

Learner NEWS

Hello, welcome to the October edition of our learner newsletter.

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Hearing Loss

Over nine million people in England, approximately one in six, are living with some form of hearing loss and over 41,000 of these are children and young people under the age of 19.

What is hearing loss?

Hearing loss, happens when one or more parts of the ear aren't working effectively. To understand this, it's useful to know how the ear works.

The ear and how it works

The ear has two main functions.

1. It receives sound and converts it into signals that the brain can understand.
2. It helps us to balance.

The two functions are closely related.



The main types of Hearing Loss

Sensorineural deafness, or nerve deafness as it's sometimes called, is a hearing loss in the inner ear. This usually means that the cochlea isn't working effectively. Sensorineural deafness is permanent.

Conductive deafness means that sound can't pass efficiently through the outer and middle ear into the inner ear. This is often caused by blockages such as wax in the outer ear, or fluid in the middle ear (glue ear). Glue ear is a very common condition, especially in pre-school children. Conductive deafness is usually temporary, but it can be permanent in some cases.

It's possible for children to have a combination of sensorineural and conductive deafness. This is known as mixed deafness. One example of mixed deafness is when someone has glue ear as well as sensorineural deafness.

Deafness in one ear only is known as unilateral deafness, which can also be referred to as one-sided hearing loss or single-sided deafness (SSD).

Very few deaf children have no useful hearing. Most deaf children can hear some sounds at certain frequencies and loudness, and with the use of hearing aids or implants they are often able to hear more sounds.



You can learn more about hearing loss here

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/information-and-support/childhood-deafness/what-is-deafness/>

<https://rnid.org.uk/>

Support groups

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/services-for-families/>

Are you a young person suffering from hearing loss?

The deaf health charity Sign Health have implemented a Children and Young People Strategy!

Their team has lots of ideas and plans to make sure you get the support and information you need.

We also want to make sure that what we are doing is what you want us to do.

The below video tells you more

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nzdFPMPVeKI&t=9s>

You can also read the strategy here:

<https://signhealth.org.uk/announcement/new-children-and-young-people-strategy-at-signhealth/>

THE DEAF HEALTH CHARITY SIGNHEALTH

How to communicate with a person suffering from Hearing Loss

Research how's many people aren't confident in communicating with people who have hearing loss, or British Sign Language (BSL) users.

Here are some easy changes you can make when communicating with deaf people and people with hearing loss to be more inclusive.

Three simple ways to start

1. Get my attention

Use simple gestures like waving to get my attention.

2. Face me

Please face me when you talk to me. Lots of people rely on lipreading to some degree to understand.

3. Be patient

Don't be afraid to repeat or rephrase and try something different.

Ask someone how they want to be communicated with

Not all deaf people and people with hearing loss are the same. Different individuals may need you to make different changes when communicating with them in order to understand what you are saying.

Re-phrase what you said

If someone doesn't understand you, repeat what you said or phrase it differently, use plain language.

Face the person you're speaking to

Make sure you are facing the person you are talking to and speak clearly - avoid shouting, speaking too fast or

unnecessarily slow.

Use an interpreter

You should always follow the advice of the person with communication needs. If that's booking an interpreter or speaking to a friend or relative.

Write it down

Use pen on paper, text on device screens, or whiteboards to write what you want to say.

Get their full attention

Use simple gestures such as pointing or waving to get someone's attention.

Reduce background noise

In a noisy place, move to a quieter area if possible.

Benefits

If you're deaf or have hearing loss, you may be able to claim disability benefits and grants. You may also be able to get other financial support, depending on your situation.

To find out which benefits you're entitled to, use the online [Turn2us benefits calculator](#)

To get benefits advice or support in British Sign Language (BSL), contact the [deafPLUS Advice Line](#)

They also have an online service to help you [find local benefits advisors](#)



HALLOWEEN

The tradition dates back to the ancient Celtic festival of Samhain, 2,000 years ago.

The Celts believed Samhain (pronounced sow-ain) was the day in the year when the gap between our world and the spirit world was blurred, making it easier for the spirits of the dead to return.

