



July 2013

This year has seen the end of an era, with the death of Ian's widow Mildred on 1st January. Mildred's sister Annette was really appreciative of all the messages of sympathy. It is an amazing legacy that Ian and Mildred have left and I see evidence on every visit I make. I feel really privileged to have known them.

Ian was always keen that we share good practice within the Network, and in this issue we look at new ways we want to do this. And if you have something you want to share, please let me know. Thanks to those who have contributed.

## Contents

Trustees meeting outcomes	2
Conference feedback	3
Regional meetings	4
Fitzroy on TV!	5
App of the month	6
New Trustee	7
Discover JISC	7
Adapting a head pointer for an ipad	8
Supplier's information	9
New Chair of the Network	10
Contact us	10

# Trustees meetings

The Trustees have agreed (in no particular order):

Additional equipment at:

- East Sussex Disability Association
- Dyslexia Action Cardiff
- QAC in Birmingham
- Bridge College in Manchester
- Percy Hedley original centre in Newcastle
- Linkage College in Lincolnshire
- Jewish Care in London and Redbridge
- Scope in Sully
- White Lodge Centre in Chertsey

New centres have been agreed at:

- Langdon College in Salford—an agreement in principle having been made before funding criteria changed
- Centre for Deaf Blind Persons, Tel Aviv, to extend their operations to a new centre in East Jerusalem—something that Ian was very keen to see happen.

The next Trustees meeting is in September, with the deadline for finalised applications to Ceri by 9th August. If you intend to submit an application, make sure you are already talking to Ceri!

# Conference Feedback

As always, it was a pleasure to see all of you who were able to join us at the conference last October. A big thank you to all of you who contributed in any way—the conference couldn't happen without your input. From the feedback forms, it was clear that the talk by Yaakov Bibas from the Centre for Deaf Blind Persons in Tel Aviv made a big impact—it was really inspirational. Many thanks to Yaakov and Shirit (his communicator) for making the long journey to join us.

One of the things we wanted to get out of the conference was your view on how to take the Network forward. A fruitful discussion ensued, with lots of suggestions. As a result, we have had an online survey in order to get the views of those who weren't able to join us, and I have also set up a Karten Network Google Group to provide a forum where we can ask questions and share ideas. If you need me to add you to the group, please email me. Another suggestion was that there should be an annual report from each centre. Whilst that sounds onerous, someone has pointed out that to be ready for inspection, that report already exists and is updated annually, so could be used for multiple purposes. Let me know what you think.

Another big area of discussion at the Conference and subsequent Board meetings has been the annual conference. Not everyone is able to attend because of the difficulty of being released from work and the cost. So this year we're trying something new: regional meetings instead of a full conference, supplemented by webinars and podcasts—see page 4 for more information on the regional meetings. October 2014 we will return to a full conference, and decide how to proceed the following year.

Remember this is your Network, so suggestions for topics for webinars and podcasts much appreciated.

# Regional Meetings

The Network Board have considered the feedback from the conference, so this year we're going to have regional meetings instead of a full conference. The plan is to have 6 meetings in the UK:

York, covering East Midlands, Yorkshire and the Humber  
London, covering East of England, London, South East  
Glasgow, covering North East, Northern Ireland, Scotland  
Manchester, covering North West, North Wales  
Bristol, covering South West, South Wales  
Birmingham covering West Midlands

We would plan to also have a regional meeting in Israel, at a date to be discussed.

The locations are suggestions—you might have some better ideas. I have already had kind offers from Dominic at Seashell Trust near Manchester and Scott at Action for Blind People in Bristol to host events. Could anyone else accommodate us? I envisage the meetings running from 11:00 till 15:00.

I would like to run the meetings around October/November, and the meetings will all be very similar. You and your colleagues will be able to attend any of the meetings, and if there is space we will invite others from outside the Network. If there is room we will also invite a couple of suppliers.

No dates as yet so I'm not asking for a firm commitment, but could you let me know if you think people from your organisation would try to attend?

What we would like is to build closer links between local organisations, and we hope that regional meetings will help this to happen. More info on the programme shortly!

# Fitzroy on TV!

**BBC Lifeline TV appeals have been running for more than 20 years now. Hundreds of charities apply to be featured. Each year, just twelve are successful.**



*“When the call came in that we’d had our submission accepted and we’d been chosen to be a charity featured on BBC Lifeline, we cheered” Jan Deane, FitzRoy Fundraising Manager recalled. “It’s a rare chance for a charity to showcase what it achieves and make an appeal for support to millions of viewers.”*

**Andrew being filmed at Fakenham**

FitzRoy learned in early summer 2012 that we would be featured, but couldn’t say anything until a critical ‘kick off’ meeting. It all needed to be kept under wraps! The professional team at the BBC worked closely with us, starting several months before the scheduled broadcast date to look at issues like presenters (a well known face makes all the difference) and where to film to best tell the ‘story’.

“Our bid was to generate funds for our assistive technology appeal, so showing examples of this and explaining the benefit was really important” noted Jan. “We had to think about how to present some of these concepts clearly”.

After much discussion about how best to present the broad spectrum of services and support offered by FitzRoy, the BBC chose just three people to feature. The powerful stories of Andrew (in Fakenham, Norfolk) Nathan (in Malvern, Worcestershire) and Nicholas (in Grayshott, Hampshire) were chosen to show how a mix of personalised support and practical assistance can make all the difference. Of course, other people we support and staff featured too.

