



June 2011



IAN KARTEN MBE

1920—2011

It is with deep regret that we have to announce that Ian passed away in the early hours of Sunday 8th May. Our thoughts are with Mildred at this sad time.

IAN KARTEN MBE

How do you sum up the achievements of Ian Karten? He was a man of enormous compassion and vision, whose impact has been enormous. I have received so many very moving tributes and messages of condolence. Mildred has been very touched by them all, and said she wished Ian was here to hear what everyone was saying. I hope he knew how we all felt about him. If you were at last year's conference I'm sure you remember when Ian was presented with the coasters to mark the 100 centres. Everyone rose to their feet to give Ian—whose health wasn't good even then—a standing ovation. To say that a great wave of love and affection rolled forward is no exaggeration. There were tears in many people's eyes. It is a moment that will remain with me forever.

Tim Simon, one of Ian's fellow Trustees, said this at Ian's funeral service:

'We are here today not to mourn the death of Ian Karten MBE but to celebrate his achievements and his memory.

It is comparatively easy to outline the bare bones of Ian's life. He was born in Vienna in Austria in 1920 but with the rest of his family assumed Polish nationality. That in due course enabled him to obtain a visa to come to England where he studied Medical Engineering at what is now the University of Surrey and passed out with a first class degree.

He then served in the Royal Air Force throughout the war and was mentioned in Dispatches for his Distinguished Service. Ian's entire family with the exception of his mother were murdered by the Nazis. After the war Ian found his mother and she came to England to live with him until her death.

After being demobilised in 1946 Ian joined Multitone Electronics Ltd. Multitone manufactured state of the art technical equipment such as hearing aids, radio pagers and electro-medical equipment. With Ian's help the company started exporting its products and won the Queen's Award for Industry. Ian moved up the company becoming in turn Managing Director, Chairman and CEO.

In 1968 Ian married Mildred who has been a wonderful companion and support to Ian both in his business and charitable ventures. It has been said that behind every great man there is a great woman. This marriage was no exception.

And the rest as they say is history. Over 100 CTEC Centres have now been created in the United Kingdom, Ireland and Israel. Through his vision Ian enabled disabled people to improve the quality of their lives, to be independent and to contribute fully to society.

Humble and proud of his achievements are the two words that spring to my mind. Ian's contribution to his adopted country has been immeasurable. I am sure that all of us in our turn were proud to have known him.'

It is hoped to hold a memorial service at some stage, and I will ensure you all receive details.

The tributes received will be bound in a book for Mildred. If you would like to have something included, please email me.

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New Centres

It has been far too long since I did a newsletter, so there are lots of new centres to tell you about. The Trustees have agreed (in no particular order):

- A centre for Homefield College, located in Loughborough town centre. They have an internet cafe, and have moved their ebay business to the same shop
- A second centre for David Lewis College, comprising a media centre, radio station and Eduprint facility
- New Bridge Learning Centre in Oldham: a very high-tech sensory room linked to an Eduprint facility
- Glasshouse College in Stourbridge: 2 centres, one focussed on media and the other on print
- St John's College: an Eduprint facility located in a shop in Brighton Marina
- Momentum North East, Newcastle: equipment to facilitate IT Training
- Beacon Centre for the Blind, Dudley: additional equipment including an Eduprint system
- Landmarks College, Worksop: IT infrastructure equipment
- York House, York: IT training equipment
- Derwen College: additional equipment
- Percy Hedley Foundation, Newcastle: print equipment
- Seeability, Leatherhead: additional equipment
- Queen Alexander College, Birmingham: media centre
- Elizabeth Fitzroy Support, Fakenham: IT skills equipment
- Stockport CP: a 2nd centre in partnership with Mencap in Altringham

And finally: the 100th CTEC Centre to be established is located in Momentum Scotland, Glasgow! 3 separate centres were agreed: see page 6 for details

CONFERENCE 2011: CREATIVITY THROUGH TECHNOLOGY

This year's conference will take place at Queen Alexandra College in Birmingham on Tuesday 25th October. The theme will be Creativity through Technology. I have seen so many centres using technology to facilitate the creativity of their clients that it seemed a good time to share the wonderful things that people are doing.

Having reached Ian's target of 100 centres (109 now!) since the last conference, we have asked Tim Simon, one of the Trustees, to give the keynote address. As well as an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of the Ian Karten Charitable Trust, Tim will be able to explain the strategic direction of the Trust now that the target of 100 centres has been reached. Tim always attends the conference, but you may not recognise him, so this will also give you an opportunity to get to know him.

The morning of the Conference will feature some of the creative work of some of our centres, the awards, and a competition sponsored by the Mouth and Foot Painting Artists. The afternoon will have a range of workshops. One already arranged is an Eduprint workshop, where centres can share their ideas and pick up some tips.

As usual, we will have a display from some of your favourite suppliers.

Entry to the conference is free for everyone associated with a Karten CTEC Centre, and £25 to anyone else.

WHAT TO DO NOW?

- **Put 25th October into your diary now**
- **Tell Ceri the names of anyone who will be attending**
- **If you would like the opportunity to share your creativity, email me**
- **If there are any workshops that you would find particularly useful, let me know**
- **If there are any suppliers you would like to see, let me know**
- **Read about the competition sponsored by MFPA on page 5 and get your entries prepared**
- **Consider which of your clients deserve to be nominated for an award (deadline 7th October)**
- **Does your centre display outstanding practice for either innovation or success in transition? Start preparing your application (deadline 7th October)**

We want this to be the best conference so far—but we need you in order to do this. Please join us at QAC.

MFPA COMPETITION

Did you see the exhibition by the Mouth and Foot Painting Artists at last year's conference? Everyone there agreed it was amazing. But Tom Yendell of MFPA was just as impressed by the work of the Karten CTEC Centres. This has led MFPA to sponsor a competition for the Karten Network. So if you have loads of creativity in your organisation, this might just be the project you wanted!



The brief is to design a greetings card. Any kind of greetings card, whatever inspires you. It can be produced in any 2D medium, but must be less than A3 in size. The competition is only open to those 21 and under at the closing date, with a physical disability, from organisations within the Karten Network in any country.

MFPA are being incredibly generous with the prizes:

The organisation submitting the winning entries will receive:

FIRST PRIZE: £5,000 worth of equipment

SECOND PRIZE: £3,000 worth of equipment

THIRD PRIZE: £1,000 worth of equipment

The winning artist will also receive £250 worth of art materials.

So certainly a competition worth putting effort into. Deadline for entries is 1st September 2011. Entries should be sent directly to Tom Yendell at :

MFPA Gallery, The Plestor, Selbourne, Hampshire, GU34 3JQ.

Entries will be on display at the conference in October—so even more reason to be there. Why not bring the artists with you?

For more information about MFPA go to www.mfpa.co.uk

100th CTEC Centre: Momentum Inclusive East, Glasgow



Colin Baird, of Momentum Scotland, on becoming the 100th Karten CTEC Centre:

'I remember the day we got a phonecall to let us know we'd been successful in our application to the Ian Karten Trust. I stood in my kitchen (as I was on leave at the time) as Ceri informed me that not only had we been given the whole amount we had asked for, but also that we would have the privilege of becoming the 100th CTEC centre within the network. Since then my hands have stopped shaking and our centre has had a new lease of life breathed into it.

Momentum's Inclusive East programme has always provided the best possible service we could to our students but we were increasingly becoming frustrated by the shortfalls in the technology we had available and the limitations on our budget to upgrade. This in turn meant we couldn't offer as much to our students as we wanted to. Since becoming the 100th CTEC centre however, we have had a chance to upgrade our IT equipment, furniture and a whole host of assistive technologies and training have been made available to our students.

This hasn't been without its problems, but new technology always has a few teething issues to sort out (just don't ask me about Virtual XP Mode and our attempts to network 16 PC's using it!). Thankfully we now seem to be reaching the end of the major bugs and have now begun the process of adding those 'finishing touches' to our centre before we organise the official launch.

Our service can now be more fully tailored to each individual that comes through our door. In the words of one of our students "I didn't know there were so many possibilities out there that can have such a huge impact on how people access technology. The simplest of changes can make a vast difference to people's lives.."

Along with the work we are now doing in some local community services and physical disability resource units, we have also had a chance to give some of our volunteers a chance to train in the latest technologies. This knowledge is used to support our students both in our centre and throughout Scotland through one of Momentum's existing programmes.

Sadly we weren't able to complete our work in time for the one man who had made it all possible to see it happen, but our intention is that the 100th CTEC centre will join the network as a centre Ian would have been proud of.'



Visit to Israel and Jordan

Last November I visited our centres in Israel for the first time. What an amazing trip! My husband (a now fully qualified bag carrier) and I travelled with Tim Simon, one of the Trustees. We were looked after with such hospitality throughout our stay, and it was a real privilege to see first hand the amazing work that takes place in the Israeli centres. And as for the herb tea that I had for the first time (made with fresh herbs picked that morning) - marvellous! Food seemed to be high on the agenda, as everywhere we went we were treated to amazing spreads.

But lots of work went on too, and we travelled the country visiting all of the centres. One of the many highlights was our visit to Petah-Tikva, whose CTEC Centre won an award at the last conference. We were able to formally hand over their award. This centre provides call centre training, and is very successful in moving their clients into jobs. In Israel, call centre work cannot be moved to another country, as no other country speaks Hebrew.

We also spent a day in Jordan, in a meeting with the Higher Council for people with disabilities. We were exploring the possibility of establishing a Karten CTEC Centre in Jordan. As a result of our trip, a visit to some of the Israeli centres was made by Jordanian colleagues, and earlier this year a number of UK Centres kindly hosted some visits. These fact-finding trips have proved to be very useful, so many thanks to all involved .

One last thank you must go to Tali Dowek, formerly of The Keren in Israel, who looked after us so well and chauffeured us to many of the Centres.



Colleagues from the CTEC Centre at Petah-Tikva being presented with their award

Elmwood Supported Living

We have recently set up a centre at Elmwood College, a mainstream FE College in Cupar. Alison Boyle, Head of Inclusion, explains their approach to supported living:

Elmwood College provides students who are vulnerable or who have special needs with Supported Accommodation. Whatever the need may be, we can tailor the support package to meet individual requirements. Our support staff ensure that students develop both socially and emotionally as well as keeping them on track with their academic progress.

Additional activities are on offer in the Student Union outside class time, enabling the students to make friends and interact with others in a variety of different environments.

External activities away from the college environment are organised on a regular basis allowing the student to participate with others in a social setting.

Cupar Sports Centre is immediately next to the College Campus and students are encouraged to take full advantage of the facility whenever possible, and particularly over weekend periods.

Alternatively, the College has its own Fitness Suite and 18 hole golf course and student memberships are available.

Alison ensures that all students with any disability are fully supported to allow them to reach their full potential. She also manages the Supported Accommodation and is happy to discuss individual student requirements and the different support packages available.

Individually tailored support can include:

- Daily contact from a member of the team
- Liaison with external agencies when appropriate
- Support during unstructured time
- Access to any activities in the College Student Union

If you want to talk to Alison about how this works, contact Alison on 01334 658839 or email aboyle@elmwood.ac.uk

Ian's lifestory

It was a real privilege to work with Ian on the booklet telling his lifestory, and Ian got a lot of pleasure from the process. We spent many hours with Ian reminiscing and me taking notes, then drafting and redrafting. It also provoked lots of discussions about politics, about humanity and about philanthropy.

Ian was very touched by the gesture of the Network in paying for the booklet to be produced, and thanked me frequently, so it is fitting to share his thanks with you all. I only have a few copies left, but if you didn't receive yours (I sent one to every centre) please let me know.

Thanks are also due to Able2Print at Percy Hedley in Newcastle who turned a few photographs and a Word document into something wonderful. Fitting also that clients from one of the CTEC centres played an important part in the production of the booklet.

Communication and complex needs

Have you seen this booklet? It was commissioned by Mencap in partnership with the Department of Health as part of the programme of work set out in Valuing People Now delivery plan. Communication and people with the most complex needs : what works and why this is essential is available from <http://goo.gl/DJEYE>

The report is designed to be of use to anyone with a commitment to enriching the lives of people with complex needs.

New Intern

We are delighted to welcome to the Karten Network a new intern: Jennifer Carvalho. You may already have heard from Jennifer, as she is updating centre information on the website so has been sending out lots of emails. Jennifer learnt her web design skills on a course at St James' House in London.

So if you have any changes to the centre details please get in touch with Jennifer. And we are always very keen to have news items for the website or for the newsletter, so do send them in. Perhaps one of your service users has an interesting story to tell—we are always keen to hear from anyone connected with the centres. And remember that your website entry can include photos.

To get in touch with Jennifer, email jennifer_lucasc@hotmail.com

YAI Conference, New York

In late 2010 we launched a new Karten Centre at Beaumont College, the Beaumont Digital Arts Centre. At the launch of this new centre Ceri Hibbert asked if Beaumont College might like to jointly present with her at the YAI conference. Our Principal Graeme Pyle volunteered me to attend for Beaumont College.

The YAI (Young Adults Institute) are a charity and service provider to people (they now cover all ages) with a range of disabilities. The service offer of YAI appears to be similar to Scope's (Scope is Beaumont College's parent organisation), in that they serve people across the full age range, operate educational programs, run domiciliary care services, independent living homes and employment services. The YAI and the Karten Trust are working together with the Jordanian 'Higher Council for the Affairs of People with Disabilities', who are in the process of modernising their services for people with disabilities.

The conference was run at the New York Hilton hotel, which was certainly a great venue, located just south of Central Park. The presentation that Ceri and I delivered gave a background on Ian Karten and the Karten Trust, and used Beaumont's two Karten centres as examples of the Trust's work in supporting host organisations to setup accessible IT based training facilities for disabled people. Ceri discussed Ian Karten's early interest in providing scholarships and how he decided to invest in assistive technology after seeing a student working with it successfully. I was able to draw together some of the elements we presented at the launch of our second Karten Centre here at Beaumont College. I showed a number of videos of students at Beaumont working in the Karten Centres, highlighting the college 'blog', the sound and music recording facilities and the visual arts technology such as the 3D scanner and 3D printer. This equipment, when combined with a Grid 2 based interface to 'Google SketchUp' allows students who cannot manipulate clay or other plastic materials to create sculpture via the computer. We noted that the input the Karten Trust provided to Beaumont in 2001 with our first Karten centre came at a key point in the development of Technology at the college: it enabled us to prove the value of such technology and kick started the development of both mainstream and assistive technology at the college, this was demonstrated by the number of successful technology projects that Beaumont has subsequently been involved in. The second Karten centre has allowed us to experiment with the more creative arts based applications of technology as well as allowing us to invest in our core infrastructure for the future. The support the Karten trust has given Beaumont has been invaluable. We also discussed the Karten Network and how this allows diverse organisations to share knowledge as skills between them in powerful ways.



An award winning young service user holding tightly onto Prince Ra'ad

YAI Conference, New York

The rest of the conference was very interesting, and I attended a number of sessions, of particular interest were sessions on working with students who have Autism as well as a very good session on supporting Communication, and how to induct staff appropriately to support communication development. So whilst the conference was in New York, there was not a lot of time to see the city. I did however manage to take a trip on the Staten Island ferry along with Ceri and her husband Geoff. I very much enjoyed the food and hospitality in New York, and did get to see the city from the 'top of the rock' just before flying back.

It was a great opportunity to attend and present at an international conference. I enjoyed the experience, and feel that we were able to give a good account of both the work done by the Karten Trust and Network to support organisations like Beaumont, and to give an overview of Beaumont and the work we do. I had a number of discussions with colleagues at the conference about the provision of communication aids and accessible IT (one of my interest areas) – it would seem that funding is the key issue in both the UK and USA. I was able to describe our Technologist role, which got a lot of interest, see links below for more information.

The YAI were fantastic hosts (particularly Josh Rubin and Tina Sobel), they hosted us for dinner on the second day of the conference, where we met colleagues from Saudi Arabia, Pakistan and Jordan, including His Royal Highness Prince Ra'ad Bin Zeid who is the president of the Jordanian Higher Council for the affairs of People with disabilities. Prince Ra'ad had been presented with a special award for services to disabled people at the plenary session of the conference

I made contact with a number of international colleagues and it was a great opportunity to discuss what issues are common to the UK and other countries. It was particularly interesting to hear about the work that the Karten Trust is engaged with in the Middle East, mainly in Israel and Jordan. I can only thank the Karten Trust and the YAI for inviting me to present on behalf of the Karten Trust and Beaumont College.

Useful links:

YAI website: <http://www.yai.org/>

YAI conference: <http://www.yai.org/about/newsroom/press-releases/yai-network-welcomes-the.html>

Technologist Role: <http://dart.beaumontcollege.ac.uk/> and <http://www.beaumontcollege.ac.uk/isis/TechnologistCaseStudy.m4v> (video prepared as a case study on the Technologist role for LSIS)

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Always happy to publicise the work of Karten CTEC Centres! Do you want to market to the Karten Network? Contact ceri@karten-network.org.uk

ESDA CTEC OPENING

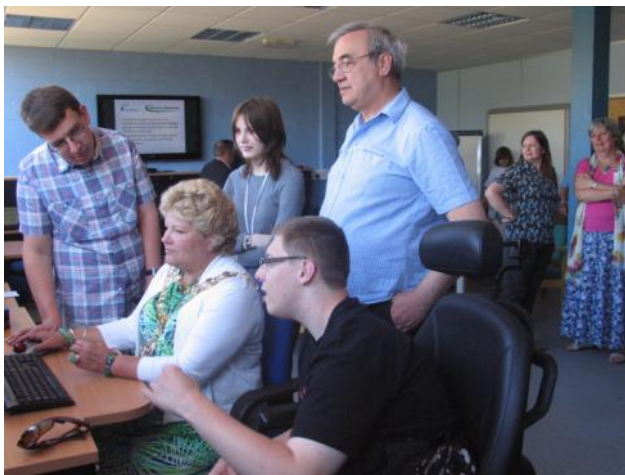
On Friday 3rd June East Sussex Disability Association welcomed Mayor Carolyn Heaps and Stephen Lloyd MP to open the ESDA Karten Centre at its offices in Eastbourne. Chairman Tony Powell greeted the Mayor along with ESDA President Lady Lloyd of Berwick, Vice President Noel Thompson and Directors from ESDA's Board and CEO Nick Tapp.

The ESDA Karten Centre is a fully functional Centre enabling local disabled people to receive training and /or use the Centre as a resource.

The ESDA Karten Team of volunteers provide one to one support in a relaxed and friendly atmosphere. Programmes can be tailored to provide an Introduction to Computing and Computing for Daily Living with aims towards the development and improvement of communication, social and life skills.

After the official opening Mayor Carolyn Heaps met with the Karten Team before presenting certificates to ESDA's volunteers in recognition of Volunteers Week 2011 before enjoying a barbecue with meat kindly donated by Meads Village Butchers.

Access to ESDA Karten Centre Training is FREE. For more information please call 01323 514531.



Karten Team members Sean Clarke, Maria Jeremy, George Chapman, Ben Goacher and Mayor Carolyn Heaps

CONTACT US

Need to contact us?

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Please send any articles for the newsletter or website to Ceri at any time