

Cued Speech Association UK Newsletter



Complete spoken language
through vision

Winter 2008
Issue 38

Happy Christmas to everyone!

New work with THRASS UK gives deaf children access to phonics teaching Synthetic Phonics - and literacy

Now, like hearing children, deaf children can access a synthetic phonic literacy programme with the help of groundbreaking new software developed by Alan Davies and his team at THRASS UK - with input from the Cued Speech Association UK. A new version of the acclaimed THRASS software, called the Phoneme Machine, will give deaf children access to synthetic phonics by including a Cued Speech option in which the shapes, positions and movements of Cued Speech will be displayed alongside the moving human lips, with the cue for each of the 500 basewords of English demonstrated through video clips.

The Phoneme Machine will give, for the first time, an interactive literacy/phonics resource for deaf children. Combined with Cued Speech it has the potential to transform the way that deaf children learn to read.

After a review of evidence the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) recommend that all children learn to read using synthetic phonics which teaches children the 44 sounds of English, their various spelling choices and how these can be combined into words. Cued Speech users know, through research and case studies, that deaf children brought up with Cued Speech can learn to read using the same phonetic techniques as hearing children and achieve the same level of literacy as hearing children. As yet the DCSF has not made any recommendations about how deaf children should be taught to read. Anne Worsfold, Executive Director of the Cued Speech Association UK, has written to Ed Balls, MP, Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families requesting a meeting with herself and Alan Davies of THRASS to discuss deaf children's literacy and access to Phonics.

Free Software

The Phoneme Machine will be launched at the Bett Show (billed as the worlds largest educational technology event) 14 -17 January in Olympia, London and will 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. It can be used with or without the Cued Speech option.

Alternatively it can be downloaded from the THRASS website. To register for the free download please go to: www.thrass.co.uk/cuedspeech.htm.

Meeting with Malcolm Bruce MP

In November Malcolm Bruce, chair of the All Party Group on Deafness, generously gave an hour of his time to talk about deaf children's literacy with Alan Davies, Director of THRASS UK, Anne Worsfold, Executive Director of the Cued Speech Association UK and Mike Mead, THRASS UK's computer programmer.



Anne Worsfold, Malcolm Bruce MP and Alan Davies

We are pleased to include the following which was submitted by City University

Families with Deaf Children Project

The Families with Deaf Children project is an exciting new study run by City University and the Deafness, Cognition and Language Research Centre. This research will link children's early exposure to language with their social development. We are currently looking for families who would be interested in taking part.

Participating families will be visited in their own homes for a maximum of one hour, three times over one year. **If you are a parent of Deaf toddler, CODA, or work with young deaf children; we would love to hear from you.** Please contact Zoe Haws on zoe.haws.1@city.ac.uk, via minicom (020 7679 8693) or fax (020 7679 8691).

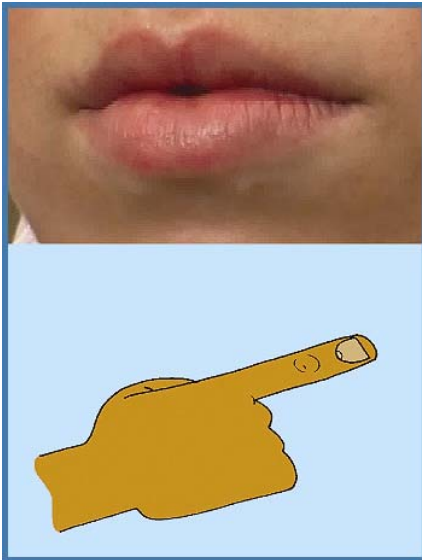


Cued Speech Association UK
Making available information about and training in Cued Speech



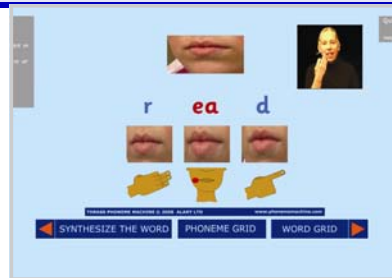
Thanks to.....

