

Helping You Stay Connected

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Drop-In List



A Gentle Winter Message

We hope everyone stays warm and well this winter. If this time of year feels a little quiet, please remember that our drop-ins and social tables offer friendly company, warm drinks and a welcoming space for anyone.

Winter Welcome

Note from Service Manager, Riley

Thank you for reading our Winter Newsletter. Whether you join us at a drop-in, volunteer with us, or follow our work online, we are delighted to share our latest updates. This autumn has been busy across Cambridgeshire and we are proud to support so many people with their NHS hearing aids, as well as offering warm and friendly places to meet others.

Drop-In Session Updates for Early 2026

A small number of venues will be changing next year.

Bottisham and **Burwell** will begin running quarterly from January. **Newnham** and **Hardwick** will become quarterly from February. Our Fenland sessions in **March** and **Wisbech** will now alternate every other month, with March taking place in January and Wisbech in February before continuing on this pattern throughout the year.

Please check the full list of dates on the back page.

Autumn in Numbers

Across our hearing aid maintenance drop-in sessions we supported 438 people in September and 420 people in October. Through our care home and home visits we supported 40 people in September and 29 in October. We typically see more people in the lead-up to Christmas, and we expect November to follow a similar pattern.

Christmas Break Notice

There will be no drop-in sessions in the fourth week of December while our team takes a short Christmas break. Sessions will continue as normal from January.

We look forward to seeing you at a session!

The Heart of Hearing Help

As we look back over the year, we want to shine a light on the people who keep our service running every single week: our wonderful volunteers. With more than sixty volunteers across Cambridgeshire, their kindness helps almost four thousand people each year. They are the reason our sessions feel welcoming, calm and friendly.

Whether they are retubing hearing aids, showing someone how to clean their moulds, offering practical advice or simply chatting over a cup of tea, our volunteers create the warm atmosphere that so many people appreciate.

This autumn we were delighted to bring volunteers together in Brampton and Horningsea for two relaxed gatherings. It was lovely to see people reconnect, share stories and celebrate another year of supporting local communities. We are deeply grateful to every volunteer who gives their time, energy and care.

Sometimes a single moment shows just how much their work matters. Recently, a gentleman phoned our office after attending one of our drop-ins. He shared how friendly and patient the volunteers had been, how comfortable he felt asking questions, and how much difference the support had made to his day. He called simply to say thank you, and kindly chose to make a donation as well.

“They were so kind and patient. I left feeling so much more confident.”

It was a small gesture, but it captured everything we hope our service can be. Hearing Help is not only about maintaining NHS hearing aids, but about offering reassurance, connection and community.

To all of our volunteers: thank you. You are the heart of Hearing Help.



Interested in becoming a volunteer with CDA Hearing Help?

enquiries@cambsdeaf.org

Tel - 01223 416141



What to Expect at a Drop-In

If you have never joined us before, our sessions are friendly, relaxed and open to anyone with NHS hearing aids.

Our volunteers can help with retubing, battery replacement, cleaning hearing aids and offering simple advice.

Many people stay for a chat or enjoy a warm drink.

Everyone is welcome and you are never rushed.



Volunteer Spotlight

In September, our volunteer Betty Watts was shortlisted for the BBC Radio Cambridgeshire Make a Difference Awards 2025. Betty reached the top four finalists out of more than three hundred nominations for her dedicated support to residents across Cambridge.

The award may have gone elsewhere, but her impact is felt every day in our community.

We are so proud of you, Betty!

Join our Social Groups

We run two regular, standalone social groups: Craft and Chat in **St Neots** on the first and third Thursday of every month, and Tea and Talk in **Sawston** once a month.

These are relaxed, friendly sessions where you can enjoy a warm drink, meet others and spend some time in good company. You can find information about when these groups run on the back page.

We are also pleased to be introducing Coffee & Company tables at several of our hearing aid maintenance drop-ins, including **March, Cherry Hinton, Chatteris, Histon, Cambridge Meadows, Wisbech** and **Cambourne**. On the back page, any drop-ins that include a Coffee & Company table will be marked with a star.

You do not need to be attending for hearing aid support to join in. Please do come along, stay for as long or as little as you like, and enjoy time with others.

Befriending Support

If you would like regular friendly chats or a visit at home, our Befriending Project may be able to help. It offers company, conversation and a chance to feel more connected.

We also welcome volunteer befrienders. Even a small amount of time can make a real difference to someone.

If you would like a befriender or are interested in volunteering as one, please get in touch.

Support CDA Hearing Help

Our service is free to access, but donations help us continue offering support across Cambridgeshire. If you would like to donate, you can do so at any of our sessions.

We now also offer direct debit donation forms, which you can pick up at any drop-in. Even a small monthly amount helps us maintain our service and reach more people.

If you prefer to donate by cheque, please make it payable to Cambridgeshire Deaf Association and post it to:

8 Romsey Terrace, Cambridge CB1 3NH.

Thank you to everyone who has already given so generously.

Need further support or advice?

Please get in touch. You can contact us at:

☎ 01223 416141

✉ enquiries@camsdeaf.org

🌐 camsdeaf.org

Supported by



Not Sure Where to Go?

We can help with retubing, replacing hooks and small repairs. If something inside your hearing aid is broken or not working properly, you will need to return to the provider who originally issued your hearing aids, as they are the ones who can repair or replace the device.

Everyone is entitled to a free hearing test every three years. Please contact your hearing aid provider to book this.