Through our Patron, actress Virginia McKenna, we were delighted that celebrity presenter Nick Knowles agreed to present the appeal and visit Nicholas at Donec Mews too. After several months of planning, preparation and filming, the final result aired in January. Packed into nine minutes is an emotive explanation of the challenges and issues of living with a learning disability. But the film has a very positive focus with Andrew’s support worker Mo speaking with energy and enthusiasm about helping him achieve his goals and ambitions, and Nathan’s dad, Trevor, explaining why FitzRoy has been the best choice for his severely disabled son. The programme has been seen by around 2 million people. With further promotion we know that an additional 500,000 people are now aware of FitzRoy via social media, press and the internet: all as a result of this free opportunity to showcase the charity.

# App of the Month

Tablets are being used more and more in our centres— ipads, android and Windows tablets. And they certainly feature in lots of funding applications. But how are you using them? What apps work best with your clients? I would like to start featuring an App of the Month. Just send me an email—just a paragraph is fine, with a photo if you want, and I'll send it out to the Network and post it on the Google group so there is an easy place to find them. And please don't assume that everyone knows what you do—lots of us are playing catch up so will appreciate the basics!

To start us off here is a contribution from Leah Bamford, who manages the Karten Bureau and teaches at Derwen College.

The Aura App has recently arrived at Derwen College. The App is similar to a QR code, an image which triggers a link to something from an image or object. Using an iPad you record a demonstration video. In our case we recorded a video of how to deal with a paper jam on our large printer. You then create a new 'Aura', using the app, by taking a photo of the printer and the App then links the video to the photo!

This means we can make short videos on how to use all of our equipment and demonstrations of how to undertake tasks. Our students can use the iPad to trigger a video by holding it in front of the equipment.

It is great making short videos in our Karten Bureau and watching them automatically play when the student hold the iPad in front of the chosen equipment! What a good idea! I hope to use it more and make a 'how to' for each piece of equipment to help the students become more independent in our CTEC centre!

Leah Bamford

# New Trustee



We are very pleased to welcome Anthony Davis to the Trustees of the Ian Karten Charitable Trust. He is a solicitor, with a particular interest in educational work. Some of you have already met Anthony as he has come on a few visits, and I'm sure he will meet more of you in the future.

## Discover JISC

You may have noticed emails from me with links to free webinars or podcasts. These have come about through the Discover JISC project, where the Karten Network is a participant. The project, run by TechDis, is looking at resources for the lifelong learning sector. I am on the Project Board, and Scope Sully and Young Epilepsy have been representing the Network. I won't steal their thunder by explaining what they have been doing, but the project will be reporting in September.

The objective of the project is to develop a greater understanding of JISC and its resources to the FE and Skills providers, by helping to promote the development of skills and understanding to optimise the use of accessible technologies and development of inclusive teaching practices.

So watch this space for more information.

# Adapting a head pointer to use with an iPad

In the past TS has only been able to use a computer by controlling the screen with a head switch, but as any adult switch user will know, this is very limited by the low number of age appropriate scanning programmes that are available.

TS successfully uses a head pointer with a paintbrush so why not just attach a stylus pen to the head pointer instead, I thought. Frustratingly unsuccessful!

Then I worked it out - stylus pens rely on a small electrical input from the touch of human skin to activate the screen, just as a finger touch does. However aluminium foil is a conductor so I found that if I wrapped foil around the pointer and up to where TS's head contacts the head pointer, then the impulse from her forehead touch was sufficient to 'activate' the stylus. She was thrilled!



*Susan Warwick*

IT Training and Support Co-ordinator

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# AfterShokz Headphones

The next generation of bone conductive headphones has arrived... Perfect for those wishing to listen to GPS, MP3, or their phone whilst out and about and at the same time having the ears uncovered so that they can hear other sounds around and about...

**AfterShokz Sportz S2** open ear sport headphones are lightweight, sweat and water resistant, and feature an on/off switch, volume control, a micro USB charging port, and a 3.5mm gold plated standard connector that fits most smart phones, iPhones, iPods, iPads, and MP3 players, a water repellent hard case, and a 2 year warranty.



AfterShokz Sportz S2 Without mic £49.96 (exc VAT)  
AfterShokz Sportz S2 with mic £58.29 (exc VAT)

Contact: 01604 798070 or [sales@sightandsound.co.uk](mailto:sales@sightandsound.co.uk)

## 4D Creative

4D Pop Up is a unique product that is changing the way young people learn. A complete package of Wireless LED Lighting, large scale projection and a Bose sound system are all triggered from the iPad to create any scenario imaginable inside the self inflating pod.

Our powerful yet intuitive software is preloaded with content so you can get creative from the minute you open the box. You can upload your own pictures, videos and sounds in seconds to create your own immersive experiences. This mobile solution takes less than 15 minutes for 1 person to set up and requires no tools or techies. It's completely modular so you can add more options over time...you can even join 2 pods together to accommodate up to 40 young people!

Want to know more? Watch the video <http://vimeo.com/69228875> or look on [www.4dcreative.co.uk](http://www.4dcreative.co.uk)

# New Chair of the Network

At the last conference, we celebrated the commitment to the Network shown by Dr Graham Jowett, who had been its Chair for the 10 years since its establishment. Following his retirement from Treloar's, Graham decided it was time to step down. We can only thank him for steering the Network to the strong position it is in.

We are very fortunate in having a very strong Board of Directors of the Network. Dr Dawn Green, Principal of Landmarks College, was elected to become the new Chair, and Mubina Asaria, Virtual Learning Manager of Greenford School, to oversee the website. It will be a pleasure to work with them both.



Dawn



Mubina

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

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