

Sound Seekers

The Commonwealth Society for the Deaf



Annual Report
2009

Chairman's Foreword

Our 50th Anniversary year was launched on the 29th of April at Malborough House, London. We were delighted to welcome HE Mr Kamalesh Sharma – the Commonwealth Secretary General. It was very encouraging to hear how much he said our work is recognised and appreciated in many developing Commonwealth countries. Our other speakers, the High Commissioners of Zambia and Ghana, came to witness the delivery of the new HARK vehicles destined for their countries.

Despite the credit crunch our 50th Anniversary year has been a successful one, where we have built on the legacy and moved forward new projects initiated by our late Chairman, Brigadier John Davis.

The Archbishop of Liverpool, Patrick Kelly, opened our conference 'Hearing Loss in Developing Countries' held on 10th July in Liverpool. This event was jointly held in collaboration with ENT-UK's BACO conference and was deemed a great success.

We now have ten HARK vehicles working in Commonwealth developing countries detecting and supporting the treatment of infective ear disease amongst children. Our Projects Committee has confirmed the need to work with our overseas partners for longer periods to ensure the sustainability of our projects. When our projects involve the construction or refurbishment of school buildings we now install solar panels and water capture and retention systems, helping them to adapt to a changing climate. The Committee has identified the need for integrated health/education projects, as well as those focussed entirely on education or health.

I would like to thank all those who have helped us, during this Anniversary Year, to continue



Dr John Fincham at our 50th Anniversary Conference in Liverpool

supporting thousands of deaf children in developing countries. Overseas aid from Jersey and Guernsey, trusts and companies, the Rotary clubs and Inner Wheel clubs, groups of individuals completing sky dives and individuals, such as Andrew Reid, completing the London Marathon. Much needed funds have also been raised at events such as greyhound racing at Manchester Belle Vue stadium. I would also like to thank individual volunteers from overseas and those within the UK who have given up their time to attend our Projects Committee meetings and carry out work for us in, for example, The Gambia, Tanzania, Ghana and Sierra Leone. A thank-you also to those engaged in collecting and refurbishing much needed hearing aids and providing batteries to power them.

This has been a challenging year for the staff team and our Board of Directors in ensuring that we successfully continue our mission and meet the extra demands of our 50th Anniversary year. I would like to thank our full-time members of staff for all their hard work.

I would finally like to acknowledge and thank our dedicated Board of Directors who devote their time, knowledge and skills to furthering our cause in developing countries.

Dr John Fincham

Fifty Years of Service

Sound Seekers has worked for over 50 years to improve the lives of deaf and hearing-impaired children in the poorest countries of the world. We do this by building and sustaining local capacity, so that professionals have the skills and tools they need to help deaf children themselves.

This means we provide equipment and training so that local health workers can diagnose and treat hearing loss, fit hearing aids, and provide an effective referral service. We provide support for schools for deaf children, so that teachers are better able to provide a quality education. And we work to improve people's understanding of the needs of deaf people – especially important in cultures where disability can be considered taboo.

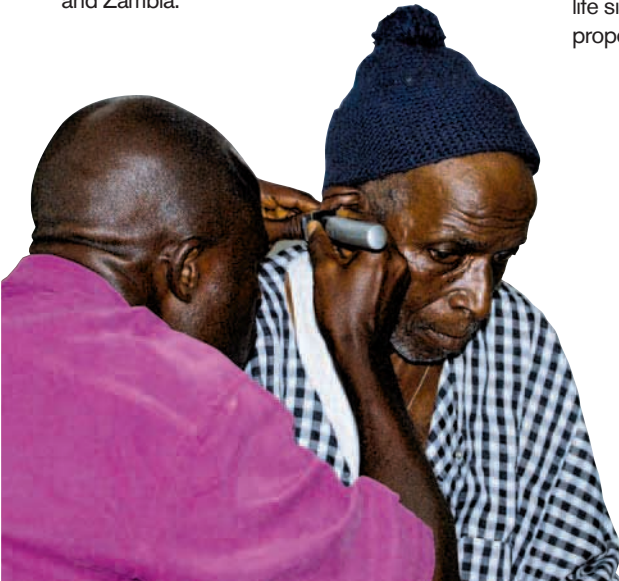
Where do we work?