SPOOKY.

But don't be scared.

To commemorate the day, they would build huge bonfires, wear costumes and tell fortunes.

Over many years, as the Romans conquered much of Europe and Christianity spread into Celtic lands, the traditions of these beliefs and cultures blended.



DID YOU KNOW?

Bobbing for apples is thought to come from the Roman's worship of Pomona, the goddess of fruit and trees. The symbol of Pomona being... the apple.

Eventually, the Christian festival of "All Saints' or "All Souls Day", otherwise known as All-Hallows, took over - the night before which is called All Hallows Eve... leading to the name, yep you guessed it - Halloween.



THE TRADITIONS OF HALLOWEEN

Trick or Treat began hundreds of years ago in medieval England, when people would go door to door offering a prayer or a song in exchange for food.

This was known back then as Souling, taking place on All Saint's Day when Christians would traditionally pray for their loved ones.

Approaching the Victorian era, the food often given was a type of pastry called a soul cake. Something resembling a biscuit, or a cake.

Only in modern times has that tradition evolved into sweets and chocolate.

Well, we have the Celts to thank for that, too as that's when the costume wearing started.

Spooky outfits were worn to scare away any evil spirits lurking in the shadows of the celebrations.

Pumpkins however... that's an American thing.

It was brought over to the US by the Irish in the 19th century when many immigrated to America.

(newsround.co.uk)



TRICK OR TREATING ADVICE

Many people want to enjoy Halloween, but remember, not everyone wants to take part!

Here's a few things to remember when you're out this Halloween.

- If you're going trick or treating, make sure you go with an adult and your parent or carer knows where you're going and when to expect you back.
- Don't knock if there's a sign saying 'No trick or treat here.'
- Be careful not to frighten elderly or vulnerable people.
- Don't go trick or treating alone - stay with your group.
- Only visit areas where there are streetlights.
- Don't throw eggs and flour.
- Be careful crossing roads in the dark.

**HAVE A GREAT TIME
STAY SAFE AND LOOK OUT FOR
EACH OTHER. IF YOU OR
SOMEONE YOU KNOW IS IN
DANGER CALL 999**



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

October marks Black History Month in the UK.

The event began in the US in the 1920s, and was first celebrated in the UK in 1987.

It also takes place in Canada, Germany and Ireland.

When is Black History Month and what is it?

In the UK, Black History Month happens every October.

It gives everyone the opportunity to share, celebrate and understand the impact of black heritage and culture.

People from African and Caribbean backgrounds have been a fundamental part of British history for centuries. However, campaigners believe their contribution to society has often been overlooked or distorted.

You can learn more about black history month here

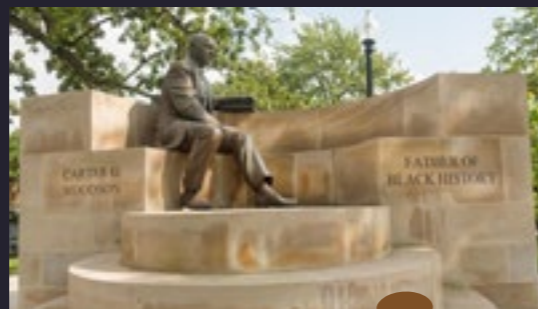
<https://www.blackhistorymonth.org.uk/>

Greater attention has been paid to the importance of the Windrush generation and the Black Lives Matter movement in recent years, especially since the 2020 death of unarmed African American man George Floyd.

How did Black History Month start?

The event was the brainchild of Carter G Woodson, known as the father of black history.

Born in Virginia in 1875 to parents who were former slaves, he had limited access to education and job opportunities. But he was able to study at one of the few high schools for black students after saving money earned by working as a coal miner.



HAPPY DIWALI



Diwali, or Dipawali, is India's biggest and most important holiday of the year. The festival gets its name from the row (avali) of clay lamps (deeps) that Indians light outside their homes to symbolize the inner light that protects from spiritual darkness. This festival is as important to Hindus as the Christmas holiday is to Christians.

