

## You can help AphasiaNow

There are several ways you can help AphasiaNow:

- ◇ Share your expertise by posting your experiences and aphasia knowledge on the aphasia related forum on our website
- ◇ Help as a volunteer
- ◇ Consider donating - as little as £25 could help us fund vital artistic therapies designed to promote wellness, enhance memory and improve communication.

If you are interested to join our weekly support group 'AphasiaNow' or require any other information please contact us:

### Contact details

[www.aphasianow.org](http://www.aphasianow.org)  
[mail@aphasianow.org](mailto:mail@aphasianow.org)  
Tel 01453 768811



Please make donations payable to -  
'AphasiaNow', and mail to c/o Traquair, Farmhill  
Crescent, Stroud GL5 4BZ

|                               |                               |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Patron                        | <b>Prof Chris Code</b>        |
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## A social initiative for people with aphasia

Communicating after stroke  
or head injury

**Aphasia Now**  
since 2005

[www.aphasianow.org](http://www.aphasianow.org)  
in partnership with Glos-Speak

People with aphasia helping each other

to overcome aphasia together

## What is Aphasia?

Aphasia is an acquired disorder and affects a person's ability to communicate (from Greek, aphantos : 'speechless').

## Causes

Usually, aphasia is caused by an injury to the language center of the brain. Damage to this area is most often the result of **stroke**, **brain tumor** or **progressive** neurological diseases.

## Consequences

Aphasia can be **so severe as to make communication almost impossible, or it can be very mild**. Commonly, multiple aspects of communication are impaired, including understanding what other people say, ability to retrieve names of objects, read and write.

**Aphasia can mask a person's intelligence** and ability to communicate feelings, thoughts and emotions.

*"Aphasia has changed my life and has affected my confidence. I find it very frustrating having difficulty reading and writing, something I just took for granted before. The plus has been that I have had to re-evaluate my life". (Catherine)*

## Facts

Nearly twice as many people have aphasia than there are individuals with Parkinson's disease and yet the general public knows little about aphasia.

There are well over 250,000 people with aphasia in the UK, with an estimated 2,500 in Gloucestershire.

Aphasia is diagnosed in approximately a third of all stroke survivors, equaling near 30,000 new cases each year. This number is expected to increase significantly as the population ages.



*Jenny and Barbara raising awareness with health care professionals at recent Stroke day*



## AphasiaNow aim to

- ◇ Encourage and **bring hope** to sufferers of aphasia
- ◇ **Raise awareness** with the general public of the condition
- ◇ Help develop **independence through new skills**
- ◇ Assist those with aphasia to **regain self-confidence** through communication, talking, friendship, **and having fun!**

## Aphasia-friendly website...

With a forum, focusing on resources for people with aphasia, including articles and research by guest writers and regular news.

## Support group

Our weekly support group, provides a direct service to people with communication impairment in Gloucestershire. The group has input from specialist professionals and trained volunteers, offering:

- ◇ Conversation & discussion groups
- ◇ Creative activities
- ◇ Social sessions
- ◇ Complimentary therapies
- ◇ Family support

**Aphasia Now**