Thanks to Alan Davies and his team at THRASS UK who have spent many months creating the Cued Speech version of the Phoneme Machine as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility Programme.



The Phoneme Machine includes:

Left: moving lips with high quality sound to demonstrate each of the 44 sounds of English. For deaf children these are clarified by cues.



Above: each of the 500 basewords of English can be 'sounded out' with each sound spoken separately, then combined into the full word which is both spoken and cued.

Below: the same 500 words, spoken or spoken and cued, can be built up by selecting the right letters.

The software also incorporates a calendar with spoken and cued words; these include days, months, numbers and letter names.



Evaluation of Synthetic Phonics teaching using Cued Speech & the Phoneme Machine

With any new development evaluation is vital.

In order to ensure that deaf children get the most benefit we need to assess how best to use the Phoneme Machine and what, if any, development is needed either to it or to the environment in which it is used. For example, if the Phoneme Machine is used with children who arrive in school with an age-appropriate understanding of English acquired through Cued Speech they could be expected (based on international research) to learn to read as effectively as hearing children and use the Phoneme Machine in the same way. Also limited research at the Exeter Royal Academy for Deaf Education indicates that the combination of THRASS materials and Cued Speech can enable some children to improve their understanding of phonics by many **years** in less than 10 months (and with less than 1 1/2 hours input per week). Given the extremely diverse population of deaf children it is important to assess how they can be



Left to right: Anne Worsfold, Alan Davies, Harold Silver, Mike Mead and Ken Carter.

supported most effectively.

We are delighted that the charity Deafax has expressed an interest in looking at Cued Speech and literacy in general and the Cued Speech version of the Phoneme Machine in particular. They have very recently set up a new ICT Research and Development Unit at Goldsmiths College, University of London and their Leverhulme Project will look at the significance, or otherwise, of ICT on the literacy and communication skills of deaf people.

In a November meeting at the English Speaking Union Ken Carter (founder of Deafax), Professor Harold Silver (Educational Historian, Evaluator, a member of the Cued Speech Association's management committee and also closely involved with Deafax), Alan Davies (Director of THRASS UK), Mike Mead (computer programmer and the technical brains behind the Phoneme Machine) and Anne Worsfold (Executive Director of the Cued Speech Association UK) discussed the possibility of collaborative work.

Cued Speech

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

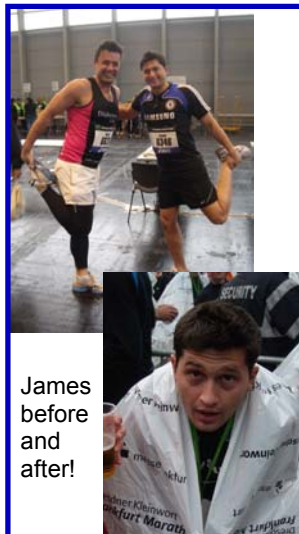


Thanks to.....

Thanks to James Seccombe who lives in London but travelled to Germany to run in the Frankfurt Marathon for the Cued Speech Association UK. James, who is the brother-in-law of one of our tutors, is a 26 year old qualified Chartered Accountant specialising in company turnarounds and restructuring.

James told us: *"I'm not the sportiest person in the world and the most I ran before signing up to the Marathon was about 2 miles. Due to work commitments I was behind on my training (I was on week 4 of my 16 week training plan). However I still managed to run the distance."*

He wrote: *"Everything was going fine up until about the 30km mark. I was averaging around 20-25 minutes per 5 km, and felt I had enough petrol in the tank. Then the wheels fell off. Both legs cramped up and I was really struggling to even get my legs forward. To give you an idea, I did my last 10 km's in over an hour and a half! There was a huge temptation to walk, but I made a pact not to. The only time I walked was briefly at the drinks station... although I was over taken by a man in his 60's speed walking and I was flat out running... the shame. This body ain't built for marathons. Still can't walk properly today and knees are sore as hell, but I'm glad I did it!"*



James before and after!

