a brilliant website!! Thanks!"

"Your website has been priceless, free, informative, with a teach yourself approach....".

The e-learning site, www.learntocue.co.uk, was created voluntarily by Andy Houghton, in partnership with Anne Worsfold and is being used together with face-to-face tuition as well as by independent learners. It is already cutting down on the time students need for face-to-face tuition and consequently the cost to users.

The THRASS Phoneme Machine - literacy help for deaf children

The Rt Hon Malcolm Bruce MP, Chair of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Deafness, launched the 'Phoneme Machine' on 15th January at the BETT Show, Olympia, London on the Smart Technologies main presentation stage. This exciting new software (described in detail in the previous Newsletter) will give deaf children access to synthetic phonics teaching by including a Cued Speech option.

Also introducing the software at the launch were: Hilary Davies (THRASS UK), Nancy Knowlton (CEO and co-founder of Smart Technologies), Sacha Tropper, Director, RGS Europe (also at BETT with the 'Memory 4 Teachers' initiative), Anne Worsfold (Executive Director, CSAUK) and Cate Calder, Cued Speech Tutor, who uses Cued Speech at the Exeter Royal Academy for Deaf Education (ERADE) and who also cues all the words in the video clips. Sinead Clements Evans was there, representing the American National Cued Speech Association (NCSA), and Speech and Language Therapist Gill Banham and student Jude Kelly travelled from ERADE. Unfortunately, Alan Davies from THRASS (UK), who was the driving force behind the software development, was not able to attend.

The CSAUK and ERADE have been involved in the



Pictured, left to right are Sinead Clements Evans, Anne Worsfold, Rt Hon Malcolm Bruce MP, Hilary Davies and Nancy Knowlton.

development of the new version of this software.

Downloadable from: www.phonememachine.com and follow the links to DOWNLOAD. Instructions on how to make best use of the THRASS Phoneme Machine 6.0 can be found at <http://www.thrass.co.uk/PM5/instructions.htm>

The Phoneme Machine will also be available free to 800,000 teachers who will receive it on a memory stick in early 2009 through the www.memory4teachers.co.uk ICT initiative.

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



Exeter Royal Academy for Deaf Education (ERADE)

Cued Speech continues to be used at ERADE with some students and last year research was undertaken to judge its success. A full report should be available shortly but meanwhile a brief summary follows:

Cued Speech was introduced in a limited way at ERADE in 2006. Six students were selected for research between 2007-2008 by Laura Gratton in order to inform the continued use of Cued Speech at the school. The six students:

- were signing children between 7 and 14 years
- most had other problems in addition to deafness
- had only between 28 and 114 hours of exposure to Cued Speech.

BSL-using Cued Speech tutor, Cate Calder, and Speech and Language Therapist, Gill Banham, specifically taught the system of Cued Speech with the aim of improving students' phonological awareness, lip-reading, lip-patterns, English skills, and attitude to English. Cued Speech was only used in limited sessions and not at a whole language level with most lessons, including some about English, being delivered in BSL.

Students wanted to learn whole English words and phrases first before learning phonics. They were made aware of phonics by adding words they selected to a

wall chart which had sounds represented by cues and lip-patterns. The synthetic phonics programme THRASS was used in the second year.

Despite the huge range in abilities of students and their very short exposure to Cued Speech results were impressive:

Grasping the system: 77.7% of the Cued Speech system could be produced - two tested at 100%

Lipreading: improved by 66%

Lip-pattern production: improved by between 23% and 73%; an average of 40.1%

Literacy: improved by an average of 6 months

Phonetic awareness: improved by between 2 months and 6 years 5 months.

Attitude to English: all improved significantly (e.g. from 'strongly disagreeing' to 'liking English' to agreeing to 'liking English').

The beginning of phonetic awareness was demonstrated as the students began to make phonetically logical spelling choices: e.g. for 'increase' - inkres; for 'direct' - dirakt. Not surprisingly the students with most input made the best progress. One teacher wrote: 'The use of Cued Speech simultaneously with synthetic phonics is giving these pupils a real understanding of how spoken languages work and of the relationship between spoken and written English.'

