

The changing name of the profession and the professional body

... Language Pathologist ... Linguist ...
 Communicologist ... Logopaedist ... Ortholinguist ...
 Clinical Speech Pathologist ... Phasiologist ... Voice
 and Language Pathologist ... Speech Therapologist ...
 ... Remedial Linguist ... Speech and Language
 Clinician ... Oratologist ... Orthologist ...
 Linguologist ... Human Communication Consultant ...
 ... Communication Specialist ... Ortholinguologist ...
 Language Pathologist and Therapist ... Speech
 Pathologist and Therapist ... Specialist in Disorders of
 Human Communication ... Phraseologist ...
 Language Therapist ... Remedial Language Specialist ...
 ... Speech and Language Specialist ... Linguistic
 Pathologist ... Human Communication Practitioner ...
 ... Linguopathist ... Linguopathologist ...
 Linguopaedist ... Human Communication Specialist ...
 ... Speech and Language Pathologist and Therapist ...
 Speech and Language Practitioner ... Speech and
 Language Consultant ... Speech-Language
 Pathologist ...

From *Bulletin* No. 455, p. 1

Before the designation 'speech therapist' was used in the UK from the 1920s (Kingdon Ward, 1963), many other titles were given to those who worked therapeutically with people with disorders of voice and speech, including:

- speech specialist (Oswald, 1947)
- instructor in vocal therapy¹, speech correctionist, remedial teacher of speech, curative speech trainer, stammering instructor, remedial speech trainer (Wilkins, 1952)
- instructor for speech defects (Kingdon Ward, 1963).

I was appointed full time "Speech Specialist" (we were not called Therapists then) to the London Neurological Clinic by the Ministry of Pensions in 1920 at a salary of £300 a year, following an earlier full time appointment under the War Office in 1918, at a salary of 3 guineas a week. This latter appointment was to Monyhull Hospital, Birmingham, where the cases were chiefly "shell shock" and borderline cases.

Yours faithfully,

MABEL V.D. OSWALD., F.C.S.T.

Speech Clinic, University College Hospital,
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From *Bulletin* No. 11, p. 2

'Gradually as the term *therapy* came into popular use to describe curative work, the term *speech therapist* was generally employed to describe all those who were attempting to treat patients suffering from defects and disorders of voice and speech' (Wilkins, 1952, p. 417). By 1943, both of the organisations that came together to form the College of Speech Therapists (CST) had the label in their title, ie the British Society of Speech Therapists and the Association of Speech Therapists. We remained speech therapists until 1990, even after several ballots of the profession dating back to the 1970s and 1980s (summarised in Wiseman 1990), the results of which indicated that the profession

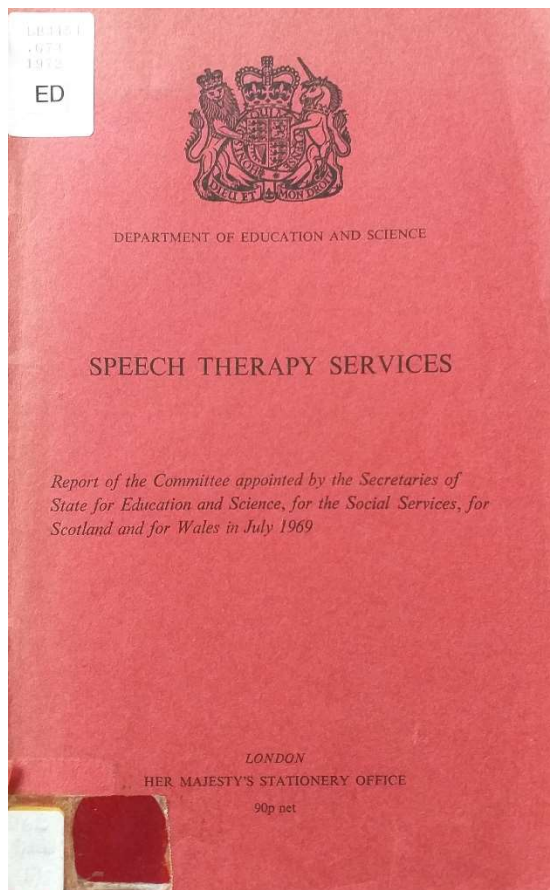
¹ Kingdon Ward (1963) contends that she had 'never come across the term "Instructor in Vocal Therapy"' (p. 13).

'agreed that we would like a new name but have been unable to agree on one' (Smith, 1990). Anonymous (1990) reprints an article and letter from 1983 on the topic.

