

# EWING FOUNDATION

giving deaf children a voice

## News

Autumn/ Winter 2013

### On the box

Ewing Specialist Audiology Technician Paul Harris has been on a mission to make digital television more accessible to deaf people.

'Children have been telling me that they are unable to listen to home entertainment (TV, games consoles) through their wireless deaf equipment,' says Paul.

Paul spoke to Curry's in Bristol Avon Meads, who agreed to let him assess the store's televisions.

Paul looked at 70 televisions across the price range. ***'I tested the televisions with a range of audio connecting leads, FM systems, hearing aids and wireless connections, and found one that does it all.'***

Paul's personal recommendation is a digital (with optical or phono connection input) to analogue

(stereo output) convertor that then allows a phono to 3.5mm plug lead to connect to most wireless systems.

Whilst all the adaptors and leads for this project were bought online individually, a ready made kit called fmg Pack 1C (ref: FMG9PK01C, price £30.92) is now available from deaf equipment specialists, Connevans Limited [www.connevans.co.uk](http://www.connevans.co.uk).

Thank you to Curry's Bristol Avon Meads for their co-operation and support.



### Communication in the classroom

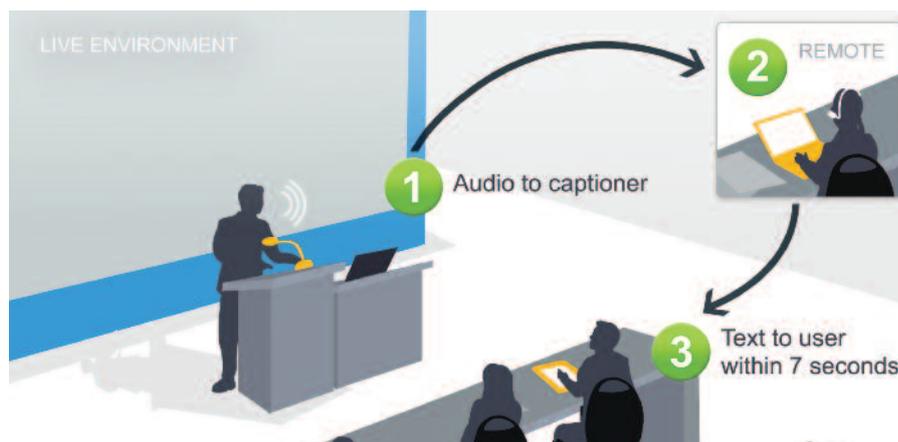
The Ewing Foundation is pleased to be collaborating with Access Innovation Media, a social enterprise founded in Australia in 2003. They have recently won funding to pilot live captioning in UK classrooms, following the success of a similar project in Australia.

A phone link relays the teacher's delivery to a remote captioner who then 're-speaks' the content, including punctuation, and captions arrive on the student's tablet within seconds.

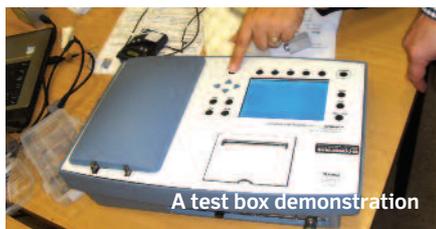
While visiting family in Australia earlier this year, Ewing staff member Stevie Mayhook visited their Sydney offices and schools in Melbourne to see captioning in action.

***'The technology is very impressive!'*** she says.

For more information, visit: [www.ai-live.com/OBP/Home/Videos#1](http://www.ai-live.com/OBP/Home/Videos#1)



# Hearing help



In conjunction with Mary Hare Training Services, the Ewing Foundation run a year long course for teaching assistants and school technicians working with deaf children.

The Advanced Award for Audiology Technicians in Educational Settings course is now in its second year, and teaches educators how to monitor the hearing equipment of deaf children in their class. The course introduces and reinforces ways of checking equipment, so that the educators can either fix faults themselves, or refer to clinicians or manufacturers.



The current cohort of eight students are half-way through the syllabus, which includes the use of hearing aid test-boxes and demonstrations from manufacturers MED-EL, Oticon and Phonak.

**'It is absolutely useful,'** says student Sandra. **'I now feel more confident in my role.'**

## Keeping the airwaves clear

**Ewing Foundation has helped keep the airwaves clear for FM radio aid users.**

**Ewing Foundation is a founding member of the UKFM Working Group, a forum of professionals who work closely with deaf children who use personal FM systems.**

When the group learned that OFCOM were considering the roll-out of local digital radio in the UK, a sub-committee which included the Ewing's Jeremy Hine, was invited to attend the regulator's stakeholder meetings.

**'When OFCOM suggested band 5A for local digital radio, we knew this would be a problem,'** says Jeremy. **'Band 5A overlaps with a large amount of the frequencies used by personal FM radio aid systems and some other wireless systems'.**

When UKFM Working Group made OFCOM aware of the impact the use of Band 5A would have on deaf children, OFCOM made the decision not to use this band in the UK.

**'It's a success for FM radio aid users,'** says Jeremy. **'It is important to keep personal FM frequencies clear clear so that deaf pupils can get the most from their radio aids.'**

## Literacy for deaf children and young people

Ewing Foundation Consultants have been delivering literacy training nationwide. The package on offer was shaped around their Pathways to Literacy DVD and included aspects of reading and assessment across all ages.

The set programme was delivered twice in Manchester. Other heads of services for deaf children requested customised training for their teams which included topics such as the importance of inference; the reluctant reader; working together to achieve; value-added measures and the use of technology.

Evaluations have been very positive. **'Very useful to challenge our ideas and ways of working,'** says one participant.

If you would like to learn more about training, please contact Trish Cope on 07703 470 101 or email: [trishac@ewing-foundation.org.uk](mailto:trishac@ewing-foundation.org.uk)

**If you would like to know more about the work of the Ewing Foundation, please contact:**

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If you would like to make a donation towards our work with deaf children, please visit: [www.ewing-foundation.org.uk/support-us](http://www.ewing-foundation.org.uk/support-us)  
**Thank you.**