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Our e-newsletter provides a regular monthly service update and important practice information for our clients. We use our monthly newsletter update to keep you informed on how to access our services with information that we hope you find interesting and useful. We feel it is our duty of care to keep in touch with you in this way, if however, you no longer wish to receive these updates please click on the unsubscribe option at the bottom of this email.

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Dear Philip,

Welcome to the **Aston Hearing Newsletter** **November 2021**

In the Newsletter this month:

- Practice update
- BSL, Strictly and dancing with deafness
- Christmas shopping locally
- Meet the Audiologist – Hollie Wicks
- Remembrance Day poem



Practice Update:

Aston Hearing - Building Works & Other Developments In Progress

As we enter November we are pushing ahead with numerous projects to enable us to be able to cope well with more appointments in 2022. Space is always a challenge - having the balance of rooms and clinicians available and management of our diary enabling us to fulfil all our appointments effectively and efficiently is of paramount importance.

Opening The Grange has certainly helped to ease some of the pressure, plus the plans at Greyhound Lane in Thame are now in place with building works starting next Monday, so we are very excited for the New Year.

Meanwhile in Amersham we have spent the last few weekends moving rooms around so that we can open up a new room, which we are calling The Lofthouse. This is still a work in progress and we ask you bear with us as the work is affecting the reception area and means we are changing the access to the building. We will ensure you are kept informed.

Planning ahead for Christmas - please book early for December appointments prior to Christmas. Repairs and stock is in some cases affected by the general issues of distribution so please where possible plan ahead for the next coming weeks and we will ensure we can work hard to meet your needs.



BSL, Strictly and dancing with deafness

In the news this month we celebrate the continued success of deaf actress Rose Ayling-Ellis on Strictly Come Dancing and witness the surge in searches for BSL courses. The British Sign Language (BSL) Courses website reported a 2,844% increase in sign-ups for their free trial programmes after the show.

Even if you are not a Strictly fan, you may have seen the headlines and footage from her performances. She has captivated the hearts of the nation as she learns her dance moves by feeling vibrations and counting with the support of a BSL translator to communicate with her partner Giovanni. As Strictly's first ever deaf contestant she is a fantastic ambassador for BSL and has helped increase awareness about deafness and deaf issues.

In a recent episode of the BBC competition, the couple danced a Viennese Waltz that saw them signing to each other at the start of the performance. Sign language became part of the choreography and added to the emotion of the dance. In an interview after the show Rose said –

“I just love to show my language and to incorporate it into the dance, I think it's very special for me.” She praised her professional partner, Giovanni for coming up with the idea and they were awarded a very high scoring 37 points for their dance.

They achieved a perfect score of 40 points on the Halloween episode where they danced a tango that was faultless. Google searches for sign language have since increased by 488% as more people express an interest in learning BSL. In the UK around 145,000 people use BSL as their primary language, 20,000 of these being children.

The actress has urged people to look for BSL courses taught by deaf tutors as the best way to learn the language and to support the Deaf community. Courses are available locally through Adult Learning Centres and a basic understanding of signing can be a useful tool to assist those living with hearing loss.



Christmas shopping locally

Last year we were mostly shopping online from websites and Christmas brochures but this year it looks as though shopping on the High Street is back. Here we have a few shopping events that are happening locally to get you in the Christmas spirit.



SHH SHOP

SHH Christmas Market – Speen

13th November, 10am-4pm

Speen Helping Hospices (SHH) will once again hold their Annual Christmas Market on Saturday 13th November at Speen Church, Chapel Hill, Speen HP27 0SP. The fundraising group for four local hospices – Florence Nightingale House, Helen House, Rennie Grove Hospice Care and South Bucks Day Hospice has been running an annual Christmas market for over 10 years. Unfortunately, it could not be held last year and plans were made for an open air market, but this had to be cancelled when stricter Covid lockdown regulations came into force. But happily, THIS YEAR IT IS BACK

The event is between 10am and 4pm and the entry cost per person is £2. It is a great opportunity to buy Christmas gifts including Crafts, chocolate, jewellery, wine

and food. Refreshments will be on sale all day including wine, mulled wine and soft drinks.

Old Amersham

12th & 19th December, 8:30-3:30pm

The Old Amersham Business Association is inviting you to two Christmas Markets which will be held underneath the Market Hall on Sat 12 and 19 Dec.

The selection of local stalls on either or both of those dates will include, Old Amersham Gin, Maxine's Patisserie (Christmas cakes, bakes and sweet treats), The Nagundo Tree (Christmas door wreaths and floral creations), Hector Hartley (baskets and goodies for your canine friends), No2 Pound Street (cheese), Bucks Fish (wet fish and shellfish) and the Scannappeal charity (assorted Christmas foods and gifts).

This, together with free parking on 12, 19 and 24 Dec and festive music and singing from local groups including Amersham Band, Chalfont Wind Band and the Chiltern Singers, will hopefully bring some added enjoyment to the old town Christmas shopping experience.