New Cued Speech Association in South Africa



A new Cued Speech Association - Cued Speech South Africa (CSSA) - has been founded by inspiring teacher Lynette Diederichs (who is herself deaf) and her husband Richard.

Lynette works with primary school children at Kwa Thintwa School for the Deaf and initially was the only teacher using Cued Speech. In May 2008, Alan Davies, director of THRASS (UK) donated THRASS materials to the school, and requested a baseline assessment to be done prior to using their material. The two classes who had had the benefit of both Cued Speech and THRASS had scores which were over 25% higher than the other classes. The data of this baseline assessment as well as other data collated throughout the year of 2007, was presented by Lynette at the 2nd Annual Absa - THRASS conference held in Johannesburg on the 28th January 2009.

The progress the children have made with the support of Cued Speech and the THRASS synthetic phonics programme has encouraged 97% of the staff to request

lessons in Cued Speech. The Foundation Phase staff were the first to do the course but as these 'newly cueing' teachers are not yet fluent, Cued Speech is presently only being used fully in two classrooms. One of the enthusiastic 'new' teachers, who is also hearing-impaired and communicates in both speech and Sign (who was initially very anti-Cued Speech and did not want to do the course!) was astounded at the value of Cued Speech saying: "If only I had this in school!"

Parents are also learning but as Lynette writes: "the children only go home sporadically if at all during term time, so I do not have the privilege of daily home-base support and the language development that would flow from it." Lynette tells us despite that, the young children are beginning to cue expressively and receive receptively with pleasing results.

"My Grade 3 continued to develop a better understanding of the English language and did particularly well comparatively in their reading and spelling, in conjunction with the THRASS chart. If only they had had access to both Cued Speech and THRASS from the start of their schooling - what a difference it would have made!"

Cued Speech

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



New project planned

Anne Worsfold's on-going communication with the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) about deaf children's language and literacy resulted in a meeting in March with Sarah McCarthy-Fry, Minister with responsibility for special needs at the department. Anne, accompanied by Cued Speech tutor Catharine Seddon, discussed how Cued Speech use can take forward the department's aims for communication and literacy.

As a result of the meeting Anne has contacted various other organisations who may be interested in working in partnership to prepare a project to be submitted to the DCSF. It is expected that the project will:

- disseminate information about Cued Speech to ensure informed choice
- develop Cued Speech structured distance learning and create e-learning support materials and

services and remotely administered assessment of Cued Speech

- use pilot projects in two or more locations to give full access to English through Cued Speech and good use of hearing aids/cochlear implants for:
 1. Babies/toddlers in the home
 2. Pre-school/early years with extra support for teaching assistants and teachers to use Cued Speech to deliver phonics teaching
 3. Older deaf children with poor English - including BSL users
 4. Deaf children in homes where English is not the first spoken language.

We welcome contact from any organisation which has an interest working in partnership to deliver parts of this work.

Concerts - Thanks - People and Requests

Fundraising Concert

The acclaimed High Wycombe Orpheus Male Voice Choir will be giving a concert to raise funds for the Association on **Saturday 4th July at 7.30 p.m.** at the Holy Trinity Church, Church Road, Penn, Bucks, HP10 8NY. Tickets cost: Adults £10; Under 16s £6 and are available from Ken Orpin: kenorpin@yahoo.co.uk or call 01494 865253 to book or for information.

Thanks to Ken Orpin for arranging this and for his work with the Aylesbury Rotary Club which resulted in the offer of free tuition for a family (see back page).

Thanks

Thanks to Sacha Tropper, Director of RGS Europe, the Media company who are co-ordinating the 'Memory 4 Teachers' initiative, who gave the Association free space on the 'memory 4 teachers' memory stick. Thanks also to the talented Tej Singh for his expertise in designing our pages on the memory stick.