You should only visit your GP if you have new pain, a sudden drop in hearing, infections, dizziness, or if you have moved to a new area and need a referral to a different Audiology department.

If you are unsure, please speak to us at a drop-in session and we can help.



Hearing Aid Maintenance Centres

Please note all sessions during the 4th week of December will not be running.

Monthly

- Alconbury - 3rd Tuesday of the month, 2pm – 3:30pm, Memorial Hall, School Lane, PE28 4EQ
- Bar Hill- 1st Wednesday of the month, 10am – 12noon, Community Church, Viking Way, Bar Hill, CB23 8EH
- Cambourne - 1st Tuesday of the month, 9:45am – 11:45am, Church Centre, Jeavons Lane, CB23 6AF
- Cambridge Meadows - 4th Thurs of the month, 10am - 12 noon, Community Centre, Arbury Rd, CB4 2JL ♦ (No Dec)
- Chatteris - 2nd Wednesday of the month, 2pm-3.30pm, King Edward Community Centre, PE16 6NG ♦
- Cherry Hinton - 1st Thursday of the month, 2pm - 3:30pm, The Hub, High Street, CB1 9HZ ♦ (No Jan)
- Ely - 2nd Tuesday of the month, 10am-12 noon, Library, 6 The Cloisters, Ely, CB7 4ZH
- Fulbourn - 3rd Thursday of the month, 10am-12 noon, Library, Haggis Gap, CB21 5HD
- Girton - 3rd Wednesday of the month, 2:00pm-4:00pm, Baptist Church, High St, Cambridge, CB3 0QQ
- Great Shelford - 1st Thursday of the month, 10am-12 noon, Free Church, Ashen Green, CB22 5EY (No Jan)
- Histon - 2nd Thursday of the month, 2:00pm-3:30pm, Baptist Church, Station Road, CB24 9LQ ♦
- Huntingdon - 4th Tuesday of the month, 2:00pm-3:30pm, Library, Princes Street, Huntingdon, PE29 3PA (No Dec)
- Melbourn - 4th Thursday of the month, 1:30pm-3:30pm, Vicarage Cl. Community Room, SG8 6DY (No Dec)
- Sawtry - 2nd Thursday of the month, 10am – 12noon, Old School House, Green End Rd, Sawtry, PE28 5UY
- Sawston - 3rd Tuesday every month, 10am -12 noon, Chapelfield Way Community Hall, CB22 3GB
- Soham - 2nd Thursday of the month, 10am -12noon, Soham Library, 5/7 Clay Street, Soham, CB7 5HJ
- Somersham - 3rd Thursday of the month, 2pm – 3:30pm, Millennium Pavilion, The Trundle, PE28 3JS
- St Ives - 2nd Wednesday of the month, 10am-12noon, Library, 4 Library Row, Station Road, PE27 5BW
- St Neots - 4th Wednesday of the month, 2pm – 4pm, New Street Baptist Church, Saint Neots, PE19 1AE (No Dec)
- Whittlesey - 4th Tuesday of the month, 10am-11:30am, Library, PE7 1BA (No Dec)

Bi-Monthly

- March - 1st Wednesday of the month, 1:30pm – 3:30pm, St Peters Church Hall, March, PE15 9JR ♦
 - 7th Jan / 4th Mar / 6th May
- Wisbech - 1st Wednesday of the month, 2pm - 3:30pm, Queen Mary Centre, Queens Rd, PE13 2PE ♦
 - 3rd Dec / 4th Feb / 1st Apr

Quarterly

- Balsham - 4th Thursday, 10am-12 noon, Bowls Club, Church Lane, CB21 4DS
 - 22nd Jan / 20th Apr
- Bottisham - 4th Tuesday of the month, 10am - 12noon, Barchester- Hilton Park Care Home, CB25 9BX (No Dec)
 - 27th Jan / 28th Apr
- Burwell - 1st Tuesday of the month, 1:30pm - 3pm, Day Centre, Parsonage Close, CB25 0DR (No Dec)
 - 6th Jan / 7th Apr
- Cambridge City Centre St Philips - 3rd Wednesday, 10:30am – 12noon, 185 Mill Road, CB1 3AN
 - 18th Feb / 20th May
- Cambridge United - 1st Thursday, 11:30am – 1pm, Abbey Stadium, Cut Throat Lane, CB5 8LN
 - 5th Feb / 7th May
- Gamlingay - 3rd Wednesday, 10am – 12noon, Baptist Church, Stocks Lane, Gamlingay SG19 3JR
 - 17th Dec / 18th Mar / 17th June
- Hardwick - 4th Wednesday of the month, 10am – 12noon, St Mary's Church, The Cabin, CB23 7QS (No Dec/Jan)
 - 25th Feb / 27th May
- Newnham - 3rd Thursday of the month, 11am – 12:30pm, Red Bull Pub, Barton Road, CB3 9JZ (No Dec/Jan)
 - 19th Feb / 21st May
- Littleport - 2nd Tuesday, 1:30pm- 3pm, Village Hall, Victoria Street, CB6 1LX
 - 12th Jan / 14th Apr

Social Sessions

- Craft & Chat** - St Neots – 1st and 3rd Thursday of the month, New Street Baptist Church, PE19 1AE, 10am - 12pm
- Tea & Talk** – Sawston – 4th Tuesday of the month, Chapelfield Way Community Hall, CB22 3GB, 10am - 12pm