We are really pleased he did it too! So far he has raised £670 and still counting. Thanks again to everyone who has donated. For those who haven't you can help James reach his £1,000 target by donating up till 25th December through <http://www.everyclick.co.uk/jamessecombe>. Or send a donation to the Cued Speech office and mention James' fantastic run.

Thanks to celebrity chef John Burton

Race who staged a charity lunch at his Michelin-starred Dartmouth restaurant to raise money for the Association which he said was a "cause close to his heart". Thanks also to his staff (including Marion China who used to be the Cued Speech Association's Administrator) who gave up their time on their day off, and suppliers who provided the produce for free. The event at the New Angel raised £730.

The TV chef chatted to diners as they enjoyed the four-course meal with wine, which marked the culmination of the town's annual food festival. Mr Burton Race, whose partial deafness was left undiagnosed as a child, said he was pleased to support the charity. He said: "I was always told off for shouting at school. It wasn't until I was nine years old they discovered how deaf I was. I spent most of my life lipreading." He thanked his staff and suppliers, adding: "A very, very special thank you to my head chef James Barber whose idea this was." On the menu was a choice of courses that included a smoked salmon mousse, ham terrine, Dartmouth lobster tortellini, grilled red mullet, navarin of lamb, apple tart and chocolate mousse. After the meal, Mr Burton Race added: "As one of Dartmouth's premier restaurants, we are proud to be here and we wanted to say thank you and help a local charity."



John Burton Race (centre) and head chef James Barber with New Angel staff and Anne Worsfold, Kim Fricker and Sue Tweed from the Cued Speech Association UK.

John Burton Race has promised that this will be an annual event. All those who were there would confirm that it is worth travelling to Dartmouth just to attend!

Other News

New staff - Welcome to Louise Creed (right) who joins Debbie Hawke (far right) as part-time Administrator. Louise has a background in hotel management, IT training, and software application and design. She will continue with her other work teaching fitness classes.



A London Cue Club has started; they will be meeting regularly. Please get in touch with Kim if you are interested.

Cued Speech

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



Courses, New Resources and Membership

| Course Dates | Location | Level |
|-------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| 17 & 18 January | Glasgow | Foundation |
| 2 & 16 February | Manchester | Foundation |
| 16 & 17 Feb / 2 & 3 Mar | Central London | Foundation |
| 28 Feb / 1 March | Sunderland | Foundation |
| 20 & 21 March | Birmingham | Foundation |
| 6 - 9 April | Easter at Exeter | Foundation |
| 6 - 8 April | Easter at Exeter | Improvers/Advanced |
| 9 April | Exeter | Level 1&2 Exams |
| 11 & 12 April | Swindon | Foundation |
| 3 - 7 August | Exeter (Summer School residential with crèche) | All Levels including Children's |
| 10 & 17 August | Manchester | Foundation |
| 15 & 22 August | Central London | Foundation |
| 21 & 28 August | Central London | Foundation |

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 for information about courses at kim@cuedspeech.co.uk.

Current course costs are: 2 day course: £80, 3 day course: £95, 4 day course: £110, 5 day course: £125. 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.*

New resources Thanks to tutor Cate Calder and Andy Houghton a new section has been added to the learntocue website. 'Cue with Cate' features two films; songs to practice the sounds and a vowel practise session. A CD of the songs can also be bought from the Association priced £3 and will later be available on itunes.

Youtube stars Thanks again to Andy Houghton who came to the Summer School and filmed some students chatting about how and why they used Cued Speech. The Association gives deaf people at the Summer School full access through their preferred mode of communication; Andy also filmed announcements which were: cued, cued for children, translated into spoken French then into cued French and BSL interpreted. Check it out - it's pretty amazing! Search for cuedspeechvideos on Youtube. A big thanks also to the stars of the videos for giving their time so generously.

Membership It is that time again! Please return your membership fee. If you are not yet a member please consider joining. Your fee - and larger membership numbers - will help our work. Documents are enclosed.

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.

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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 by 1st March 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.