People and Requests

American **Cued Speech Transliterator** (CST), Jolie Farnum-Badley, is living in London for the next couple of years whilst she studies a MSc Course in Speech and Language Therapy. She has been cueing since 9 years old (with her deaf sibling) and has worked as a CST in mainstream primary and secondary schools in

Maryland for 3 years. She is available to work as a Transliterator in the UK. Jolie tells us that she is familiar with English/English (as apposed to American/English) and that she would love to continue to work as a CST in the UK - we haven't yet seen her 'in action'! Get in touch with her at: j.farnum-badley@ucl.ac.uk

An experienced, **cueing, French au pair** is available from August 2009 to June 2010 to support a family with a deaf child. Florence Pigeon is currently studying LPC (the French version of Cued Speech) Transliteration but after the course ends she would like visit the UK to improve her English and learn to cue in English. Please get in touch with Florence at: fio_63@hotmail.com

Are you a **cuer who would like to visit Maui, Hawaii** or welcome Matthew Goodall as a visitor to your home? Matthew, 32, describes himself as "one of the original Cued Speech kids via Dr.Orin Cornett". He is seeking to broaden his language/cultural horizons with other cuers, deaf or hearing by visiting or chatting on Skype. His email is: zedefchef@gmail.com

Exchanges for cueing deaf children are being promoted by Marie-Gabrielle Lassus from the Association Langage Parlé Complété (ALPC), the organisation which is the French equivalent of the CSAUK. Marie-Gabrielle suggests that both the UK and France could provide host families to welcome a deaf child in order for them to learn a foreign language through Cued Speech. Contact her at: mg.lassus@free.fr

Cued Speech

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



Courses, New Resources and Membership

Course Dates	Location	Level
3-7 August	Exeter Summer School (residential with day-time crèche)	Foundation, Improvers, Advanced, English for French cuers and Children's Course
10 & 17 August	Manchester	Foundation
15 & 22 August	Central London	Foundation
21 & 28 August	Central London	Foundation
The following are currently being arranged - please get in touch if interested.		
Autumn/Winter	Lincoln	Foundation
Autumn/Winter	Glasgow, Scotland	Foundation
Autumn/Winter	South Wales	Foundation
Autumn/Winter	Exeter, Devon	Foundation & Improvers
Autumn/Winter	Manchester	Improvers
Winter	London	Foundation & Improvers

Learn to cue Some of our courses are designed to incorporate home study using our e-learning website: www.learntocue.co.uk. Others are stand alone courses requiring no additional work from home. The website can also be used independently but some face-to-face tuition is strongly recommended. If you do use the website please keep in touch with the office so that we can continue to help you. There is an accompanying e-learning booklet available to order free from our office. Contact Kim to book or for information about all courses at kim@cuedspeech.co.uk.

Current course costs are: 2 day course: £100, 3 day course: £115, 4 day course: £130, 5 day course: £145. A discount, or occasionally free tuition, may be available for those with financial constraints. Non-residential courses are continually being arranged to meet demand, sometimes at short notice. *Every effort will be made to run all courses as advertised, but please note that the Association cannot guarantee that no changes will be made.*

Free or reduced price tuition may be available for those who live in the **Aylesbury** or **Northumberland/Tyneside** areas thanks to the generosity of the Aylesbury Rotary Club and The W A Handley Charity Trust who have donated funds. Please get in touch with Kim.

Resources June Dixon-Millar's revised 'Cued Speech Activities for Children' is now Mac and PC compatible; also the files have bookmarks, which make it easier to use. Price £12 incl. p&p.

New YouTube There are new cueing stars on the website YouTube - search for cuedspeechvideos. Thanks again to Andy Houghton for editing and uploading the videos.

Office Move The Association is moving to a new, slightly larger office space - but this is only next door so all our contact details will remain the same. There may be some disruption to our work after Easter when we physically move but all should be back to normal by the end of April.

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 (CSAUK)

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.

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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 June 2009.

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

