

Welcome to the Cochlear Implant Winter 2023 Newsletter!

Issue 5.
Winter 2023

Nadolig Llawn Pawb/ Happy Christmas Everyone!

We hope you are all looking forward to the festive season. There will be a slight change to our opening hours due to the Christmas Bank Holidays. The department will be closed on the following dates:

- Monday 25th December
- Tuesday 26th December
- Monday 1st January



As per usual, all other weekdays will operate normally.

Welcome!

We have recently welcomed three new members of staff to the North Wales Auditory Implant team. Alysia Dyke has completed her studies and takes up a permanent role in clinical audiology, specialising in Adult Rehabilitation and Cochlear Implants.

We are also delighted to welcome Dr Caitriona Hughes and Mr James Howard. Dr Hughes is new to North Wales having worked in England previously, she joins the team as our new Consultant Clinical Psychologist. Mr Howard, Ear Nose & Throat Consultant, underwent specialist training in Wales before returning to a permanent post in Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board from a fellowship in Sydney.



Alysia Dyke



Dr Caitriona
Hughes



Mr James
Howard

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Wrexham Cochlear Implant User Group - 21st Celebration!

The North Wales Auditory Implant Team are very lucky to have well-established support groups for potential and current cochlear implant users. The team regularly signpost patients who are being assessed for a cochlear implant to these groups as a great way to meet other people with a cochlear implant. One of these groups is the Wrexham Cochlear Implant User Group which has been a valuable resource for many potential and current cochlear implant users in the Wrexham area for the last 21 years. On the 4th October 2023, we took the opportunity to celebrate this fantastic milestone by throwing a celebratory event for the group.

Wrexham Cochlear Implant User Group- 21st Celebration!



The group was founded by two of its current members, Joanne Austin and Marilyn Jones, both volunteers who have worked tirelessly over the years to keep the group going. It continues to be very well attended by both potential cochlear implant users, existing cochlear implant users and their family members. The group is a great support for all involved. It provides patients with a support network, a friendly group setting that is a great opportunity to ask questions and share experience of their journey.

Many of the patients who have attended as a patient considering a cochlear implant have continued to attend many years following having their cochlear implant. The COVID pandemic did put a stop to this group but it was so great to see it restarting again and we wish to thank the volunteers for their work in getting the group together again.



From Left to Right – Elaine Beavan, Speech & Language Therapist at North Wales Auditory Implant Programme; Joanne Austin, Cochlear Implant User and founder of the group; Marilyn Jones, Cochlear Implant User and founder of the group; Jenny Townsend, Co-ordinator at North Wales Auditory Implant Programme; Linor Jones, Clinical Lead at North Wales Auditory Implant Programme

Over the years the group has had multiple different venues but is currently held at the Wynnstay Arms in Wrexham where attendees are able to purchase refreshments or even a spot of lunch during or after the meeting.

For the celebration we contacted many of the patients who we knew had attended the group over the years and it was lovely to see many familiar faces in attendance. We celebrated with cake and gifted Joanne and Marilyn with flowers as a token of thanks for their hard work.

Wrexham Cochlear Implant User Group-21st Celebration!



We are extremely thankful to Joanne and Marilyn for their continued support to run this group and we hope it continues for the next 21 years and beyond.

The group meets on the first Wednesday of every month at the Wynnstay Arms in Wrexham 12-2pm and are always very welcoming to new members.

Cochlear Implant User Group Reminder

A quick reminder of our Cochlear Implant User Group dates which are scheduled to run at Liverpool, Wrexham and Bodelwyddan in the new year. These groups are accessible to anyone who has, is considering, or who is being assessed for a Cochlear Implant. You are all welcome!

Aintree	First Friday of every month* 1-3pm *Please note there will be no Aintree User Group in January 2024	The Exhibition Hall Aintree University Hospitals Clinical Science Centre Liverpool L9 7AL BCU.CochlearImplantEnquiries@wales.nhs.uk
Bodelwyddan	Second Tuesday of every month 10.30am – 12.30pm	Bodelwyddan Community Centre Ronaldsway Bodelwyddan LL18 5TE BCU.CochlearImplantEnquiries@wales.nhs.uk
Wrexham	First Wednesday of every month* 12-2pm *Please note there will be no Wrexham User Group in January 2024	Wynnstay Arms Hotel Yorke Street Wrexham LL13 8LP Text Jo on: 07495447569

Sound Processor Retention Options

With Winter on its way, some of you may be worried about the security of your sound processor whilst wearing hats or hoods to protect from wet and windy weather. There are various options available to keep your processor secure and reduce the risk of loss or damage to your device. Check out the following sound processor retention options:

Behind The Ear Processor Retention



Cochlear Snugfit & Hugfit and Medel Huggy

An alternative to the standard ear hook provided with YOUR behind the ear processor. These accessories can provide a better fit, allowing your processor to “hug” the ear and reduce the risk of it being knocked or falling off your ear.

Compatible with Nucleus 7 & 8 and Sonnet 1 & 2.



Cochlear Safety Cord

The safety cord provides additional security by allowing Nucleus 7 & 8 recipients to clip their sound processor to clothing and can reduce the risk of loss.



Earmould

An earmould can be attached to any behind the ear sound processor in the same way an earmould would connect to a hearing aid. A custom fit earmould can provide an anchor point and thus provide a more secure fitting for your processor.

Off The Ear Processor Retention



Cochlear Safety Line & Medel Attachment Clip

Both Cochlear and Medel offer hair and clothes clips for their off the ear sound processor. Clipping your Kanso or Rondo to your hair or clothes can reduce the risk of loss or damage to your off the ear sound processor.



Cochlear Headband & Medel Sports Headband

The Medel and Cochlear off the ear headbands are designed to keep your processor securely in place during exercise. Simply fit your Kanso or Rondo processors into the pocket of the headband.

Please check your upgrade or switch on kit before contacting the department regarding retention options. Most retention options are provided as standard, however should you need support or a different size, please contact the department for further information.

Cochlear Remote Care: The Next Steps and Inspire Study

Those of you who use a smart-phone may already be familiar with Cochlear's Remote Check option, which allows some testing of your implant and device performance from home, via the Nucleus Smart App. Or, you may have tried out a video-call appointment using 'Attend Anywhere' on your phone or computer. Now the next stage of remote care has arrived: Cochlear Remote Assist!



This new feature combines Remote Check with the ability to make some limited programming changes and an embedded video call/chat platform so you can chat with us while we try to sort out any problems you are having – all from the comfort of home!

If you have a Cochlear device and a smartphone, and wish to try this feature, please discuss with your audiologist at your next appointment – face to face appointments will of course remain available.

To explore how well remote care works in real life, we are very excited to have signed up as a study site for the **INSPIRE** international randomised controlled study. We hope to recruit 12 new CI users over the next year or so, who will be split randomly into two 'arms'. One arm will receive normal 'in-clinic' care from 3-12 months after their switch-on. The other arm will have any appointments from 3-12 months remotely (where possible), only coming into clinic if there is a problem that cannot be properly dealt with remotely. For both arms there will be a number of additional questionnaires to complete to see how well this works for recipients, including outcomes, any benefits (e.g. time and money saved) and any disadvantages. If you are less than three months since switch-on and are interested in getting involved, please contact us as soon as possible so we can share further details!

In other news: for our Advanced Bionics recipients, Marvel remote care is also on the way soon. Medel recipients please watch this space – this is a fast moving scene, and it's likely something similar will also be in development for you

**Nadolig Llawen a
Blwyddyn Newydd Dda!**

**Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year from us
all!**