Over the fifty years of our existence there have been few corners of the developing world that have not benefited from the work of Sound Seekers. The past decade has seen us especially active, with major projects in The Gambia, Guyana, India, Lesotho, Namibia, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, and Zambia.

Why is Sound Seekers' work important?

Deafness has a low profile in many developing countries, yet it is a serious condition that can often remain undetected. For deaf children in the poorest countries, where access to audiology services is limited, many cases of deafness or hearing impairment remain undiagnosed. The financial resources of Ministries of Health may be largely committed to the fight against HIV/AIDS and the effects of disease such as malaria. This inevitably pushes the screening of hearing and the treatment of ear disease down the list of priorities as they face other, larger-scale health crises.

There is one key factor that makes deafness a particularly difficult problem to address: it is a hidden disability, and therefore often overlooked, misdiagnosed and mistreated. The consequence is that deaf children can have their chances in life significantly reduced if their condition is not properly identified early in their development.



50th Anniversary Conference, Liverpool

A keystone event in our 50th year was our Anniversary conference, which took place at Liverpool ACC Conference Centre on 10th July 2009. This ran parallel to ENT-UK's BACO conference, and brought speakers and delegates from around the world together to discuss 'Hearing Loss in the Developing World'. The opening session saw delegates welcomed to Liverpool by Patrick Kelly, the Archbishop of Liverpool, who himself has a responsibility within the Catholic Church for issues relating to deaf people. Delegates then had the opportunity to take in sessions ranging across the spectrum of topics relating to hearing loss and how we might best meet the needs of deaf children who live in developing countries. Speakers included UK experts, together with professionals from overseas. The conference was judged a great success by all involved, and we therefore look forward to staging further such events in the coming years.



Professor Sir George Brobby



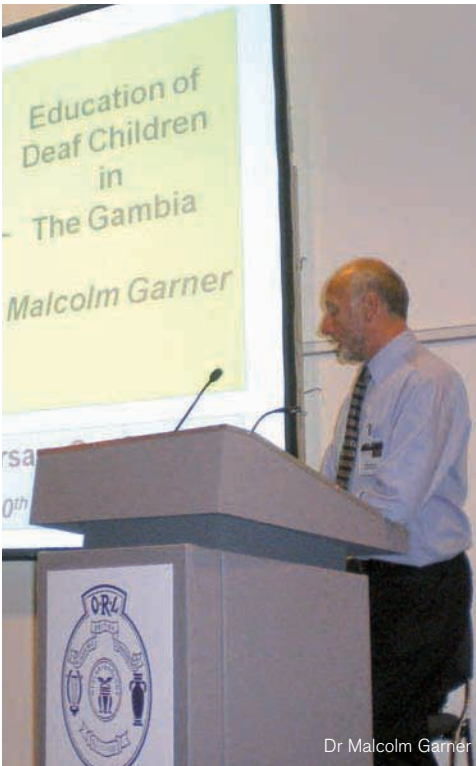
Presentation and Panel Discussion
chaired by Mr Hamid Daya

50th Anniversary Reception, London

On 29th April 2009, friends old and new, including members, donors, and diplomats, joined the Directors and staff of Sound Seekers at Marlborough House, London (the Headquarters of the Commonwealth Secretariat), for the launch of our 50th Anniversary year. Our guests enjoyed speeches from HE Mr. Kamallesh Sharma - the Secretary General of the Commonwealth, and the High Commissioners of Zambia and Ghana, who were there to see Sound Seekers take delivery of the two new HARK! mobile audiology clinics destined for their countries.



Patrick Kelly, Archbishop of Liverpool, welcoming delegates



Dr Malcolm Garner



Sound Seekers' Chairman with the High Commissioners for Ghana and Zambia

The Gambia

About HARK!

During the past 12 years Sound Seekers has launched 10 HARK! earcare projects in Africa and India. Each project provides audiology training for local medical officers and nurses who will form the new 'HARK' earcare outreach team, and delivers a 'HARK' mobile hearing assessment and treatment clinic, together with essential laboratory equipment that enables the fitting of hearing aids.

