



British Assistive Technology Association

AGM and Champagne Reception

**AGM and Champagne Reception at the Olympia
Hilton 7:00pm on Thursday 12th January 2012**

**Champagne reception
sponsored by**

textHELP

&

iansyst
expand your world
achievement through technology

Guest Speakers



Baroness Walmsley,
Co-Chair of the Lib Dems
Parliamentary Policy
Committee on Education,
Families and Young People.



Andrew Gwynne MP,
Shadow Health Minister.



Anna Reeves,
The National AAC
Coordinator and Manager of
Ace Centre North.

7:00pm

Formal Business of the Association. Chairman and Treasurer reports. Report by the Executive Director. New BATA Council for 2012.

7:30pm

Introduction and opening remarks from Baroness Walmsley.

7:40pm

Andrew Gwynne MP, Shadow Health Minister.

8:00pm

Anna Reeves, the National AAC Coordinator.

8:20pm

Champagne reception sponsored by Texthelp and iansyst.

The British Assistive Technology Association has been set up to promote the interests of users of Assistive Technology and the companies, organisations and professionals who serve them.

The formal aims of BATA are:

- to campaign for the rights and interests of those needing Assistive Technology;
- to provide expert and impartial support and advice to government departments and agencies;
- to educate and inform widely on the benefits of AT;
- to promote British AT products and expertise at home and overseas.

The Council of BATA would like to invite interested persons and organisations to our AGM and Reception to learn more about BATA and, if you are not already a member, join us. There will be champagne and nibbles and the meeting will be addressed by leading figures including Baroness Walmsley, Shadow Health Minister Andrew Gwynne and Anna Reeves, the Communication Coordinator.

www.bataonline.org



“ In times of necessary cuts in public spending it is vital to raise the flag for those who face huge extra challenges in learning and living the full life we all want. ”

2012 will be fascinating. In 2008 the then Care Minister, Ivan Lewis's original initiative on specialist AAC led to The Bercow Review, which in turn gave us the FAST Report. This proposes the transfer of the strategic "hub" of provision of aids and services for children with speech needs to Health rather than Education. Meanwhile Education's tardy response to the 2010 Equality Act would put provision of "Auxiliary Aids" for children without speech (and lots more Assistive Technology besides) firmly back with LAs and schools. BATA has already pointed out, in the Education Department's consultancy exercise, the complacency of assuming that Assistive Technology is normally already provided under SEN Statements.

BATA is delighted to offer illumination on all of this:

Baroness Walmsley, our patron, is the Co-chair of the Liberal Democrat Committee on Education, Families and Young People and has taken a keen interest in Special Needs for all of the years I have known her.

Andrew Gwynne MP is the newly appointed Shadow Health Minister and can share the Opposition's views on Health and the "hub and spoke" proposals in the FAST Report.

Anna Reeves is well known to us all as Manager of the ACE Centre North but for some time has been working as the National AAC Coordinator and is in a better position than anyone to comment on the progress of the FAST Report on Specialist Communication Aids and services.

Elsewhere in Government, the Cabinet Office is energetically pursuing *Digital by Default* or *Channel Shift*: the perfectly respectable intention of Government to save cash and improve service by getting us all online. First in their sights are over 400 government websites; all different and all over the place. These will be reduced to one website with consistent navigation and a standard accessible layout. To work, *Digital by Default* must include *all* citizens. Assistive Technology is the essential missing part. Scotland is showing us an interesting model here. The digitalisation of Scottish exams has revolutionised school attitudes to digital text – and this is really helping learners who need electronic text support.

Britain has a clear world lead in several aspects of Assistive Technology and is streets ahead of Europe in every aspect of AT. BATA has quite a job ahead both in promoting our products abroad and ensuring that the technology in which we excel is giving people here the help they need in communicating, learning, and leading full, active and independent lives.

Martin Littler Founding Chairman BATA



BATA Membership and Subscription Changes

BATA has had a great year: finances are good; membership is growing and our website is ranked 6th by Google! We are increasingly in touch with key figures in Parliament and often asked to comment on reports and legislation. We have appointed a retired senior civil servant, Barbara Phillips CBE, as Executive Director. Next year will be exciting.

Our strength is in combining top British AT companies with Third Sector organisations and education and health professionals expert in AT. In 2012 we will work together to combine our strengths and balance the interests of the different groups and those they serve.

