

# contAACT

ISSUE 5, SUMMER 2011



## 2011 The National Year of Communication

The 'Hello' campaign, led by the Communication Trust, aims to promote The National Year of Communication in the UK. The aim of the 'Hello' campaign is to increase understanding of how important it is for children and young people to develop good communication skills. For further information about the campaign, visit the Hello website at <http://www.hello.org.uk>



A different speech, language or communication need is highlighted each month. In particular, look out for the AAC focus in October, when the theme will be 'More than Words' to tie in with ISAAC International AAC Awareness month. See [www.aacawareness.org](http://www.aacawareness.org)

To support this campaign, people from all over the UK are organising and supporting a range of great events to raise awareness of AAC for adults, children and young people.

During May and June there is a 'Wave' of activities planned across the UK See <http://www.communicationmatters.org.uk/page/diary/aac-events-year> to find out about what's on.

There are several events planned for when the wave hits Scotland this month!

At Georgetown Community Centre in Dumfries (20th June) The 'Communication Friends Group' are having a 'Say Cheese' event, involving special photos, speech bubbles on 'What my Talker Means To Me' and an interview with a DJ.



At Hazlewood School in Aberdeen (21st June), there will be a party combining friends from a Talker Group and a Signing Group. There will be games, nice eats and a 'celebrity' guest to give out the City and Guild AAC Awards.



At Camelon Sensory Centre in Falkirk an 'AAC Beach Party' will be taking place over the Summer holidays! There will be a cocktail making competition, seaside quiz and sizzling sensory story to get people together for fun in the sun (or rain).

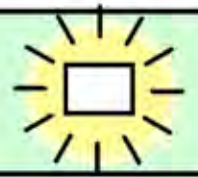
If you are planning an AAC event, at any time of the year, we would love to hear about it. Email us at [enquiries@acipscotland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@acipscotland.org.uk) to tell us about it.

## AAC Project Awards for People who use AAC



If you would like to apply to help fund an activity or project you can get information and a downloadable application form from <http://www.acipscotland.org.uk/projectawards.html> or email/phone your own AAC service (see p6 for contact details).

# What's New?



## iAdaptor

The iAdaptor is a rubberised case with built-in speakers which protects and amplifies your iPad. It has a handle, shoulder strap and table stand and also a 'slide cover' to hide the home button and help stop apps being closed while in use. The iAdaptor could also be wheelchair mounted. The amplifier has a rechargeable lithium-polymer battery, charged via USB charger and cable and provides 10 hours of run time. This does not charge the iPad at the same time.

It costs £160 and will only work with the original iPad. The iAdaptor for iPad 2 will be available in July and will cost £215. Find out more at <http://www.inclusive.co.uk/iadapter-for-ipad-p5174>



## iMaingo for iPad



**X** Many of you will already know about the iMaingo speaker case for the iPod Touch and iPhone. This is a portable protective speaker case which gives fantastic digital sound quality. The new iMaingo X model (£59.99 from <http://www.amazon.co.uk>) now has a rechargeable lithium ion battery and can be switched on and off from the outside of the case, helping to conserve battery life.

The company have confirmed that iMaingo for the iPad is to be released in early June and will be available in the UK soon after. This is exciting news and will provide another option for protecting and amplifying the sound on the iPad, particularly for those using apps for AAC. Keep an eye on <http://www.imaingo.com> to find out more!



## New Male Scottish voice

The Scottish Government has awarded funding for CALL Scotland to work with Cereproc to develop a male Scottish voice: 'A brother for Heather.' The funding will also pay for a license for the public sector in Scotland, so that the voice can be used by school-aged pupils, further and higher education students, workers in the public sector and NHS patients. The voice will be used by people who use AAC, for reading digital exam papers, for use with *WordTalk* and for reading digital books.

Following a vote on the 6 voice samples by pupils, parents, SLTs, students, teachers and FE staff; the winning voice was 'SPA.' He will now be going into the studio to record about 30 hours worth of material to get the voice right. If we want the voice to speak properly we need to give the actor a list of tricky Scottish words, so that they are pronounced correctly. Do you have any suggestions? If so please go to <http://www.thescottishvoice.org.uk/Teach-Heather/> and add them to the list. This will update Heather as well as helping to make the Scottish male voice sound great!

To hear a sample of the winning voice go to <http://www.callscotland.org.uk/tinyurl/?item=brother>



WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE US TO FOCUS ON NEXT ISSUE? EMAIL US AT [enquiries@acipscotland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@acipscotland.org.uk) TO TELL US!

# An Update From...

## AAC Project Update from Alison Gray, Scottish Government

The AAC Project is a short term project funded by the Scottish Government following the work of a short life working group that many of you contributed to and some of you were part of.



The outcome of the project will be a guidance document for Health, Social Work and Education. It will provide a point of reference for all individuals regarding what they can expect from providers in terms of equipment and support for AAC.

The short life working group gathered information from many of you regarding what you would like to see from services and this included:

- (1) equipment provided without un-necessary delay,
- (2) early intervention with accessible assessment and support of AAC needs, and,
- (3) an understanding of AAC within the wider community. The guidance is attempting to address these three areas.



I am a Speech and Language Therapist and have been working in the field of Augmentative and Alternative Communication for more than 20 years.

Since taking on this role I have been meeting with specialists within the field of AAC, speaking to people who use AAC and their families, meeting managers within Health, Social Work, Education and the Voluntary sector as well as speaking to various policy managers within the Scottish Government itself. I am developing guidance that supports the areas identified above as well as being consistent with existing legislation and policies across all of the statutory agencies.