Each HARK! vehicle carries a generator to enable electronic testing of children's hearing to take place in villages that lack an electricity supply. They carry a clean water supply, refrigeration for pharmaceuticals, and the range of equipment needed to assess a patient's hearing and the health of the ear. Each HARK! programme is supported by Sound Seekers throughout the three year set-up phase while it becomes fully integrated into the local health service.

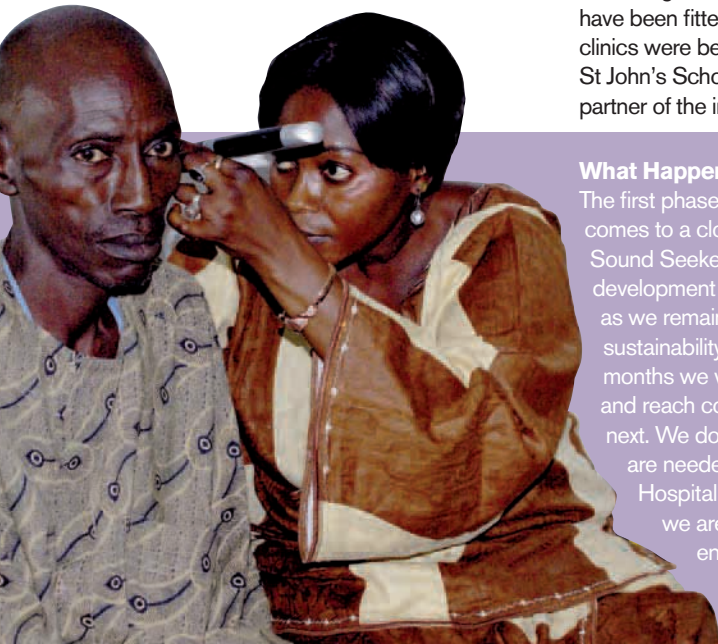
The Gambia HARK! project, which launched in 2007, continues to move from strength to strength. To date, Sound Seekers has:

- Delivered a HARK! mobile audiology clinic
- Delivered a complete suite of audiology equipment
- Delivered nine months of intensive, in-country training to the HARK! team in all aspects of audiology and the management of outreach programmes
- Built a sound-treated paediatric hearing test room and earmould laboratory at St John's School for the Deaf in Serrekunda
- Sent two of the HARK! team, Yaka Faal and Andrew Jatta, on to our six-week Audiology Maintenance Technology (AMT) Course in Kampala, Uganda.

The HARK vehicle and team were able to make more than 200 days worth of visits across The Gambia during 2008, and are keeping up a similar pace during 2009, with more than 2,000 patients benefiting to date. Of these, 10% have needed, and have been fitted with, hearing aids. Thirteen outlying clinics were being visited regularly, together with St John's School for the Deaf, which is an integral partner of the initiative.

What Happens Next?

The first phase of The Gambia HARK! programme comes to a close in Spring 2010. However, Sound Seekers stands ready to help continue the development of audiology services in the country, as we remain committed to ensuring the future sustainability of our projects. During the coming months we will review operations in The Gambia and reach conclusions as to what needs to be done next. We do know that additional audiology facilities are needed at the Royal Victoria Teaching Hospital in Banjul, where HARK is based, and we are already seeking funding that would enable us to put these in place.



Tanzania

The Sound Seekers' HARK! programme in Tanzania continues to take shape. This programme has necessarily had a phased start-up before the full outreach programme could begin in earnest, as a central element of the programme entailed the year-long training 'overseas' of a number of the HARK! medical team.



To date, Sound Seekers has:

- Delivered a HARK! mobile audiology clinic;
- Delivered a suite of audiology equipment for the HARK vehicle;
- Delivered a suite of earmould laboratory equipment;
- Trained two technicians, Fredrick Kashushura and Emmanuel Msalika, via participation in our six-week Audiology Maintenance Technology (AMT) Course in Kampala, Uganda;
- Paid for two clinical officers, Lawrence Mchemba and Alfred Majogoro, to undertake a Diploma in Clinical Audiology & Public Health Otology at the University of Nairobi;
- Paid for an ENT Surgeon, Dr Perfect Kishevo, to undertake an MSc in Audiological Science at the UCL Ear Institute in London.

