

MAKING CONNECTIONS

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2018

ALAN'S STORY



My name is Alan Taylor, born midway through WW11, moving to Dorset in September 1963 after serving a 5 year engineering apprenticeship in Worcester.

My hearing loss began at 50, confirmed when visiting my doctor, hearing what I believed was my name being called and with no one else moving in the waiting room, entered the doctors consulting room, after explaining my problem the doctor asked my name. I was not the patient he called!

I believe my hearing loss was hereditary from my mother, compounded by boy's will be boys.

In the Autumn 1952, children were allowed to by fireworks, so together with friends twins Robert and Phillip, we each bought a penny banger (later banned because of their ear splitting bang). Mimicking our hero's in WW11 war films, each igniting our banger, then throwing it like a hand grenade , at allocation I hasten to add, far away from civilization.

Phillip and Robert both ignited and throw their banger, much to the delight of us all, like them I ignited my banger, immediately throw it from my right hand well away to safety before it exploded, however just as it left my hand it exploded , damaging to my right ear which manifested 40 years later.

My career was designing environmental protection equipment to manufacturing companies. Hearing clearly and understanding what was being said was paramount in my work and as a volunteer on Motor Race Rescue Duty, dealing with driver injuries after racing incidents.

I had a Cochlear implant in the Autumn of 2016 taking a cancellation at short notice, reporting to the Southampton Hospital Day Surgery early morning, had the usual pre-operation checks then into the operating suite; back on a ward by mid afternoon.

A month later I had the processor fitted and switched on for my particular needs. The following day I switched off the TV subtitles and they've not been on since. I can again listen to the BBC's radio 4 - something I haven't enjoyed doing for years.

Progressively losing my hearing, sounds which were an every day joy and experience, I not only lost, but forgot. Now all those sounds I have back. Having woken for decades at the at the unearthly time of 4-30 I can now enjoy the dawn chorus, the joy this brings me is enormous.

Thanks to all at Building 19 at Southampton University, they've given me back that part of my life I thought I'd lost for ever.

STAFF UPDATE

Hannah Turner

Hi! I am a new member of staff here at the Auditory Implant Service (AIS) as a British Sign Language Interpreter. In my new role I am also a Deaf Services Advisor – supporting deaf awareness, providing deaf advocacy and thinking of creative ways to make the services here more visually accessible.

Depending on your communication needs I can modulate my signing from BSL or SSE and hands-on or manual interpreting for people who are deaf/blind. If you require 'BSL friendly' format letters from AIS then please do ask as I can create these for you.

My interest into sign language came from a man called Peter who is profoundly deaf and a BSL user. My father employed Peter 48 years ago to work at his factory, and still to this day continues to work there. Peter taught me my first signs as a child and watched with pride as I studied to become an interpreter. It's great to be part of a team again. I've been made to feel very welcome here and I will look forward to meeting people along the way of your Cochlear Implant journeys.



SERVICE UPDATES

IMPORTANT

If you change your GP for any reason it is essential that you let us know your new GP details immediately please. If the GP on our records is not the GP that you are currently registered with we may not be able to send you any spares or arrange to see you.

Thank you

DO YOU HAVE ANY GOOD NEWS STORIES OR EVENTS FOR OUR NEXT NEWSLETTER?

Contact us:
ais@soton.ac.uk

UNSUBSCRIBE

If you would prefer not to receive this newsletter in future please just let us know and we will update your preferences.

CHRISTMAS OPENING HOURS

Over the Christmas period USAIS will be running a reduced spares and repairs only service on certain days. Outside of these hours please call and leave a message, email, text or use the Spares and Repairs section of our website and we will respond as soon as possible. We return to normal clinic hours on the 2nd of January.

24 December 2018 - Limited repairs cover 10am - 4pm

25 December 2018, (Christmas Day) - No service

26 December 2018, (Boxing Day) - No service

27 December 2018, - Limited repairs cover 10am - 4pm

28 December 2018, - Limited repairs cover 10am - 4pm

31 December 2018, - Limited repairs cover 10am - 4pm

1 January 2019 (New Year's Day) - No service

2 January 2019 - Limited repairs cover 10am - 4pm



BCIG 2019

USAIS are pleased to announce that they will be hosting the next British Cochlear Implant Group (BCIG) Annual Conference in 2019 at the Solent Conference Centre. The theme will be Connecting for Life and we are very much looking forward to hosting this important meeting.

CHARITY UPDATE

In March 2019, 3 USAIS team members (Anna Duncan, Mary Hamilton, Suzanne O'Gara) are leaping from a plane at 12,000ft in honour of Ayesha, CI user, who passed away as a result of meningitis last year aged just 3 years. The USAIS skydivers will be joined by Ayesha's dad, Avais, and his friend Harpal. Please support our fundraising to help fight against this cruel disease.

<https://mydonate.bt.com/fundraisers/aisskydiveforayasha>



Contact us

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