

NYSTAGMUS NETWORK (UK) NETLETTER February 2005

Contestants required for the BBC's Weakest Link

The producers of the programme are keen to include people with disabilities in the forthcoming series. They have asked us to pass this information to our members. If you would like to be auditioned for the programme or have any questions about access to the show itself please contact James Medhurst james.medhurst@bbc.co.uk or telephone him on 020 8225 9747.

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Do you live in Kent?

John Berry, a man in his 40's living in Kent who has nystagmus, would like to contact others in the area with the condition to exchange experiences and learn more. Please email him at JBerry@treasury-solicitor.gsi.gov.uk if you can help.

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LISTEN ONLINE

www.viponair.com and www.acbradio.org are online radio stations you can listen to on your PC, whether you have dial-up or broadband.

VIP ON AIR broadcasts four hours of news and features for blind and partially sighted people live from Glasgow daily between 1200 and 1600. The programmes are repeated for the rest of the day and many are archived. To listen, just go to the www.viponair.com website and click the listen button.

www.acbradio.org is a global online radio station with visitors from over 70 countries. Again it specialises in news for visually impaired people.

If you haven't listened to radio on your PC before, don't worry, it is very easy. Most PCs are supplied with software (such as Real Player, Winamp and the Windows Media Player) for listening to

radio, which usually fire up as soon as you click on one of the listen buttons on a station website.

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RNIB Vision 2005

The world's largest conference on issues concerning people with sight problems will be hosted by RNIB in London from 4–7 April 2005. You can see full details of the programme at www.rnib.org.uk/vision2005.

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SOUTHAMPTON RESEARCH

Where: Southampton, UK

When: Until April 2005. One visit only.

Who: Anyone over 16 with Congenital Idiopathic Nystagmus.

What: Two hours of eye measurements (nothing painful).

Why: To find out if there is a relationship between the amount of nystagmus and the quality of vision.

Travel expenses: No

The research is being carried out by Claire Critchley who works in the Electrodiagnostic department in Southampton Eye Unit. Claire is an Orthoptic Clinical Specialist, studying for an MSc in Orthoptics.

No medication is involved and there are no side effects. The first test measures the quality of the signal from the eye to the brain by placing five buttons on your head and asking you to watch a chequer board on a television. The signals from the retina are then tested by showing you some flashing white and coloured lights with two sticky buttons on the cheek below each eye. After this you will be asked to read a letter chart and finally we will measure your nystagmus by asking you to watch and follow a target projected onto a screen with the buttons still on your head.

Contact Claire for further Information on 023 8079 8615 or email claire.critchley@suht.swest.nhs.uk.

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MP supports accessible web design

Tom Brake, MP showed his support for the RNIB's campaign for accessible web design by tabling an Early Day Motion (EDM) canvassing support for web accessibility across Parliament.

RNIB and Internet consultancy Net Progress are asking you to send a letter to your MP asking him or her to lend their support by signing the EDM and by writing to the appropriate Department of Trade and Industry Minister.

Visit the campaign web site at <http://www.rnib.org.uk/digital>.

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Large piece jigsaws to buy or borrow

Buy from PSS. PO Box 322, Doncaster DN1 2XA (four designs, each 500 pieces).

Borrow from British Jigsaw Puzzle Library (Telephone 01227 747222)

<http://www.britishjigsawpuzzledlibrary.co.uk>

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Contributions

Please send contributions, ideas or links for the NetLetter to Gill Taylor at gill@taylors.uk.com

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