



April 2015

Have you looked at the Karten website recently? Please have a look—lots of time has been spent recently updating contact details. But I'm sure that there are lots more to change. Please have a look and email me with any changes. You don't have the functionality to make amendments yourself. But do you want to add in any photos or videos? Just send them through and I'll get the changes made.

Lots more changes coming to the website soon—please have a look at Martin's article on page 4.

The Regionals 2014 were a great success—but we intend 2015 to be even better. Your help is needed for that to happen. Please take the time to think about what you can share with the Network. I'll be waiting to hear from you!

Contents

Trustees meeting	2
Regional events 2015	3
Mobile Technology update	4
Move to Northern Israel for CDB new centre	5
Mubina	6
Dates for the diary	7
Contact us	7

Trustees meeting

The Trustees last met in March, and had a large number of applications to consider. The applications are always really diverse—limited only by your imaginations! The following applications were approved:

Beacon Centre for the Blind, Wolverhampton — an update to existing equipment, plus additional tablets. And something we've not funded before: information kiosks for some of their shops

Beaumont College, Lancaster—additional tablets and charging trolley, plus a Mobile Device Management System (MDM): Airwatch

Cantraybridge, Inverness—additional Android tablets, server and an extension of the wifi to enable mobile learning across the site

Derwen College, Oswestry—equipment to establish a more collaborative, informal learning environment in the classroom attached to the Farm Shop. Included are some Pod chairs—another first!

Dudley College, Dudley—A big welcome to Dudley College as a new centre! They had already inherited some unused equipment from another centre, so the Trustees were pleased to recognize them as a centre, and fund additional print equipment for Aspire Works, which provides print services to Dudley College (a large FE college) and other customers

QAHH, Worthing—extension of the wifi across the site, upgrade to their tablets, sensory equipment and additional assistive technology, plus an eyegaze system to use for assessments

Treloar College, Alton— an application from their IKC for a single piece of equipment: a high spec leaflet folder, using the latest developments to keep the noise level of the machine at a more acceptable level!

Will your centre be on this list after the next Trustees' meeting? See Dates for your Diary—page 7—and speak to Debbie or Ceri.

Regional events 2015

The Network Board have had long discussions as to what form this year's events should take—a full conference? Regional events? A Makethon? One of the factors influencing the decision was the feedback from those of you who attended last year. We were very tempted by a Makethon (and will be investigating collaborating with other organisations on this) but the decision was to again hold regional events—but with a difference!

This year we will not be repeating the same event at various locations. What we want to do is hold 5 events in the UK and 1 in Israel, each with a specific focus. So this is where you come in. **Have you something you could share with other centres?** The key attraction of the regional events has been the sharing—we just want to change how we do this. So we'd like you to offer a short presentation. These can then be grouped— so we might have one event with a focus of immersive learning environments, another on technology and visual impairments, another on technology and dementia: **the focus of the events will be decided by you. We also want to encourage the participation of your clients—let's hear from them how they use technology.**

You (and/or your colleagues) will be welcome to attend either your local event, or one of specific interest to you—or attend them all!

We will publish the overviews of the events and locations well in advance, and make all the presentations available on the website.

You all have something to share—please take the time to let me know. You don't have to commit to an hour long presentation—you may just want to join in the discussions.

**So let me know—what would like one of the events to focus on, and what could you share? Please let me know asap
ceri@karten-network.org.uk**

Centres in Israel should also respond to Ceri on this one initially.

Update on Mobile Technology

Since joining the Karten Network I have had the privilege to attend two of the regional events and visited four Karten centers. I am particularly grateful to Rohan Slaughter and the assistive technology team at Beaumont College with whom I spent an entire day .

I have also been in touch with some of you by e-mail as a follow up to the mobile technology survey conducted last year. I appreciate the time taken to answer my questions and for sharing some resources with me.

Currently, a lot of my efforts are going into creating a collection of information related to mobile technology. I anticipate that this repository of information will cover the following topics:

- Key features of iOS, Android and Windows to facilitate the selection of mobile device
- Procedures for maintaining devices (e.g. remote updating)
- Management systems
- Apps being used in the network
- Training materials
- User guides
- Links to other resources

When launched in May the repository will be available to all members within the Karten Network. My hope is that this will be a living resource that people within the network can contribute to. If you believe you have something to contribute or would like advice regarding mobile technology, please feel free to contact me: martin@karten-network.org.uk

You will need to be a member of the Karten Network to access these resources, so will be set up with a username and password. These will be re-issued, as they have not been in active use. If you have not had an email from Ceri with these details by mid-May, please get in touch.

New branch of CDB in Northern Israel

Over past months we have gradually laid the foundations for a new branch of our Karten CTEC Center, in this case for Arab-Israelis with deaf-blindness. The new branch is located in the local Community Center in Arara, in the area of Northern Israel known as the "Triangle". These efforts have been spearheaded by three of our staff members; our Coordinator for Arab-Israelis in the "Triangle" area, Shiri, our Project Coordinator, Ruth, and our senior teacher who is also in charge of intake, Yaakov. Shiri is deaf, Ruth is sighted and hearing and Yaakov is deaf-blind.

On Wednesday December 10th we held an **Opening Day Symposium**, which was well attended by about 45 individuals, including Karten representative Debbie Ben-Tal and, primarily, Arab-Israelis including local politicians, representatives of the Welfare Department, social workers and teachers and of course deaf-blind Arab-Israelis. The event was fully accessible and we had Sign Language interpreters and simultaneous translation into Hebrew and Arabic.

Yaakov, who can be seen here, spoke about empowerment. He described his own story, how he was born deaf into a hearing family and gradually lost his vision, and about Usher Syndrome, which caused his deaf-blindness. He talked about his daily life, how he learned to manage, to move out of parents home, to become a senior teacher who is also in charge of intake for new students. This included details like waking up in the morning with a special alarm clock to going to work, coming home, making food, surfing the internet or reading a good book. He discussed technology, types and degrees of deaf-blindness and the new profession of SSP's (Support Service Providers) that we are developing for the first time in Israel. His talk was also a practical demonstration of tactile sign language, which he uses to communicate, and "copy signing" which his interpreter used to tell him what the main interpreter was saying.



Chaim Fuchs, CDB, Tel Aviv

Mubina at BETT

We have been fortunate to have Mubina Asaria, one of the Network Directors, speak at Karten eventson the subject of e-safety in schools.. This year she was part of a panel at BETT discussing 'Improving Safeguarding and Promoting Wellbeing Online'.



The panel was very well received. If you would like to watch a clip from the panel, here is a link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NxfpgS2Yq9w&feature=youtu.be>

Dates for the diary

The next Trustees meeting is on **Friday 11th September** so final, completed application packs must be with Debbie (Israeli applications) or Ceri (the rest) by **Friday 31st July**. If you intend to submit an application please talk to us now so we all have time to get everything ready. You will need the guidelines and a spreadsheet to populate with the equipment list, and we will also need to schedule a visit.

Contact us:

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If you have something for the next newsletter, or one of your clients would like to contribute a piece, please email Ceri.