As at September 2009, Dr Kishevo has returned to Dar es Salaam from London in order to take up his role at the head of the HARK! team. Director, Judith Roberts and her husband paid two visits to the project and Buguruni School.

What Happens Next?

During the coming months, the HARK! outreach service will pick up pace, reflecting the return to Muhambili Hospital of the staff we have been training. Sound Seekers will complete the installation of the sound-treated hearing test room, and deliver on-site training in the use of the laboratory equipment which we have delivered.

Sierra Leone

Sound Seekers' HARK! programme ran with the charity's direct support between April 2006 and March 2009. In that time, the following investment was delivered:

- A HARK mobile clinic
- Suite of audiology equipment
- An earmould laboratory
- Maintenance equipment
- In-country training for the HARK! team
- Three technicians trained on our Audiology Maintenance Technology course in Kampala.

What Happens Next?

Sound Seekers' day to day support for this Freetown-based project formally came to an end, as per our contract with Sierra Leone's Ministry of Health, in March 2009. We, of course, wish to do all we can to ensure that the work of the HARK! team continues apace, and that our investment in the country continues to deliver the expected social dividend to the intended beneficiaries. To this end we are currently reviewing the future of this project with the Sierra Leone Government.



Pune

The Sound Seekers' HARK project in Pune, India, also continues apace. This outreach programme is based at the King Edward Memorial Hospital and is delivered in partnership with Impact, to the benefit of deaf and hearing impaired people throughout the Maharashtra region.



Ghana

On 29th April we took delivery of the HARK! mobile clinic for Ghana. This has since been dispatched (August 09) to the Kumasi Hearing Assessment Centre, which was itself built and opened in 1992/3 with significant support from Sound Seekers. The provision of this new mobile facility will enable the Kumasi team to deliver a new audiology outreach service across the central Ghanaian region.



Other HARK! Projects

Sound Seekers is currently working with the Governments of Zambia and Cameroon in order to put in place HARK! audiology outreach projects for each of these countries. To this end, the Sound Seekers' Chief Executive, Gary Williams, has visited each of these countries during 2009.

Kenya

Sound Seekers has entered a partnership with the Kibarani School for the Deaf, the Kenya Ministry of Education, Kenyan Society for the Deaf and the Catholic Archdiocese of Mombassa, to build a greatly-needed secondary school for deaf children. This is located in Kilifi, in the coastal region of Kenya - an area with a population of 2 million people. There is currently no such school in the province, meaning that after primary school, deaf children are un-supported in the region. With a distinct vocational focus, this school will prepare deaf children for employment, helping them avoid a life of extreme poverty.

In Kenya, a country where there is 40% unemployment and 50% of the population lives below the poverty line, and where the state education sector is riddled with shortcomings, there is an estimated deaf population of up to 625,000. Deaf children have limited access to quality schooling. Although there are 74 primary schools for the deaf, there are only 3 secondary schools, with a total intake of just



SecondaryS students at Kibarani School

80 new students per year. There are thousands of deaf children not attending school as a consequence. This school will have an initial capacity to teach 40 students, rising to 80. This will greatly enhance the opportunities for deaf young people to gain an education, and learn the skills that will give them a chance to not only survive, but prosper in what is a challenging economic environment.



The first of the new classrooms to be built at Kibarani School

Our Supporters in Action

A night of greyhound racing at Manchester's Belle Vue Stadium turned out to be a fun, memorable event, raising much needed funds from ticket sales and sponsorship.

The efforts of our marathon runners, skydivers, small community organisations, long-standing members, friends and new donors all contributes towards making our anniversary year one to remember in many ways.

In partnership with Specsavers Hearing Centres, we have launched a major hearing aid collection and recycling initiative for used hearing aids, involving up to 400 stores throughout the UK and Ireland. This initiative will not only help deaf people overseas. It will also aid our environmental conservation efforts. Help us to give more to deaf children by donating your old hearing aid.



Dr Michael Nolan (2nd from left) enjoys a night out at the dogs with other supporters.



One of our intrepid fundraisers, Joanna Aubrey, on her way back to earth!

