



Dom's Fund

WHAT IS DOM'S FUND?

The Dominic Barker Trust, a charity called Dom's Fund, was set up in memory of Dominic Barker (pictured left) for whom the burden of stammering was so great that he took his own life.

Most of us take for granted the ability to speak on the 'phone, to ask for what we need when shopping, and to answer questions in a job interview. But stammerers frequently struggle to make themselves understood by those who do not recognise the difficulties and frustration a stammerer experiences.

The Dominic Barker Trust funds research into stammering. Two researchers are based at Suffolk College, an accredited college of the University of East Anglia, and details of their extensive research programme are given on page 3.

If you'd like to support the work of the Fund, please contact Alan Barker who will be pleased to send you information.

**The Dominic Barker Trust,
Pound Close, Holbrook,
Ipswich IP9 2RA
T/F 01473 328530
E helenbarker@ukonline.co.uk**

*Registered charity number
1063491*

Trustees:
Rt Hon Sir Malcolm Pill
Dr Christopher Brown
Eleanor Barker
Guy Barker

Working in conjunction with:

• BRITISH STAMMERING ASSOCIATION (BSA)

15 Old Ford Road, London E2 9PJ
T 020 8983 1003
F 020 8983 3591
helpline 0845 603 2001
W www.stammering.org

The British Stammering Association is the only organisation in the UK working on behalf of stammerers of all ages and their families. They provide a free information service and run projects on specific aspects of stammering and stammering therapy.

• COMMUNICATIONS FORUM

Camelford House, 87-89 Albert Embankment, London SE1 7TP
T 020 7582 9200
F 020 7582 9606
E cf@communicationsforum.org.uk
www.communicationsforum.org.uk

The Forum brings together organisations concerned with human communication problems. It promotes initiatives to increase awareness of communication issues among the general public and statutory and voluntary organisations.

OPEN EVENING

at Suffolk College
Wednesday 16th October 2002
7 for 7.30pm

Guest speakers:

Moya Willson

ProViceChancellor, UEA

Erik Lamems

Belgian film producer



S U F F O L K
C O L L E G E
an Accredited College of the
UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA



“Her new confidence has radiated through our lives”



Rhona Murray (centre), with mother Tessa (right) and co-ordinator Isobel Crichton-Smith (left), is the youngest participant in the Parent Child Interaction Project.

At just three years old, Rhona Murray is the youngest participant in the Parent Child Interaction Project, funded by the Dominic Barker Trust at Suffolk College.

The Project works with five local families referred by speech and language therapists, and is part of the ongoing research programme (see page 3).

Rhona's mother Tessa (pictured far right) is very pleased with Rhona's progress since April 2001, when project co-ordinator Isobel Crichton-Smith started working with them to research the cause and effects of Rhona's stammering.

“Isobel and Claire, the Research Assistant, were very supportive, and happy to explain things. Rhona has become much more open, her confidence has increased, and she is able to contribute more to her playgroup. It has made a huge difference to all our lives.”

Dominic Barker Research Centre at Suffolk College

Plans to set up the Dominic Barker Research Centre are well under way.

The proposed Centre will bring together all the charity's research activity under one roof - at the School of Health, part of Suffolk College, an accredited college of the University of East Anglia.

It will also provide facilities for clients and their families taking part in research projects, and resources for researchers.

The College is very excited at the prospect of the Research Centre. “We have been actively seeking to raise our research and development profile for the past few years,” says Professor Dave Muller, Principal of Suffolk College. “The Dominic Barker Trust's decision to commit further

resources and funding to the College is most welcome news.”

**Professor Dave Muller,
Principal of Suffolk College**





Who's Who



ISOBEL CRICHTON-SMITH was appointed Research Fellow in 1998. She worked as a community paediatric speech and language therapist for the Ipswich, Allington NHS Trust for four years which included work with children with complex special needs, at a language unit, and with children and adolescents who stammered. She was previously an adult and

Isobel Crichton-Smith MRCSLT, MSc, Research Fellow for the Dominic Barker Trust.

paediatric therapist at Colchester NHS Trust.

"With my practical background I have been able to offer a hands-on approach and a wealth of local experience, in addition to my expertise in working with children and adults who stammer."

As well as setting up the research projects described on page 3, Isobel completed her MSc in Human Communication at UCL in September 2000, for which she was awarded a distinction.

Research Assistant **DR CLAIRE TEEVAN-HANMAN** was appointed in September 2000. Claire has a BSc in Biochemistry and was awarded her PhD in Cell Biophysics in 1998. She previously worked as an Academic Cardiologist at Imperial College, London, and at the Medicines Control Agency in London (which licenses all prescription and non-prescription preparations).

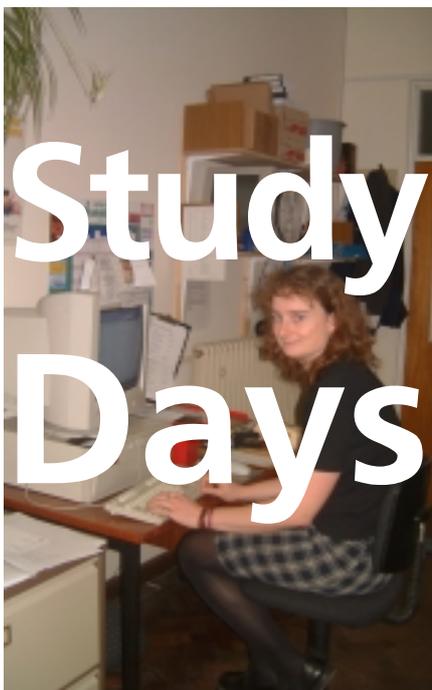
"I am involved on a day-to-day basis with the collection, analysis and organisation of research data -

such as the videotaping of therapy, and transcribing. I also helped arrange the Study Afternoon in December 2001, and I'm looking forward to the Study Day later this year."

Claire is undertaking modules in Early Childhood Studies and Psychology at Suffolk College. "I really enjoy working with the families and in particular the children, and these studies are giving me the benefit of other people's experience and theories."



Dr Claire Teevan-Hanman, appointed Research Assistant in October 2000.



THE FIRST STUDY AFTERNOON was held on 14th December 2000 at Suffolk College, Ipswich. The theme was Alternative Approaches to Working with People who Stammer. Twenty-two professionals from East Anglia and London attended presentations on Solution Focused Brief Therapy, and Transactional Analysis.

The first speaker was Alison Nicholas, a specialist speech and language therapist from The Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children in London. She spoke about Solution Focused Brief Therapy, a technique popular with speech and language therapists, in use with clients who stammer as well as enduring other communication disorders.

She was followed by Christine Hyde, a member of the Institute of Transactional Analysis, who spoke of her

insights into the nature of stammering. Christine runs personal development workshops for adults who stammer, using TA principles.

From the comments on the evaluation forms it proved to be a very successful event, with everyone unanimously in favour of a further study day.

In 2002, a Study Day is scheduled for 17th May at Suffolk College, and a further Study Day is planned for 20th September.

Anyone interested in attending can contact Isobel Crichton-Smith at Suffolk College: telephone 01473 255885 or e-mail isobel.crichton@suffolk.ac.uk

Dom's Fund achievements

1998
2002

• **PARENT CHILD INTERACTION PROJECT:** investigating one method of therapy, commonly known as Parent Child Interaction (PCI). Five local children, aged between 3 years 6 months and 5 years 6 months, who have stammered for at least 6 months, were observed and measured. Parents were quick to realise that, due to Isobel's expertise, their children also received therapy that wouldn't normally be available.

The outcome of this research will contribute to the ongoing debate amongst researchers and clinicians on the efficacy of treatment for young children who stammer, and will offer direction to clinicians when selecting treatment.

• **PAPER on *Communicating in the real world: accounts from people who stammer.*** Data was collected through in-depth interviews with fourteen

adults, aged 29 to 86. The paper was submitted to the Journal of Fluency Disorders in September 2001.

• **MSc DISSERTATION** *Stammering: an investigation into speech and language therapists' attitudes and confidence levels* is being submitted by Isobel to the International Journal of Language and Communication Disorders.

• **HONORARY CONTRACT** for Isobel to work with the Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children in London for three months from May 1999. This included training in the Parent Child Interaction methodology, treatment of children aged 2-13 years, and an opportunity to treat children using the Lidcombe Method.

• **BBC 2's Matter of Fact programme** *It's Good to Talk*, on 11th February 1999, interviewed the Barkers and Dominic's girlfriend Mandy Tevendale about his search for employment and his despair at his stammer. The programme explored the practical problems for adults with a stammer, such as saying their own name, and also visited the Michael Palin Centre for Stammering Children in London.

• **TRAINING COURSES AND CONFERENCES** The Dominic Barker Trust funded Isobel's attendance at the British Stammering Association (BSA) conference in Sheffield in 1998 and 2000, and the International Fluency Association (IFA) conference in Denmark in August 2000.

• **OPEN EVENING 1999** Margaret Drabble, the distinguished writer and a stammerer herself, was guest speaker at the Open Evening 1999.



Study trip to Australia

IN NOVEMBER 2000 Isobel spent three weeks in Australia. The aim was to become more acquainted with the Lidcombe Programme of treatment for young children who stammer. Based on principles of behaviour modification, it is widely used in Australia where it was developed in the 1980s at the Australian Stuttering Research Centre based at the University of Sydney. In addition to their work on the Lidcombe Programme, the ASRC clinicians in specialised clinics throughout Sydney provide therapy for all other age groups.

Introductions from Professor Mark Onslow and his team at the ASRC led to a meeting with Professor Ashley Craig at the Department of Health Sciences at the University of Technology, Sydney. He is particularly interested in anxiety and behavioural techniques for treating stammering. His research assistant Gillian Carmichael is investigating stammering at a neurophysiological level.

At La Trobe University, Victoria, Isobel met Susan Block, senior lecturer. As a lecturer in fluency on the speech pathology degree course, Susan emphasises the transfer of fluent speech from the outset.

Isobel concluded that in Australia the therapy for stammering was quite different to that in other countries. "The treatments I observed were much more focused on the establishment and transfer of fluent speech, than treatments in the UK for example, where intensive programmes strongly emphasise the continuous use of new speech patterns on a 'use it or lose it' basis. I was impressed by the way that experienced therapists had developed the 'speak more fluently' approaches to include sensitive and practical ways of being fluent."

The trip was financed by a BT bursary and the Dominic Barker Trust.