Over the centuries, Diwali has become a national festival that's also enjoyed by non-Hindu communities. For instance, in Jainism, Diwali marks the nirvana, or spiritual awakening, of Lord Mahavira on October 15, 527 B.C.; in Sikhism, it honors the day that Guru Hargobind Ji, the Sixth Sikh Guru, was freed from imprisonment. Buddhists in India celebrate Diwali as well.

Diwali is celebrated over five days.

- **DAY ONE:** People clean their homes and shop for gold or kitchen utensils to help bring good fortune.
- **DAY TWO:** People decorate their homes with clay lamps and create design patterns called rangoli on the floor using colored powders or sand.
- **DAY THREE:** On the main day of the festival, families gather together for Lakshmi puja, a prayer to Goddess Lakshmi, followed by mouth-watering feasts and firework festivities.
- **DAY FOUR:** This is the first day of the new year, when friends and relatives visit with gifts and best wishes for the season.
- **DAY FIVE:** Brothers visit their married sisters, who welcome them with love and a lavish meal.



You can learn more about Diwali here

<https://kids.nationalgeographic.com/pages/article/diwali>

Did you know?



Nine in ten Brits have talked about the weather in the last six hours. We spend 6 months of our lives talking about it. Let's face it - weather is our favourite topic. No other nation talks about it as much as we do



Buckingham Palace has its own police station.



In the UK, accents change noticeably every 25 miles (45 km).

FUN Facts about English



The origins of over 30% of words in the English language can be traced to French, Latin, Sanskrit, Japanese, Spanish and many more languages! For example:

- Cheer (v.) from chiere [Old French]
- Gravity (n.) from gravitas [Latin]
- Avatar (n.) from avatarana [Sanskrit]
- Tycoon (n.) from taikun [Japanese]
- Albatross (n.) from alcatraz [Spanish]

Each letter in the English language is unique

Did you know that the English alphabet is derived from the Latin script alphabet, which was first used by ancient Romans? The English alphabet has 26 letters, both uppercase and lowercase forms. Old English was first written down with the Latin alphabet in the 7th century. Over time, some letters were added or removed, and by the 16th century, the current set of 26 letters had mostly settled



More than 800 words are added to the English dictionary every year. Did you know that a new word is created every 98 minutes? That means that more than 800 to 1,000 words are added to English dictionaries every year. This has been happening more for the last couple of years because the internet and technology has led to new words being created. Merriam-Webster even added 690 new words to its dictionary in September 2023. Some of the new words added to dictionaries around the world in 2023 were:

- Rizz (noun), slang: Charm or romantic appeal.
- Simp (verb), informal: Devotion or longing for something or someone.
- Goated (adjective), slang: considered "greatest of all time."
- Girlboss (noun) informal: An ambitious and successful woman (especially a businesswoman or entrepreneur).



A day in the life of a Dog Groomer

A typical Day in the words of a self-employed groomer:

My grooming day begins at 7:00 a.m. Since I own my own studio, I arrange my schedule so that when one dog is arriving, the last one is departing. My day usually ends at 5:00 p.m.

Once I know what's on my schedule for the day, I'll prepare my grooming space. First, I lay out all the tools I'll be needing; making sure I have plenty of shampoo prepared.

I greet my first client at 7:00 a.m. If they are a new client, I have them sign a grooming contract. This grants me permission to groom their dog. Next, they fill out an additional form which gives me their name, address, and phone number. Moreover, this same form provides me with information about their dog, such as the contact details for their vet (in case of an emergency).

Afterwards, we have a brief conversation about how they would like their dog groomed. Then the client departs and their dog stays with me. I always begin with a nice "before" picture of the dog and text it to my client. This is because I like for them to have a visual of their dog before he/she is groomed.

We then get started with all the prep work first, some of this work will include:

- Trimming the dog's toenails
- Cleaning their ears
- Trimming the hair out of the footpads
- Completing a sanitary trim

• Thoroughly brushing the dog out in order to remove any mats or debris stuck in the coat

After this, we head for the tub.

Once bath-time is over, it's time to blow dry the dog by hand. I take the time to ensure that all the curl is blown out of curly coats. Plus, I ensure all the extra hair is blown out of shedding coats.