The Commonwealth Society for the Deaf

Summarised financial statements

Directors' Statement

The directors confirm that these summarised financial statements are a summary of information from the full financial statements which were approved by the Board of Directors on 12 October 2009. The auditor has issued unqualified reports on the full financial statements and on the consistency of the directors' report with those financial statements. A copy of the full financial statements of the charity will be delivered to both Companies House and the Charity Commission.

These summarised financial statements may not contain sufficient information to allow for a full understanding of the financial affairs of the Commonwealth Society for the Deaf.

Further information and the full financial statements are available by contacting the Chief Executive at:

The Commonwealth Society for the Deaf
34 Buckingham Palace Road
London
SW1W 0RE

Telephone: 020 7233 5700

Signed on behalf of the Board of Directors



Will Fraser-Alen Honorary Treasurer
12 October 2009

Independent Auditors' Statement to the Members of the Commonwealth Society for the Deaf

We have examined the summary financial statements for the year ended 31 May 2009, as set out on page 13.

Respective responsibilities of directors and auditors

The directors are responsible for preparing the summary financial statements in accordance with applicable United Kingdom law. Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summary financial statements with the full annual financial statements, and their compliance with the relevant requirements of section 427 of the Companies Act 2006 and the regulations made thereunder.

We also read the other information included in the Annual Report and consider the implications for our report if we become aware of any apparent misstatements or material inconsistencies with the summary financial statements.

We conducted our work in accordance with Bulletin 2008/3 issued by the Auditing Practices Board. Our report on the charity's full annual financial statements describes the basis of our opinion on those financial statements.

Opinion

In our opinion the summary financial statements are consistent with the full annual financial statements of The Commonwealth Society for the Deaf for the year ended 31 May 2009 and comply with the applicable requirements of section 427 of the Companies Act 2006, and the regulations made thereunder.

Buzzacott LLP
Statutory Auditor
12 New Fetter Lane
London EC4A 1AG
30 October 2009.

Statement of financial activities

Year to 31 May 2009

	Unrestricted funds £	Restricted funds £	2009 Total funds £	2008 Total funds £
Income and expenditure				
Incoming resources				
Incoming resources from generated funds				
• Voluntary income	174,651	60,150	234,801	137,361
• Activities for generating funds	23,008	-	23,008	64,314
• Interest receivable	15,593	-	15,593	23,299
Incoming resources from charitable activities	-	239,130	239,130	276,640
Total incoming resources	213,252	299,280	512,532	501,614
Resources expended				
Cost of generating funds	55,172	-	55,172	71,111
Charitable activities	47,057	286,341	333,398	381,569
Governance costs	13,854	-	13,854	11,300
Total resources expended	116,083	286,341	402,424	463,980
Net incoming (outgoing)				
resources before transfers	97,169	12,939	110,108	37,634
Transfers between funds	(11,662)	11,662	-	-
Net movements in funds	85,507	24,601	110,108	37,634
Fund balances brought forward at 1 June 2008	172,126	323,378	495,504	457,870
Fund balances carried forward at 31 May 2009	257,633	347,979	605,612	495,504

There were no gains and losses in the period other than those included in the statement above.

There is no difference between the net movement in funds stated above, and the historical cost equivalent.

All of the charity's activities derived from continuing operations during the above two financial periods.

Balance sheet	2009	2009	2008	2008
31 May 2008	£	£	£	£
Fixed assets				
Tangible assets		90,031		77,183
Current assets				
Debtors	74,110		10,591	
Short term deposits	404,733		329,732	
Cash at bank and in hand	53,676		95,745	
	532,519		436,068	
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	(16,938)		(17,747)	
Net current assets		515,581		418,321
Total net assets		605,612		495,504
Represented by: Funds and reserves				
Income funds:				
Restricted funds		347,979		323,378
Unrestricted funds				
• General fund		256,618		171,111
• Designated funds		1,015		1,015
		605,612		495,504

None of our work can happen without our supporters!

This is a very exciting time for us; our 50th Anniversary! Last year's fundraising ensured we are able to continue to deliver new services benefiting thousands of deaf children overseas. We are grateful to the generosity of our donors for their continuous support for our work.

