

Child's Play in Dublin

Back in 2005 we reported on three published studies carried out by Isobel Pickering (nee Chrichton Smith), which were funded by the Trust and undertaken at Suffolk College.

A fourth study : 'The Effects of Play Situations on the Fluency of Children who Stammer' has since been completed and presented by Isobel and Fiona Hamilton to an international audience at the Fluency Association Congress in Dublin in 2006.

The Play and Fluency study suggested that children who engaged in imaginative play whilst talking to their parents stammered more than children who were playing with simple rule based games.

With the support of Rachel Pennick, Isobel and Fiona collected data from fifteen children under the age of five who stammered - all referred from Suffolk East Primary Care Trusts and diagnosed as having dysfluent speech.

Using video footage the children were observed playing with their parent in free play and subsequently taking part in a rule-based game such as lotto or picture dominoes. The team compared the amount of stammering during the two different types of play and, as initially suspected, they found that in free play children stammered significantly more than in rule-based play. This is highly relevant information which SLTs can use to inform their work with young children and shape their advice to parents.

Isobel and Fiona intend to take these findings further and



Isobel and Fiona at Dublin

apply them to the development of a new therapy for young children who stammer. They hope to create a practical, accessible, simple and effective way for parents to manage stammering on a daily basis in the home environment, without the need for extensive training. This will include the development of play materials for parents to help establish and maintain fluency with young children and so produce a fun, yet effective way of dealing with childhood stammering. This will be an appropriate and practical development of the work that began at Suffolk College in 1998.

For detailed information about the study: Isobel@freedom-software.com

Out of Africa



Monica Bray and Ray Millar from Suffolk, Insert: The new Telephone assistive device.

For many people who stammer, talking on the phone is something they dread, but new hope may be on the horizon as tests begin on an innovative telephone assistive device (TAD).

Monica Bray – a SLT with 21 years' research experience and who is based at Leeds Metropolitan University - is evaluating this new device. The TAD works by altering the auditory feedback mechanisms and plays back the user's voice slightly altered through the telephone receiver.

TAD was developed by VoiceAmp, the South African based speech aid specialist responsible for the VoiceAmp Fluency Enhancer which was introduced into the UK last year.

The evaluation, funded by the Trust, involves ten adults, both male and female and with ages ranging from 26 – 70. The first phase, now completed, involved recording and assessing telephone speech without the device. The second phase is currently underway and assesses a comparison of the participants' speech when using the TAD.

Monica will present her findings to date at the Oxford Dysfluency Conference in July 2008. The study is due for completion by the end of August 2008.

For further information contact www.leedsmet.ac.uk

OPEN HOUSE

Please join us at our next Open Evening on 9th October at the Royal Hospital School in Holbrook.

The Trust is very pleased to welcome John Bercow MP as our guest speaker. Mr Bercow is a Tory MP who has taken the unusual step of working closely with the Government to assess services for children with communications difficulties. His son Oliver – who is on the autistic spectrum - played a part in the decision and he is committed to helping children with speech, language and communication needs.

You will also hear from those involved in the current projects funded by the Trust, and receive an update on our plans for the future.

Our last Open Evening – held in November 2005 at the Suffolk College – attracted more than 150 people.

Isobel Pickering presented her latest findings (see pg 2) and Dr Jan McAllister gave an overview of the new School of Speech and Language Therapy at UEA, where the Trust is currently funding research and study events (see pg 4).

Jon Smith, Chief Executive of First Artist Corporation plc, gave us a vivid account of his struggle to speak with a severe stammer and the unusual therapy he received as a teenager. We were also treated to humorous anecdotes of his busy and dynamic life in the world of football transfers. Jaik Campbell provided a poignant insight into what it means to be a comedian with a stammer - www.jaikcampbell.com.



Speaker Jon Smith



Comedian Jaik Campbell



Marathon Man

Ed Cima ran the London Marathon last year in a respectable 4 hours 26 minutes, raising a welcome contribution to Dom's Fund. Always a keen sportsman and now an enterprising hairdresser, Ed recalls times when things were more difficult. "I had a stammer when I was younger and although I have mostly overcome it, I know people who stammer and I wanted to choose a charity that was close to me." says Ed, who along with his father, is running for Dom's Fund again this year. If you would like to sponsor Ed, contact at us.domsfund.b@ukonline.co.uk and we'd be happy to put you in touch.