Admittedly, this process can be quite messy! So, while I do this, I have my vacuum cleaner nearby. I like a clean shop, so I sometimes need to vacuum 8 times per day! While this may sound a bit tedious, it's still critical. Maintaining a clean space is essential to staying healthy and being more efficient in my work.

The Styling Stage

Once dry, I start working on styling the dog's coat. Importantly, I make sure to keep a close eye on the time. Each of my grooming packages have a set amount of time assigned to them. Thus, I must complete all my tasks in a timely manner. In my experience, I've found that most grooms take approximately 2 hours to complete.

Once the first client has paid their bill and picked up their dog, the next client has dropped their dog off. As soon as that client has filled out any necessary paperwork and has also departed, I'm ready to work on my next dog.



Have you ever wondered what next?

At the End of My Day as a Dog Groomer...

...it's time to do my administrative work. I'm running a legitimate, licensed business. As such, it's critical that I always keep accurate books. I go to my office and enter new clients into my bookkeeping software. I'll also create invoices for the clients of the day and record how they paid for their service (i.e. credit card, e-transfer, cash, check, etc.).

Next, I prepare any cash for deposit via an ATM machine. I make a bulk deposit once a week. All other forms of payment can be completed electronically. Moreover, once a month, I reconcile my checking account with the statement from the bank.

Near the end of my day, I'll also make supply purchases online and record those purchases in my books as well. I pay my quarterly taxes for both State and Federal income taxes, and I try to stay on top of supply inventory needs for my studio.

That's it - this is what a day in the life of a dog groomer looks like for me!

I won't lie, it's a lot of hard work. Sometimes, my back is aching by the end of my shift. My knees hurt from kneeling on the floor, in order to get the best angle for trimming little doggie necks. Usually, I have hair in my eyes.

However, I love EVERY minute of it! It's my dream job, and I'm very happy that I get to have a career doing something I'm so passionate about. I love my doggy clients (and their humans are pretty awesome, too).

Want to know more?

<https://nationalcareers.service.gov.uk/job-profiles/dog-groomer#:~:text=You%20could%20get%20into%20this,and%206%20months%20to%20complete.assistant>

What's going on in October



World Conker Championships 13th October

Set within the picturesque county of Northamptonshire, the World Conker Championships takes place each year on the 2nd Sunday of October, in the beautiful village of Southwick near Oundle. Here we are hosted in the grounds of the local pub, the Shuckburgh Arms, and supported by the villagers. The next championships take place on the 13th of October 2024 starting at 9:30 and finishing at around 16:00.

Find out more here

<https://www.worldconkerchampionships.com/info.php>



Celebrate Diwali 27th October

Celebrate Diwali the festival of lights, with lively stage performances and cultural activities at this free annual event in Trafalgar Square. The festival includes dance workshops, yoga and meditation sessions, and a children's zone.

Find out more here

<https://www.london.gov.uk/events/diwali-square-2024>



Autumn Walks

Looking for autumn walks near you? On our woodland and forest trails, you'll discover breathtaking forest landscapes and incredible displays of colour.

Find your nearest walk with our handy guide to autumn walks, then treat your senses to the sights, smells and sounds of autumn in the forest.