As you will have seen throughout this Annual Report, Sound Seekers' work continues apace. If you would like to support our work this year, here are some fundraising ideas you can put into action right away!!

Click and raise money for us - you can raise money for deaf children by switching to www.everyclick.com as your search engine at work and at home. Register with the search engine and select Sound Seekers and you could be generating money for us without any additional cost or effort on your part.

Write to your solicitors' on our behalf, to consider Sound Seekers as a beneficiary of unclaimed client accounts which can be released to charities. We can provide a letter you can use if you feel you need help with this.

Enjoy yourself and invite your friends for a slap up meal or a barbeque and charge them £10 each and donate the cash to us.

If you can run, hop or walk for 5 Km, why not Do it for Charity and enjoy the company of thousands of people raising funds from charities- alternatively you might like to dive through the skies or 120 mph free fall, whichever way you want to Jump! Please visit our website for more information.

Buy a child the gift of hearing, by purchasing a refurbished hearing aid for as little as £10 or sell stuff that you do not want or need and donate the cash to us - on the Charity's Buy Once Give Twice bidding website. Please visit our Website to find out more www.sound-seekers.org.uk

For more fundraising ideas please visit our website www.sound-seekers.org.uk or you can e-mail us development@sound-seekers.org.uk or talk to us on 020 7233 5805. We can provide you with collection boxes, leaflets, sponsorship forms and further copies of this annual review - you only need ask.



The Chairman and Directors wish to thank all our donors who have generously contributed to the charity's work during 2008/09.

**Charitable Trusts,
Companies and Institutions**

Alchemy Foundation
Bonovox
Sir Winston Churchill Education Trust
The Evan Cornish Foundation
Guernsey Overseas Aid
Bryan Guinness Charitable Trust
Philip Henman Charitable Trust
Jersey Overseas Aid Commission
Beatrice Lang Trust
Loke Wan Tho Memorial Trust
Lynn Foundation
Mosse Charitable Settlement
The Paget Trust
Peacock Charitable Trust
People for People
Pilkington Charities Fund
PKJ Charitable Trust
WL Pratt Charitable Trust
Rayovac Ltd.
Rowan Charitable Trust
Ryklow Charitable Trust
St. Mary's Charity
SpecSavers
Starkey Laboratories Ltd.
The Westminster Foundation

Inner Wheel Clubs

Ballymoney
Carrickfergus No.2
Chelsea & Westminster
Denton
District 16
Gravesend
Luton North
Rhyl
Tooting

Rotary Clubs

Bilston
Chelmsford
Dunstable Downs
Llantrisant
Tamworth
Wythenshawe

Schools and Churches

Alleyn's School
Oak Hill First School

Solicitors

Crompton Halliwell
Neil Myerson

Individuals

Mr & Mrs Presser-Velder
Mr Andrew Reid

Sky Divers

Trevor Andrews
Joanne Aubrey
Sharon Charnock
Eileen Dissington
Deborah Healy
Letitia Le Moignan
Vanisha Misty
Rebecca Mitterdorfer
Jade Pearce
Nicola Webster

Sound Seekers

The Commonwealth Society for the Deaf



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KG KCVO ADC

Vice Patron

The Rt.Hon. The Baroness Chalker
of Wallesey PC

Board of Directors

Chairman

J K Fincham PGCE BA(Hons) PhD

Vice Chairman

P Fossey-Chalmers SRN Hon Technical Adviser

Hon Treasurer

W Fraser-Allen BA(Hons) ACA

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I Tucker OBE PhD Hon Educational Adviser
M Nolan PhD
H Daya BSc FRCS(ORL) Hon Medical Adviser
D K Prasher BSc(Hons) PhD
D A Dougan BSc
M C Harper CMG MA
J Roberts

Sound Seekers

The Commonwealth Society for the Deaf

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Charity Registration Number: 1013870
Company Limited by Guarantee
Registered in England No: 2739343

Company Secretary

S W Green

Chief Executive

G Williams

Accountant

R A Robinson

Auditors

Buzzacott LLP, 12 New Fetter Lane, London
EC4A 1AG

Bankers

Lloyds TSB plc