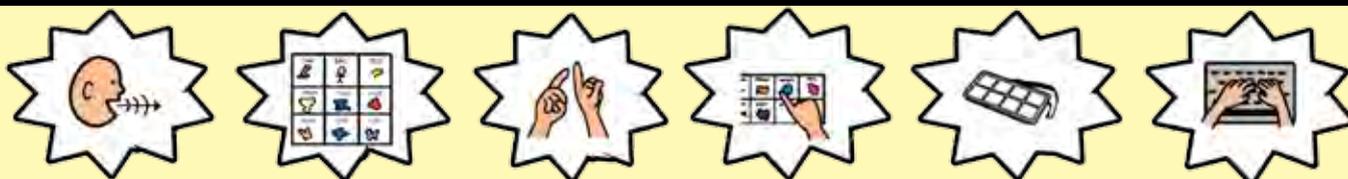


# contAACT

ISSUE 4, AUTUMN 2010



## Communication Matters National Symposium

The UK's leading annual AAC event took place from the 26-28th of September in Leicester.

There were many excellent presentations and opportunities for people who use AAC to have their voices heard and give their opinions.

Handouts for a number of the presentations are available on the website <http://www.callscotland.org.uk/tinyurl?item=CMHandouts> In particular, look out for 'What do users really want from communication aids?' the results of a research project. You may have taken part in this earlier in the year by questionnaire.



## The International AAC Conference (ISAAC)

also took place this Summer, from the 24th to the 29th of July, in Barcelona, northern Spain. This is a huge event which is held every two years and is a great opportunity to meet people from all over the world. Two of our ContAACT readers Darryal Stark and Barry Smith represented Scotland and presented at the conference. Find out about Barry's Barcelona experience on p3.



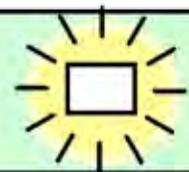
## AAC Project Awards for People who use AAC



A group of young people in Aberdeen have received a Project Award to help them stage a pantomime in November 2011. It is for actors, AAC and non-AAC users and will have lots of audience participation (oh yes it will!) There will also be a post-show party with audience members, policy makers, fund holders and families all invited.

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?



## The GoTalk Express 32



The *Express 32* is the latest device in the Go Talk range. It is lightweight, portable and comes with removable 'legs' for it to stand angled on a table. The 'Express' feature means you can link together parts of a message and then speak or 'play' the whole message in sequence when you're ready. You can also save some messages.

As well as direct access, it also has a variety of scanning options, including linear, row/column, step and two switch scanning settings for switch users. It has the option of recorded auditory prompts for those with visual difficulties and gives nice bright visual feedback round the buttons. At around £359 it could be a popular device! Find out more at <http://www.callscotland.org.uk/tinyurl?item=Express32>.

## Tobii S32

The Tobii S32 is another pre-recorded device that comes in either Touch or Scan models. It comes with a selection of keyguards and has the option of auditory prompts. It has a large recording time of over 60 hours, on 192 levels. This means you can save words, phrases, stories, or entire music CDs. The recordings are stored on overlay 'cards,' which you can change over, so there is no need for re-recording. It has very clear sound quality and can also be used for environmental control. A more expensive but very flexible device. Find out more at <http://www.callscotland.org.uk/tinyurl?item=S32>.



## A Most Curious Detour



Stuart Hepburn, from Edinburgh, has recently finished writing a book, *A Most Curious Detour*, which describes his experience of becoming disabled as a result of a stroke in 2005. The stroke left him paralysed and unable to communicate. The book describes how the stroke affected his life and his experiences with the medical system in Scotland. He also reflects on his past life as a business consultant and describes some of the dreams he has while in hospital. The book is a Scottish answer to Jean Dominique Bauby's *The Diving Bell and the Butterfly* and is recommended reading for anybody wanting to find out more about the impact of an acquired disability on a person's life. Stuart now uses a Lightwriter communication aid. The book can be purchased on the Lulu web site at <http://www.lulu.com>. It is now also available on Amazon at <http://www.amazon.co.uk>. All profits go to charity.



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!

# Barry's Barcelona Experience

My name is Barry Smith and I am 31 years old. I have cerebral palsy and Lightwriter. I have attended Communication Matters twice to give presentations on my experiences as an AAC user.

Last year, I decided my next goal was to attend ISAAC in Barcelona, so submitted an abstract. I was accepted to give a talk, then began looking into the cost of attending, with my two support workers, I got a bit of a shock! Flights, hotels, registration, food - it all added up. Linda, my speech and language therapist, and I then looked into who could sponsor my attendance and I was lucky enough to be supported by Toby Churchill Ltd and by Augmentative Communication in Practice (Scotland).



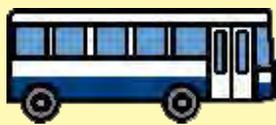
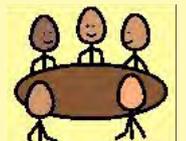
Even once the funding was sorted out, there was still lots to do. Planning and booking travel and accommodation and also my talk to write and programme into my Lightwriter! July soon came round and I and two of my support workers got a cab from my house to Glasgow airport. We then got a flight to London then we transferred onto a flight to Barcelona. More or less immediately we arrived in Barcelona, we noticed how good the access is for disable people to get around.



On the Saturday morning I took part in two workshops. This music workshop was leading up to the Monday morning opening of the conference where the band we formed was to play. In the band I play the keyboard. The band came together and a friendship was formed between the band members.

The next morning was the opening of the main conference. It was great to hear the band come together no matter what people could or couldn't do. What was also nice about it was how people come from all parts of the world to attend this conference. What I felt was good, was how all the AAC users try to support one another.

There were so many talks I enjoyed. I was particularly interested in a talk about support groups for AAC users in England which run with support from AAC users who are over 18.



When I did my talk I got a lot of good feed back, which I was happy about. After my talk I needed a bit of a break so we went on a few buses to let us see Barcelona. Wheelchair access on the buses I travelled on in Barcelona is great. The bus ramps come out of the buses.

The last workshop I went to was called, "What Dance Means" and to me, it was the best. Near the end of it the people who were running the session asked everybody to do what they could - some could come out of their wheelchair to move or dance, some moved any part of their body to the music. So me being me I got out of my chair and danced! I personally felt it was a nice way to end.



As well as my own talk and all the workshops and talks I attended, there was a fun side. On the Sunday evening Toby Churchill Ltd had a get together for people, who use lightwriters, which I felt was nice. I also attended the conference dinner, which was a great night for everybody.

I would like to thank Toby Churchill and ACiP Scotland giving me the opportunity to attend - it was a great experience.

# Places We Like



## The Speak Out Group

The Speak Out Group is a group of communication aid users from Dundee and the surrounding areas. We meet monthly at the Discovery Quay restaurant in Dundee. The staff at the Discovery Quay are very helpful and do not object to us rearranging the furniture to suit our meeting! They also make it very easy for us to order our drinks at the bar using our communication aids.

Over the last year we have had a different speaker come to each meeting to tell us about a service available in the area. This has included the Employment Support Team, Dundee College and Independent Advocacy. We have also visited University of Dundee on a number of occasions to give our opinions on communication aid projects being carried out by students. We usually know about the speakers in advance so we are able to put questions and comments on our communication aids.

We have been gathering photos at each meeting so our next project is to make a Speak Out calendar. There is also our Christmas party to arrange!



This is me at the Abertay Disco in the Abertay Union on Bell Street. It is a great place to go to meet my friends. The music is a mix of different kinds

of music. It's modern and funky. I enjoy dancing there - a great place to go! Dancing is fun. The students' union is wheelchair accessible and the disco is once a month - Helena

Hi my name is Karen. I love going to the Whitehall Theatre, they put on some great shows. The theatre has three spaces either side of the front row for wheelchair users. Disabled toilets also have very good access. The shows range from Oliver, Elvis look alike, The Lady Boys of Bangkok and Abba to name only a few - Karen



I like to go ice skating at Camperdown Ice Arena. I've gone there for a few years. I know a lot of people there. I go when I am taking a break from my other activities. I like to skate very fast - I have been told to slow down a few times! - Joel



I also enjoy wheelchair ice skating at the Camperdown Ice Arena. I go there on a Tuesday night. This is me last Christmas at our Speak out Christmas party. We meet at Discovery Quay in Dundee once a month - Arthur



Hi my name is Teresa and I love to shop! The Overgate Shopping Centre in Dundee is a great place to shop. It is good to have all the shops under one roof. There are lots of places to take a break and for a coffee! Teresa

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

# News and Views



## Let's Meet Charlotte

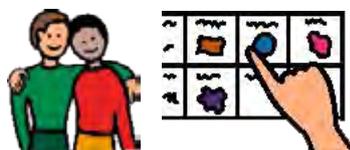


Charlotte is 18 years old and comes from Glasgow. She loves going on You Tube to watch her favourite videos, like the Jonas Brothers!

