

NYSTAGMUS NETWORK (UK) NETLETTER
September 2005

The nystagmus research workshop, Abingdon, Sept 1-3, 2005

(a longer version of this article will appear in our September newsletter)

Thirty experts from four countries giving 18 talks over three days. It took two years to organise, but the first ever nystagmus research workshop was worth it. Bringing so many doctors, scientists and other experts together in one room to talk about nystagmus really produced results. It sparked fresh thinking, inspired plans for new research and sowed the seeds for future international collaboration.

The workshop presentations confirmed what we've suspected for a long time, namely that nystagmus and its causes are complex, very complex. There are no quick fixes, but advances are gradually being made in understanding the basic mechanics of nystagmus.

Several researchers commented on the willingness of our members to volunteer as research subjects. That makes an enormous difference to the nystagmus research carried out in the UK. Following the workshop, research activity is likely to increase, so your support will be just as important in future.

Judging the success of such an ambitious event so soon after it has finished may be tempting fate. But we were very encouraged by what we saw and heard. Perhaps most promising of all, the delegates themselves said the workshop was extremely valuable and agreed that another one should be held in three or four years.

We'll keep you posted on that and other developments resulting from the workshop. The December issue of our Focus newsletter (which is sent to all NN members) will contain an article about bioptics and driving written by one of the workshop delegates.

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ANY QUESTIONS?

Chris Harris and colleagues are updating our Early Onset Nystagmus book. Please email info@nystagmusnet.org with any questions about nystagmus you would like answered in the book.

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Helpful information for visually impaired who want to start their own business

Here are two useful addresses for visually impaired people wishing to start their own business,

[Visually Impaired and Self Employed Mailing List.](#)
ukvisesubscribe@yahoogroups.com

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Want a simple mobile?

If you are looking for a user friendly, no frills, readable mobile phone with a clear text window and large buttons, then the "Vodafone Simply" might be what you want www.vodafone.co.uk/simply

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Activities at the V&A

There is a varied programme of events for visually impaired visitors at the V&A from Oct. to December this year, including an opportunity to photograph museum objects and print onto T shirts . If you would like the programme sent to you by email, contact disability@vam.ac.uk

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Thomas Pocklington Trust is the UK's leading provider of housing care and support services for people with sight loss.

We currently have flats available at our supported housing centre in Roehampton in S W London. All flats are fully self-contained, and the centre offers a range of on-site support via a team of trained staff who are on-site 24 hours a day.

Enquiries are welcome from, or on behalf of any visually impaired person regardless of present location.

For further information and an application pack please telephone 020 8789 1893 or e-mail: sueh@pocklington-trust.org.uk.

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World Sight Day

A service to celebrate World Sight Day and the 200th anniversary of the Norfolk and Norwich Association for the Blind is being held at 2.30pm on 13th October in Norwich Cathedral. It is being organised by the Royal College of Ophthalmologists and the Norfolk and Norwich Association for the Blind.

For further information and to apply for tickets, please contact:

Sara Felton: tel. 020 7935 0702 ext 203; e-mail sara.felton@rcophth.ac.uk or Elizabeth McIntyre: tel. 01603 629558; e-mail elizabethmcintyre@nnab.co.uk.

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The following information was taken from e-access bulletin, To subscribe to this free monthly bulletin: email eab-subscribers@headstar.com with 'subscribe eab' in the subject header. For further information, go to <http://www.headstar.com/eab>.

Major New International Conference

14 September 2005, CBI Conference Centre, London. <http://www.headstar-events.com/eaccess05/>

E-Access'05 is a new major national exhibition and conference focusing on how digital technology can enrich the lives of people with disabilities. The event will promote the delivery of more inclusive public and commercial services.

For more information and to register see: <http://www.headstar-events.com/eaccess05/> .

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New audible version of Monopoly now available

A new audible version of the famous board game Monopoly has been launched by the accessible games site Kitchen's Inc. Players can compete against the computer or invite up to five others to play: <http://www.kitchensinc.net> .

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Contributions

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