Ed Cima at the 2007 London Marathon



From left to right Tammy Thompson, Dr Jan McAllister, Heidi King, Mary Kingston and Dr Per Alm

The Getting of Wisdom

Building on the success of previous events, the Trust's fourth Study Day was held at UEA in April 2007. The aim of the day was to share recent research and to facilitate exchange of ideas between practising therapists. It was attended by 27 practising SLT's, along with 22 students from the Speech and Language department of the School of Allied Health Professions at the UEA.

Following a welcome by Professor Sally Hartley, Alan Barker, the co-founder of the Trust started the proceedings with a brief background to the Trust.

The keynote speaker, introduced by Dr Jan McAllister of UEA, was Dr Per Alm – a researcher in neuropsychology at Lund

University, Sweden. A stammerer himself, he also works at the Stuttering Information Centre of Denmark and has recently worked on brain imaging studies at Oxford. He spoke about his dual pre-motor theory on stammering, which is rapidly becoming recognised in the community. For further details, see www.stammering.org/peralm.html. Heidi King gave a vivid and personal account of the practical aspects of using an auditory feedback device. The 25 year old is a doctorate student in Clinical Psychology at the UEA and has had a severe stammer since the age of three. She recently embarked on a life-changing journey to New York to purchase the SpeechEasy

Device. Now well known for her television and radio appearances, her mission is to lead a fulfilling life and to inform the public about the serious impact of stammering on the lives of those affected.

Mrs Mary Kingston – Norfolk PCT's Lead Specialist in dysfluency in children and adults – reflected on the effectiveness and appropriate use of auditory feedback devices from a speech therapist's perspective. She has published research on the Lidcombe programme and other features of dysfluency and she runs Lidcombe workshops internationally as well as lecturing on the dysfluency module at the UEA.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The 31st Orwell Walk takes place on Sunday 8th June providing another opportunity to raise funds for The Trust. You can choose to walk between 3 leisurely or 25 more challenging miles and the route alongside the River Orwell promises a pleasant day.

You can register by calling 01473 215333 or by visiting www.orwellwalk.org.uk

If you'd like to wear one of our official Trust T shirt contact domsfund.b@ukonline.co.uk

The Faces Behind The Trust



Toby Kramers – Chairman



Ian Angus



Eleanor Barker



Guy Barker



Dr Christopher Brown



Chloe Chancellor



Gill Garnham



Sir Malcolm Pill

The Trust would like to extend sincere thanks to Sir Malcolm Pill who was Chairman for 10 years from the formation of the Trust until he retired in November 2007. Sir Malcolm was instrumental in developing the Trust and its partnerships and we are extremely grateful for his valuable guidance and encouragement.

It is with deep regret we record the recent death of Simon Wallis, an energetic and valued Trustee, and our thanks go to the Wallis family for donations in his memory made to the Trust.



Simon Wallis

Join our Database: contact us on domsfund.b@ukonline.co.uk and we'll add you to our mailing list.

The Trustees are grateful to Beverley Wigg for her help in editing this newsletter (www.beverleywiggpr.co.uk), to Technographic Design and Print of Halesworth for its design content and production (www.technographicdesign.co.uk), and to Ashton Graham, Solicitors, of Ipswich and Bury St Edmunds for funding its distribution (www.ashtongraham.co.uk)



Dom's Fund

WHAT IS DOM'S FUND?

The Dominic Barker Trust, a charity known as Dom's Fund, was set up in 1997 in memory of Dominic Barker (pictured) who had a persistent stammer and who took his own life in 1994.

Dom's Fund is:-

- Established, having funded 10 years' relevant research with practical outcomes
- Supporting local, but internationally relevant, research and practice in stammering
- Working in partnership with researchers and practitioners to enable sharing of good practice and training
- Developing a centre of excellence, integrating original research with the delivery of quality training and therapy

Working with:

BRITISH STAMMERING ASSOCIATION (BSA)

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

The British Stammering Association works on behalf of stammerers of all ages and their families, providing a free information service on all aspects of stammering and stammering therapy as well as a programme of events.

ICVS: the Ipswich Council for Voluntary Service
SAVO: Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations

For Your Diary

Orwell Walk – Sunday 8th June

Open Evening Royal Hospital
School – Thursday 9th October.

The Trust is entirely dependent on the generosity of its contributors.

If you would like to make a donation please send a cheque payable to

Dom's Fund
to Pound Close, Holbrook,
Ipswich IP9 2RA

or visit
www.dominicbarkertrust.org.uk
for further information

The Dominic Barker Trust

Hon DCL (East Anglia)

Registered Charity No 1063491

Pound Close, Holbrook, Ipswich IP9 2R

Tel/Fax 01473 328530 domsfund.b@ukonline.co.uk www.dominicbarkertrust.org.uk

In association with