Charlotte enjoys keeping touch on 'Facebook' and she and her friend Bernie Hunter are friends of our 'AAC Scotland' page (see AAC on the Web for how to join up). Charlotte left Ashcraig School last Summer and is now studying a LifeSkills course at Clydebank College and enjoying student life!



## New! Communication Friends Group



The first 'Communication Friends' AAC Peer Group took place in Dumfries and Galloway on the 20th October 2010.

Everyone enjoyed making new friends and using their communication aids.

There were Halloween games, fun switch activities and Witch's Potion smoothie making on the day. The group hope to make this a regular regional event-great stuff!



# AAC on the Web



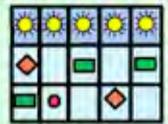
**FaceBook** - If you are already on Facebook, you might want to become a 'friend' of AAC Scotland. It's hosted at CALL Scotland and AAC news is posted from time to time, but it's mainly for people who use AAC to have a way of being in contact with others. Search for '[callscotland@ed.ac.uk](mailto:callscotland@ed.ac.uk)' via 'find friends'. It would be nice to have more friends!

Also, October was International AAC Month. To celebrate, ISAAC has set up a Facebook page with lots of input from people who use AAC and their families and friends, all sharing information. Search for 'International AAC Month' and click on the 'ISAAC' logo.

**Everyone Communicates** - Here you will find a collection of links to web sites where people who use AAC talk about their lives and experiences. Have a look at <http://www.everyonecommunicates.org> and click on 'Personal Stories'.

**YouTube** - There are loads of videos on <http://www.Youtube.com> nowadays of people who use AAC. Just search for 'AAC', or 'augmentative communication'. American Teen Idol, Selena Gomez, used a DynaVox V in a recent interview because she had lost her voice, great for raising the profile of AAC and making it look 'cool' to use a communication aid. Check it out - [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzs\\_OkBAfbc](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qzs_OkBAfbc) - or search for 'Selena Gomez Lopez Tonight'.

# In the Diary



## 30th November-2nd December 2010 - Communication Matters Roadshows

COMMUNICATION  
MATTERS

CM Road Shows are FREE one day events which take place in three different venues. Communication aid suppliers will exhibit and demo their products on 30th November - Glasgow, 1st December - Dunfermline, 2nd December - Inverness (check this one is still running nearer the time). Do you know someone who would like to come along and learn all about the latest communication aids and low-tech equipment? Book a free place here: <http://www.callscotland.org.uk/tinyurl?item=booking>

## January 2011 - Chatterbox Day at Motherwell College

Held at Motherwell College twice a year, this is a fun day for AAC Users to take part in group activities and get the chance to meet up and make new friends! The last day in June 2010 had the theme of 'The World Cup' and there were chances to win prizes and try World Cup snacks before heading off to watch the first match!



The date is yet to be confirmed for the next fun packed session. If you'd like to know more email Morveen at [murguhart@motherwell.co.uk](mailto:murguhart@motherwell.co.uk) or contact us at [enquiries@acipsctland.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@acipsctland.org.uk)

## 26th of March 2011 - Family Fun Technology Day

Organised by Augmentative Communication in Practice: Scotland and held in Edinburgh at the CALL Scotland base in Holyrood Road (Moray House). This is a fun day for children who use AAC and their families. It's a drop in/stay all day event where you can try out switches, toys, computers, software and communication aids. You can also ride the Smart Wheelchair! It should be both informative and a good fun get-together!



It's FREE and refreshments and lunch will be provided.

Book your place at <http://www.callscotland.org.uk/Family-Fun-Day> from 1st December 2010.

**ContAACT Issue 5 will be out Spring 2011!**

# Your Local ACiP:S Contact

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