



British Assistive Technology Association

# AGM and Champagne Lunch

**AGM and Champagne Lunch at the splendid Oriental Club 11:00 to 15:00 on Wednesday 16th January 2013**

## Champagne Lunch sponsored by



### Guest Speakers



**Baroness Walmsley** is the BATA Patron and currently the Liberal Democrat spokesperson on Education, Young People and Families in the House of Lords.



**Sharon Hodgson MP** is the Shadow Education Minister and has responsibility for Special Education Needs.



**Peter White MBE** is a distinguished journalist, broadcaster and raconteur and has been the BBC's Disability Affairs Correspondent since 1995.

11:00 - Welcome and Coffee.

11:20 - Formal Business of the Association. Reports from the Chairman, Treasurer & Executive Director. New BATA Council for 2013.

12:00 - Champagne Lunch.

13:00 - Introductory remarks from our Patron, Baroness Walmsley.

Sponsor - Martin Littler, HelpKidzLearn from Inclusive Technology.

13:20 - "Technology, Special Needs and Disability" Peter White MBE the BBC's disability correspondent.

Sponsor - Noel Duffy, Dolphin Computer Access.

14:00 - "Funding Special Needs in Schools" Sharon Hodgson MP, The Shadow Education Minister, who has responsibility for SEN.

Sponsor - John Crick, Crick Software.

15:00 - Networking and close.

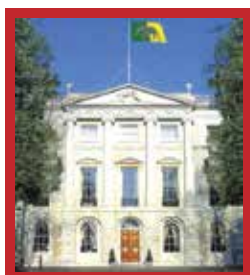


Press enquires to Livewire PR

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 members and prospective members to our Annual General Meeting at the Oriental Club. After a light lunch we have an exceptional programme with our three speakers. There will be an opportunity to network with our speakers and your fellow members over a glass or two at three o'clock. Many thanks to our three sponsors who have met all of the AGM costs.

**Dress Code:** The Oriental Club requires men to wear a jacket and tie. Denims or trainers are not permitted on anyone.

[www.bataonline.org](http://www.bataonline.org)

## 2013 Members of BATA



## About our AGM Sponsors



### HelpKidzLearn

from Inclusive Technology is a collection of software for young children and those with learning difficulties to play online.

[www.helpkidzlearn.com](http://www.helpkidzlearn.com)



### Crick Software

produce accessible reading and writing software for all abilities. Crick's products are in worldwide use, including over 90% of UK primary schools.

[www.cricksoft.com](http://www.cricksoft.com)



### Dolphin Computer Access

is dedicated to improving the lives of people with vision and print impairments.

[www.yourdolphin.com](http://www.yourdolphin.com)



*“The pace of change within the technology sector and, more importantly, the UK legislative & funding environment continues to accelerate for every type of Assistive Technology.”*

Changes to Special Education Needs (SEN) funding coming into effect in Spring 2013 and the introduction in September 2012 of the auxiliary aid requirement under The Equality Act, which will make all schools responsible for the provision of assistive technology, are just two examples of the many changes coming into effect.

However, we should not forget that, as well as the challenges posed by austerity cuts, new opportunities for AT are developing, e.g. the Digital by Default programme arising out of the work originally conducted by Martha Lane Fox offers huge potential for AT.

In the midst of this almost chaotic environment, the role of BATA has never been more critical. Our efforts to influence policy are gaining momentum and increasingly we are being asked to provide opinion at the highest level. We continue to respond to government consultations and our on-going market research programme is beginning to reap benefits and we are starting to see the true scale of the AT ecosystem; the positive benefits of AT; the longer term trends that can only increase the need for AT; and also the lack of awareness of amongst corporation regarding statutory rights of people with disabilities.

Our Executive Director, Barbara Phillips, has been working tirelessly for us throughout the year. As a result of Barbara's efforts, BATA had the opportunity to present to a global audience of AT professionals and influencers at the British Embassy Business event associated with the Paralympics.

BATA is a young organisation, however our momentum continues to build. Our spheres of influence are broadening and we are connecting with more and more like minded organisations with the common goal of supporting the disability community. The challenges facing the industry continue to grow, but so do the opportunities. BATA must continue to push forward on all fronts.

**Mark McCusker** - BATA Chairman

**Barbara Phillips** - BATA Executive Director

## Election of Council Members

Dear BATA member,

In line with BATA Articles of Association, one third (in this case three) of the existing Council members are required to step down at the next AGM. We are therefore seeking to appoint new Directors and welcome your expression of interest in serving on the Council. This is a challenging role as the BATA continues to develop and extend it's reach and impact. The Council currently meets each month, although on alternate months this is via teleconference.

If you are interested in standing please let BATA Secretary, [terry.waller@bataonline.org](mailto:terry.waller@bataonline.org) know before the 31st December. Members will be notified of the outcome at the AGM on 16th January 2013 and via email.

I look forward to hearing from you.

**Mark McCusker** - BATA Chairman



# Bata Membership and Charges for 2013

Our AGM rounds up another successful year for the British Assistive Technology Association. Membership has grown and BATA's research and lobbying is well underway. Having distinguished speakers like Peter White MBE, Sharon Hodgson MP, and Baroness Walmsley will bring Assistive Technology to the attention of Britain's key disability broadcaster and SEN policy makers in the Liberal Democrat and Labour Parliamentary Parties. Once again our splendid sponsors HelpKidzLearn, Crick Software and Dolphin Computer Access bring all this to you at no cost to the Association.

I cannot pretend that Assistive Technology or technology of any sort is on the DfE's agenda and we have again failed to get a speaker from the Department. We are in this for the long haul and learners with Special Needs and those with disabilities and the lively British Industry and third sector organisations which serve them do now have a voice.



**Martin Littler**  
BATA Membership Secretary

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## BATA Benefits

Apart from sharing in the BATA research and benefit from our lobbying, members of BATA can:

- Post up to twelve "top products" on the BATA website
- Post all upcoming events they organise or exhibitions they attend on "BATA Events"
- Have the BATA logo on their company or organisation's website, stationary and marketing materials
- Have their own logo on the BATA website a link to their own website.
- Have a description of their company or organisation on the BATA site
- Vote or stand for the BATA Council. It's one member one vote.

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## 2013 BATA Membership Fees:

Third sector organisations of any size: .....	<b>£100</b>
Schools, HE, FE, and LA Services .....	<b>£100</b>
Commercial business with 1 or 2 UK based employees .....	<b>£150</b>
Commercial business with 3 to 10 UK based employees .....	<b>£275</b>
Commercial business with 11 to 50 UK based employees .....	<b>£550</b>
Commercial business with 51 or more UK based employees .....	<b>£825</b>

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## BATA Newsletter

A few BATA Newsletters go to BATA Members only. Most go to everyone who signs up to keep in touch. Go to the BATA website and sign up now. **It's FREE!**

