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For an appointment Freephone: 0800 6121 345

Welcome to the Summer edition of our newsletter. We are also pleased to announce the opening of our NEW Harley Street, London office!

As you will read a little later, we have been pretty busy expanding the practice and continuing to invest in leading technology. I'm still confident that Click Hearing remains the best value, high end hearing aid company in the UK.

Many of you may have noticed that we opened for business in Epping just before the Autumn edition of the newsletter. I'm pleased to be able to report that in June, Tony opened another Kent office and is now operating in Ashford as well as Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells.
Some of you may remember that I used to have a session in London a few years back. Due to popular demand I am planning to start working from Harley Street again and appointments will be available at No. 1 Harley Street from September.

I look forward to catching up with you later in the year. **Ben Mann**

Stem cell research shows 'cure' for deafness is on the horizon for patients

SCIENTISTS at the University of Sheffield have created the complex hair cells and neurons needed to restore hearing, which could spell the beginning of a 'cure' for hearing loss.

The scientists, funded by Deafness Research UK and the RNID, hope they will eventually be able to use the cells to perform cell transplants in deaf patients to replace the hair cells and neurons that are damaged, but warn that such treatment is still at least ten years away.

Sensorineural hearing loss, one of the most common forms of deafness, accounts for 90 per cent of cases and affects more than 6 million people.

The researchers, led by Dr Rivolta, obtained stem cells from the cochleae of aborted foetuses. The stem cells that have the capability to be transformed into the auditory apparatus needed for hearing disappear rapidly after birth, which is why our bodies cannot repair any damage.

Dr Rivolta, who has been working in hearing research for over 18 years and exploring the use of human stem cells for six years, and his team found they were able to grow these stem cells in the laboratory and encourage them to turn into hair cells.

He is now conducting tests in animals to see if transplanting these cells will be able to restore hearing. He also hopes it will be possible to grow these cells from other sources of stem cells such as bone marrow.

Dr Rivolta added: "In the shorter term, these cells also provide us with a very good model for studying the development of human hearing and the effect that new drug treatments may have on them.

"The next stage of our work is to test these cells in animal models to see if they will survive once transplanted and, hopefully, produce functional recovery."

Hair cells are responsible for turning sound into electrical impulses that can be carried to the brain. Tiny hair like growths from the surface of the cell move when sound waves pass over them and this movement sends small electrical signals along the nerves to the brain.