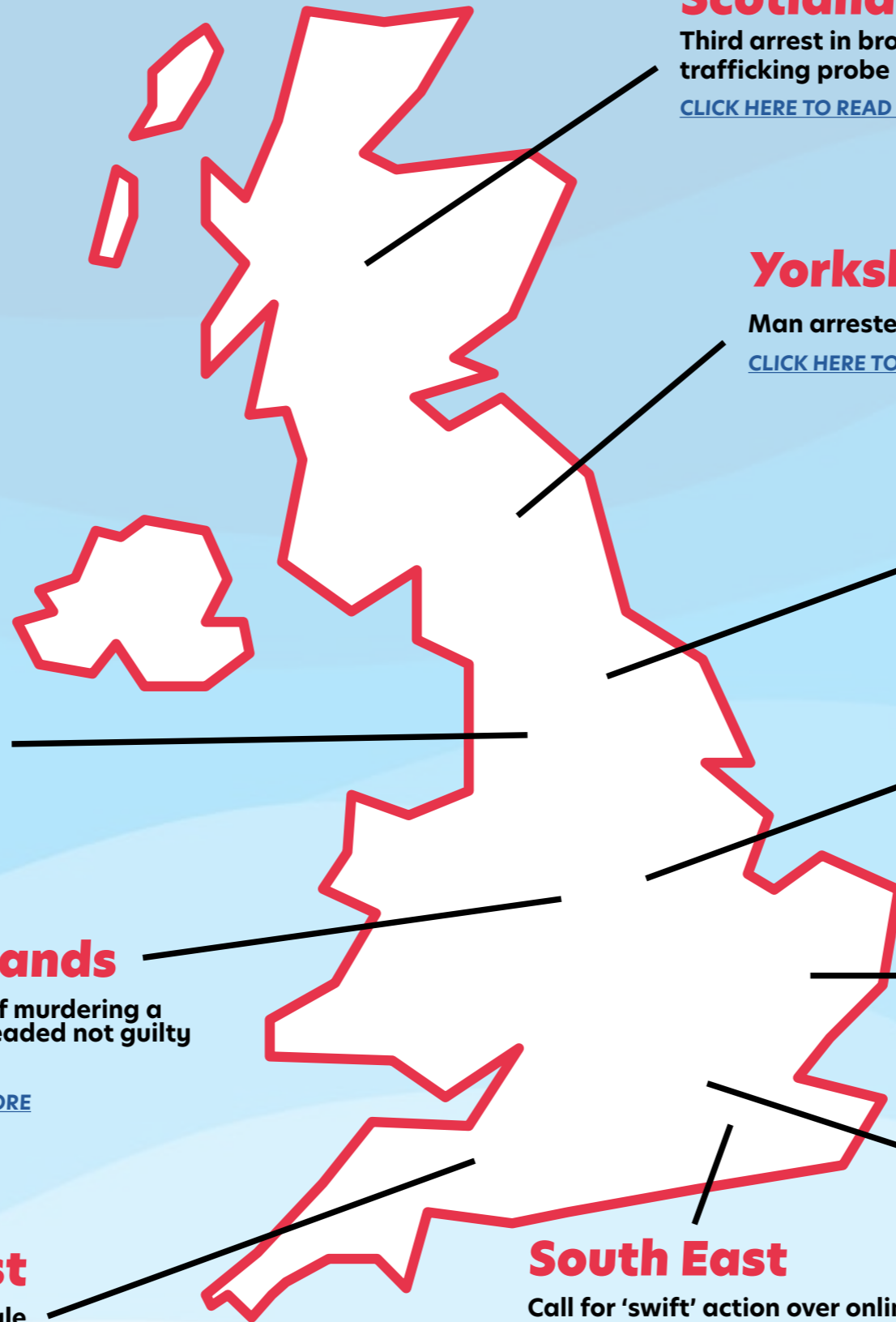
Visit forestry England to find out more

<https://www.forestryengland.uk/autumn/ultimate-guide-autumn-walks-near-you>



Safeguarding

What's happening in your area?



Scotland

Third arrest in brothel keeping and human trafficking probe

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

Yorkshire and the Humber

Man arrested after gunshots reported

[CLICK HERE TO READ MORE](#)

North East

Repeat offender gets 'buzz' from danger driving

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North West

A man has been charged with murder after a 49-year-old man was attacked near a medical centre in the early hours of Saturday morning.

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East Midlands

Police investigate reports young boy was approached by man in van

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West Midlands

Two boys accused of murdering a 13-year-old have pleaded not guilty at a court hearing.

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East of England

Head Teacher Convicted of Sexual Harassment

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South West

'Surreal' award for group tackling male violence

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South East

Call for 'swift' action over online child sex abuse

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London

Drug gang leader who boasted he was 'Pablo Escobar of east London' is jailed

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We would love to hear your ideas and suggestion of content you would like to be included in our future editions. Please scan the QR code to share your thoughts and ideas:

