

NYSTAGMUS NETWORK (UK) NETLETTER May 2005

Open Day

Plans for this year's Open Day at Queen Alexandra College are almost complete and it looks as if it will be a very busy time.

Please note that you can register from 10.15 rather than the 10.30 stated on the website.

If you have any questions about the day please get in touch with me by phone or email 01636 627004 info@nystagmusnet.org

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Beware Laser Claims

We've had several enquiries recently about laser surgery and nystagmus. As far as we're aware, laser surgery DOES NOT reduce nystagmus. In fact, we don't know of anyone who claims to be able to treat nystagmus with laser surgery.

In simple terms, what laser surgery can do is fix problems like short sightedness and long sightedness, so that people who normally wear spectacles and contact lenses don't need to wear them anymore.

So if you have nystagmus and you're also long sighted or short sighted, you may have the long sightedness or short sightedness treated by laser surgery. BUT all the evidence we have suggests that your vision is unlikely to be any better than it was previously with glasses or contact lenses.

If your experience is different, then do please contact us.

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Fundraising to the Fore!

It's always nice to report good news. Our new Weather Lottery has already had not one winner, not even two, but three! The lottery is great fun, easy to play and each player makes a donation to Nystagmus Network. For more details, please see the Fundraising section of the website.

Summer is nearly with us, even if you might not think so just by looking out of the window! Over the next few months, you have the ideal opportunity to raise money for NN! Using your garden, you could hold any of a huge range of events, most of which would be easy to organise. The Fundraising area of the site is full of ideas, so you really have no excuses! Good luck!

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FOCUS ON CD

Our quarterly magazine, Focus, is now available on CD in either audio or text format. The CD does not need to be returned after use. Anyone who would like to receive Focus on CD rather than on paper should contact Andy Machin on 01984 632905 or ac.machin@ntlworld.com.

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Student's success in South Africa

A blind University of KwaZulu-Natal student who graduated cum-laude with a Bachelor of Arts degree in multi-lingual studies last night, attributed her success to remaining focused and optimistic, despite being visually impaired.

Tunusha Naidu, 22, of Hull Valley, Umkomaas, fluent in both French and isiZulu, is completing her honours and lecturing to first year students at the university.

Naidu, who matriculated at the Open Air School in Umbilo, in 2000, told Post she was born with a rare eye condition called nystagmus - which causes the eye to shake and not focus properly.

Said Naidu: "Being visually impaired was never a problem for me. I always excelled at school and maintained a healthy social life. My condition is not an illness and I have never dwelt on it or felt sorry for myself."

Read the full article at

<http://www.thepost.co.za/index.php?fSectionId=154&fArticleId=2488395>

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Fledglings

Fledglings is a not-for-profit organisation which helps parents and carers of children with special needs of any kind to find simple, affordable solutions to practical problems. The organisation, which is operated by a small, largely volunteer workforce, offers a free search service to families to locate a range of helpful products including toys and developmental aids.

Fledglings has always had the interests of children with visual impairment in mind when searching for special toys. A small range of tactile and visually stimulating items are always in stock. To view some of these items look at the Newsletters on our website www.fledglings.org.uk or telephone Ruth at Fledglings on 0845 458 1124 to discuss your individual needs.

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The following information was taken from e-access bulletin, a free monthly e-mail newsletter. For further information and to subscribe, please go to:
<http://www.headstar.com/eab>.

Research Request: "I am currently studying for a Masters degree in Internet Systems Development, and have chosen the area of web site accessibility as the subject for my dissertation. I have developed a simple tool that enables users to change the appearance of a web page by clicking a link, but would be very interested in some of the difficulties that people with visual impairments experience when using the internet.

"I would like to get some feedback on what I have produced already to develop the tool further. It can be accessed via the following link:
<http://www.adsandtaz.com/dynamiccss/csstest.aspx> . Clicking on the links in the top-right corner of the screen will alter the appearance of the page, without changing any of the page's content.

"There are certainly areas that could be improved and I would welcome any comments on how this could be achieved. I look forward to hearing from you." Please email adam@adsandtaz.com if you are able to help Adam.

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Contributions

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