The BATA Council has decided that from 1st January 2012:

- All members will have an equal say in BATA and one vote each.
- All members may serve on the BATA Council. (Did you know one third must retire each year?)
- All members may post all their upcoming events on the BATA website.
- All members may post one "top product" on the BATA website and others at a small cost.
- All Members can benefit from BATA discounts to products, advertising, exhibitions and services.
- All members with a website may have their name and logo on the BATA website with a link through to their own website.
- All members with a website may use the appropriate BATA logo on their website and on their stationary and marketing materials.
- All members will pay something – although this may actually be less than now!
- **FREE** - Those wanting just to stay in touch and lend their support can remain as "Subscribers" to our various BATA newsletters completely free as now.

Here are the revised membership subscriptions:

	2011	2012	2013
BATA Subscribers:	FREE	FREE	FREE
Members	existing members	new members	all members
Individuals (employed, retired, un-waged)	£50	£50	£50
Third Sector Organisations	£100	£100	£100
Schools, HE, FE and LA Services	£100	£100	£100
Commerical Business, 1-2 employees	£150	£150	£150
Commerical Business, 3-10 employees	£250	£275	£275
Commerical Business, 11-50 employees	£500	£550	£550
Commerical Business with 51 or more employees	£750	£825	£825

2011's Associate Members may select one of the options above or become Subscribers free of charge.

Invoices will be sent out in the New Year. Do contact me if you have any queries.



2011 Full Members of BATA



2011 Associate Members

Aberdeenshire Council (ASPECTS), Access Central, Access Through Technology, ace centre, Action for Blind People, Adult Dyslexia Organisation, Albinism Fellowship, alisha rkhelawan, Anfa-Translation, Angela Fryer, Anita Devi, ANNEBRAEKKAN, ARCOS, Asif Masiuddin, Assistive Technology, ATOP Ltd, Bangor University, Beaumont College SCOPE, Bellavista School, Benjin Franks, Bernie Henderson, Blackfriars Special School, blindintuition, BlindPages, Ltd. Bobath Scotland, Brimble Hill Special School, British Dyslexia Association, Brunel University, Carol Allen, Catcote School, Business and Enterprise College, CENMAC, Chris Abbott, columbus school and college, David Perkins, Disability Essex, Elaine Hampson, EmpTech, Enabling IT R and D Ltd, Five Acre Wood School, Forest Park School, FREELANCE, Hazel Coat Secondary School, Heatherwood Special School, Hereward College, Highfield School, Highland Council St Duthus School, Ibis Creative Consultants Ltd, ICT Consultant, Independent, Independent Cons, INDIVIDUAL, Iris Hjaledel, Jack Randal, JANE EDGERTON, Jane Cochrane, Janet Larcher Training Ltd, Jenny Parsonage, JISC Regional Support Centre, JISC TechDis, John Fielding School, KCC, Kemball Special School, Learning Disability Wales, Lifetool Gemeinnuteige GmbH, Lifeways Community Care, lynn laverty, Malaysian Info Network For Disability, Maurice Stanley, Mayfield special school, Meadow High School, MED ASBL NGO, Melanie Newbury, Meru, microDres Software Solutions, Middlesbrough Children Filies and Learning, Momentum Scotland, Myrddin special school, Neil Cottrell, Newbridge School and SEN Services, NHS, Northampton Assessment Centre, Nottinghamshire LA, NYCAP Pen Hall School, Peter Cheer, Portland College, PSYCHERIGHTSUK, Pupil Support Service, Remploy Ltd, Richmond Park School, Rob Cobby, SENIT Forum, Social Action for Human Needs in Technological Imp, Sound Advice For Schools, St Francis Community Special School, Stephen Collis, Steven Clarke-Emmerson, SWITCH Community Ltd, Tafelberg School, Tan Chuan Hoh, tapincomputers, Telecare Consulting, The Centre For Whole Healthcare Ltd, The Children's Hospital School, The Digital Accessibility Centre, The Link Primary School, This Magazine, Training @ Home, Training and Develoent Agency for Schools, Try-It.ie, UCanDoIT, Ul.C.T Services, Victoria Education Centre and Sports College, Wilson Stuart School, Zantra Technology Ltd.