The guidance document will include examples of good practise to highlight what can and should be achieved by all services and will be out by the end of August.



If you have story to tell that I could include in the guidance to illustrate how services have been delivered and are willing to share this please get in touch. You can email me directly on [Alison.Gray@scotland.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:Alison.Gray@scotland.gsi.gov.uk).

# Places We Like

Fife by Sylvia Grant



A couple of places that I like going to in Fife are the Rothes Halls in Glenrothes and Deep Sea World in North Queensferry.



I find both are quite easy to get around in my wheelchair and both places have good spacious disabled toilets. They both have plenty of disabled car parking.

The Rothes Halls theatre has a small cafe which is open during the day and I sometimes like to go to it for my lunch. They have a good range of food whether you want a meal or just a snack.



I think there's a good variety of shows for all ages and there is plenty of spaces for wheelchairs in the theatre. There's a lift to take you up to the gallery, which takes a wheelchair. But you can't see a little part of the stage in some of the wheelchair spaces in the gallery for pillars so I prefer sitting right in front of the stalls then I can see what's all happening on the stage, There is good information about all their facilities for disabled people on their web site.

All the displays and attractions at Deep Sea World are very accessible by wheelchair. There are quite a lot of ramps to go down to the underwater tunnel but I think it's worth the effort to go down to the tunnel, because it is just amazing to see all the fish swimming above your head.



The cafe there is also accessible and you can buy home-made cakes there, which are lovely.

It's a very interesting and enjoyable day out at Deep Sea World, so I hope this might make you want to go there.



*If you want to tell us about 'Places You Like' please email us at [enquiries@acipscotland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@acipscotland.org.uk)*

# News and Views



## Talk by Jill Clark

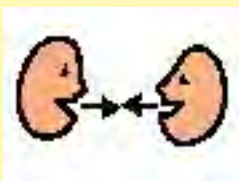
I feel speech is very important because I have been through a period when I couldn't talk. When my talker breaks down I hate it. People who know me very well understand what I am saying but it isn't the same. When my talker breaks down some people say that they know how I feel but how could they when they have never been without speech.

It is hard talking a bit different sometimes. Sometimes people ignore me, don't give me time to talk or don't let me finish my sentences. Some people look at my talker when I am talking and I don't mind when people haven't seen a talker before but really it isn't the talker who is talking it is me so I prefer people to face me when I am talking to them.



I wonder if people think it is different talking to me than talking to a person who has speech. I know I take time to say what I want but I get my point across the same as everyone else. I want people to see me as a normal person not someone who cannot talk and needs something to help them. I know my family and my friends see me as a normal person but I just wonder.

I hate when people ask the person who is with me about me because I can talk for myself, or when people talk for me, or judge other people by just looking at them. If someone doesn't have speech or a Communication device how do people know that they don't understand things and haven't anything to say.



Everyone has the right to talk. I have met a few people who cannot talk and have never seen a Communication device. I have been using a talker since a young age and I have been learning since then how to communicate. I think everyone who isn't able to talk should have a Communication device. Most people learn to talk when they are 1 or 2 but some people who cannot talk need to wait for years to have technology to help.

# AAC on the Web



**Facebook** - If you are already on Facebook, you might want to become a 'friend' of AAC Scotland. It's hosted by CALL Scotland and news about upcoming Scottish AAC events is posted as well as your views asked for on HOT! AAC topics e.g. the Male Scottish Voice. However, it is mainly for people who use AAC to have a way of being in contact with each other. Search for '[callscotland@ed.ac.uk](mailto:callscotland@ed.ac.uk)' via 'find friends' and get in touch!

**Communication Matters AAC Forum** - Use the AAC Forum to voice your views or read other people's thoughts on important AAC topics. You can also search each forum for keywords & topics. You subscribe by sending an email and you will then receive one back asking you to confirm your subscription to the AAC Forum. After you have confirmed, you will receive all postings to the AAC Forum. Go to <http://www.communicationmatters.org.uk/page/resources/online-forums> to get involved.

**Speech Bubble** - <http://www.speechbubble.org.uk> This website, created by the ACE Centre, gives you information on nearly every communication aid available in the UK and is also searchable. You can search by name of the device, a special feature you are looking for or compare different communication aids. You can also find out about AAC software, vocabularies and supplier information. Well worth checking out!

# In the Diary



**Summer 2011** - Communication Wave hits Scotland

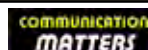
**20th June** - Say Cheese, GeorgeTown Community Centre, Dumfries

**21st June** - AAC Awards Party, Hazlewood School, Aberdeen

**School Holidays** - AAC Beach Party, Camelon Sensory Centre, Falkirk



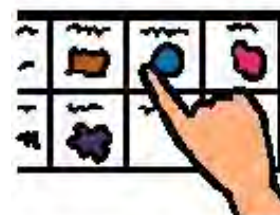
**25-27 September 2011** - Communication Matters National Symposium



This is the UK's leading annual AAC event, with a diverse programme of presentations, workshops and an exhibition, held over two and a half days. It is a great way to find out about what's happening in the world of AAC here in the UK. Communication Matters encourages and supports people who use AAC to attend. You can register for the Symposium here: <http://www.communicationmatters.org.uk/page/conference-registration>

**Autumn 2011 Look out for** - Day for People who use AAC

An event is being organised by Augmentative Communication in Practise: Scotland to tie in with the National Year of Communication and International AAC Awareness Month. Keep an eye on the website [www.acipscotland.org.uk](http://www.acipscotland.org.uk) to find out more.



**ContAACt Issue 6 will be out Winter 2011!**

## Your Local ACiP:S Contact

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