Thame Town Hall – Artists and Makers Fair

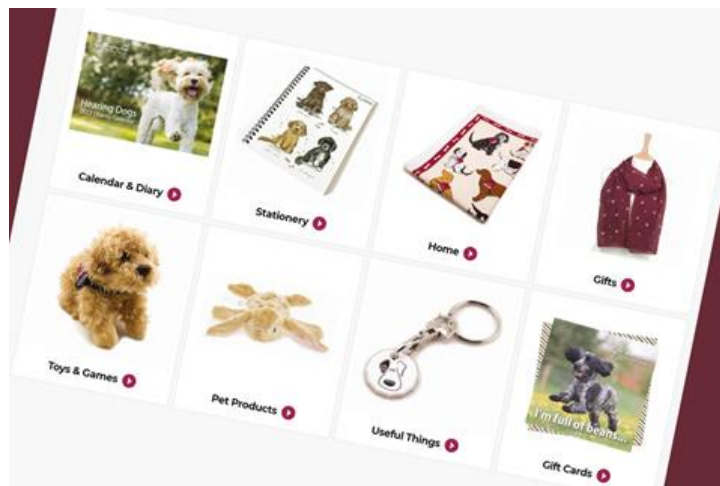
Saturday 4th December 10:00 – 16:00

Immerse yourself in a glorious collection of local artisans and craftspeople, showcasing work from around Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire. Here you will find talented artists and gifts to enchant.

Hearing Dogs for deaf people:

If you want some great ideas for Christmas cards or gifts why not visit The Grange, home to the Hearing Dogs and Hearing Link charities. In the cosy shop you will find all sorts of gifts for people (and pets), and you can be assured that every purchase helps deaf people. Alternatively, you can browse their online catalogue and enjoy free delivery for all orders over £30.

shop.hearingdogs.org.uk



MEET THE TEAM

Meet the Audiologists – Hollie Wicks

We are delighted to welcome Hollie Wicks to our team of audiologists. Hollie has been a client of Aston Hearing for a long time, and she brings her own experience of hearing loss to her work, helping countless other people to hear better.

Hollie's hearing story started in childhood when she found it difficult to hear the TV and would often argue with her brothers about the volume control. She was diagnosed with hearing loss and given an NHS aid for one ear. Whilst this helped initially, it was not enough to meet the challenging demands of social and college life. Hollie went to her GP who referred her to Duncan at Aston Hearing. Hollie was given a new, discrete hearing aid and she noticed a marked improvement immediately.



This new tech was tested immediately with her college parent's evening and driving lessons. Hollie noticed a huge improvement in both situations and describes it as "a light bulb moment – I could even hear people behind me" It gave her the confidence she needed to carry on studying at Sixth Form College and from here, she went on to study journalism at Bucks University.

Hollie later started to notice a further deterioration in her hearing and was advised to try two hearing aids instead of just one. This was a critical point in her career as she had to accept a further hearing loss and that she needed the second aid, but with support from Aston Hearing and

Unitron's smallest state-of-the-art hearing aid she adjusted very quickly. She later gave a talk on her hearing journey to a large audience of hearing care professionals at the Unitron Conference.

Preferring not to have a desk job, Hollie worked for a while at Waitrose and then later became a Co-ordinator for Hidden Hearing. While she was there, she trained to become an Audiologist and qualified in 2019. She enjoys working as part of the AHS team and brings an understanding of life with hearing loss to her practice.

When Hollie is not at work she loves getting out and about, films and cinema, especially action movies. We asked her to describe for us what makes a good weekend:

- **Full English breakfast or Continental?**
Continental all the way
- **Cinema or Box set?**
Cinema (I love the big screen experience)
- **Coastal walks or hill and dale?**
100% countryside
- **What's your favourite dish?**
Good ol' Sunday roast
- **Activity weekend or relaxing at home?**
Activity weekend please – just now loving Segway outings
- **Meal out or dine at home?**
Got to be meal out – one of my favourite things to do.
- **I couldn't get through the weekend without....**
A long walk with my boyfriend James, a bag of pick'n'mix sweets and dinner out with friends.



Remembrance Day Poem

2 years ago, Joshua Dyer (then aged 14) was tasked at school to write a poem for Remembrance Day. An hour later this is what he produced. This powerful

poem has been shared widely over social media, but
it is worth sharing again with you, our readers.

ONE THOUSAND MEN ARE WALKING

*One thousand men are walking
Walking side by side
Singing songs from home
The spirit as their guide
They walk toward the light milord
They walk towards the sun
They smoke and laugh and smile together
No foes to outrun*

*These men live on forever
In the hearts of those they saved
A nation truly grateful
For the path of peace they paved
They march as friends and comrades
But they do not march for war
Step closer to salvation
A tranquil steady corps*

*The meadows lit with golden beams
A beacon for the brave
The emerald grass untrampled
A reward for what they gave
They dream of those they left behind
And know they dream of them
Forever in those poppy fields
There walks one thousand men.*

Joshua Dyer 2019

Lest we forget



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