- 1970s

From time to time speech therapists have suggested that there should be a change of name for the profession, but always it has been difficult to find one that is more suitable than speech therapist and which is acceptable. The question has now been raised in the Quirk Report. The Council of the College at its meeting on 12th January, 1973 considered that there are reasons why this should be done and why it should be done in the near future.

from *Bulletin* No. 250, p. 4



The discussion in the 1970s arose from a suggestion in the Quirk Report. A name change for the profession was considered by Council following comments and suggestions from the members and a ballot was held in 1973. A voting paper was enclosed with *Bulletin* No. 258. 1200 were returned (No. 262). Two-thirds of the membership voted for a change of name, but there was no conclusive vote on what the change should be (there was a large spread of votes over a large number of proposed names). Therefore a further voting paper was issued in No. 265, with a choice of the seven most popular names. The membership gave no clear mandate on the second vote, with only a small

proportion of the profession returning the voting paper. Council thus decided that the name of the profession would remain unchanged and the matter should be raised again in the future (No. 271).

The question of changing the profession's name was raised again in the late 1970s (letters in Bulletin Nos 320, 322, 323, 324, 326, 328, 330, 331). Membership views were sought in No. 323. The top five names from this poll were to be used in a ballot (No. 327), which was kept open because of postal difficulties (No. 328). Enclosures with No. 330 included an 'important notice' to members re: the change of name, which gave the result of the June 1979 ballot. This resulted in a further ballot, with a choice of the most popular two names from the June ballot, ie 'speech pathologist' and 'speech therapist'. By 1033 to 515 votes, the name 'speech therapist' was retained (No. 334).

- **1980s**

Members were again balloted on the name of the profession in 1983. 1454 ballot papers were received. As 'speech therapist' received more than 50% of the votes, this name was again retained (*Bulletin* No. 380). The name change topic produced many letters in the second half of the 1980s (Nos 420, 429 x2, 434, 435 x2, 438, 442, 454 x3, 455, 456 x3, 457, 458 x3, 459 x3, 460 x7, 461, 462 x2, 464 x2). The Deputy Chairman wrote an article in No. 432 re: the name needing to be reconsidered. A membership referendum reported in No. 454 showed that twice as many members voted to change the name as to retain it.

**Speech-Language
Pathologist?**

LOGOPAEDIST?

Communicologist?

PHONIATRIST?

**Communication
Specialist?**

**Speech and Language
Practitioner?**

ORTHOLINGUISTICIAN?

Results of the College Referendum

To retain the name 'Speech Therapy'	704
To change the name of the profession	1,465
Total:	2,169

Over 50% of the membership returned their votes

Council is preparing information for members to consider before further action is taken.

From *Bulletin* No. 454, p. 1

- **1990s**

Finally, the resulting ballot in mid-1990 produced a name change – to 'speech and language therapist' (hardly radical!). The change of name was ratified at the 1990 AGM.

BALLOT ON CHANGE OF NAME OF THE PROFESSION

NOTIFICATION OF RESULT

My report on the above ballot, which closed on Friday, 20th July, is as follows :-

Number of ballot papers distributed 4,535
Number of ballot papers received 3,166
Rate of participation 69.8%
Number of papers found to be invalid (blank/spoilt) ... 20
Thus, total number of valid papers to be counted 3,146

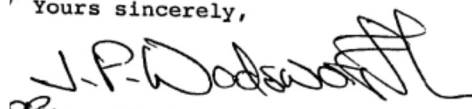
Result

The count was conducted by the Alternative Vote, with 1,574 being the quota. At the seventh and final stage of the count, the successful option was deemed to be :-

THE COLLEGE OF SPEECH AND LANGUAGE THERAPISTS

A copy of the Election Result Sheet, detailing the first preference vote totals for each option and all subsequent transfers, is enclosed.

Yours sincerely,


Simon Clarke
Senior Ballot Adviser

NAME OF ORGANISATION COLLEGE OF SPEECH THERAPISTS

BALLOT ON CHANGE OF NAME OF PROFESSION

ELECTION RESULT SHEET

NUMBER TO BE ELECTED 1 TOTAL VALID VOTE 3,146 QUOTA 1,574

OPTIONS	FIRST STAGE	2ND STAGE Surplus/Exclusion of 5 & 6	3RD STAGE Surplus/Exclusion of 4	4TH STAGE Surplus/Exclusion of 3	5TH STAGE Surplus/Exclusion of 2	6TH STAGE Surplus/Exclusion of 1	7TH STAGE Surplus/Exclusion of 0
The College of...							
1) Clinical Communication Specialists	349	25 374	7 381	65 446	81 527	-527 -	-
2) Clinical Communication Therapists	198	7 205	2 207	-207 -	-	-	-
3) Communication Specialists	214	17 231	13 244	3 247	-247 -	-	-
4) Communication Therapists	718	31 749	14 763	82 845	114 959	229 1,188	92 1,280
5) Communicologists	88	-88 -	-	-	-	-	-
6) Language Pathologists	38	-38 -	-	-	-	-	-
7) Speech & Language Pathologists	421	24 445	104 549	13 562	20 582	157 739	-739 -
8) Speech & Language Therapists	960	5 965	26 991	40 1,031	25 1,056	85 1,141	442 1,583
9) Speech Pathologists	160	15 175	-175 -	-	-	-	-
Non-distributable remainders of surpluses							
Non-transferable (preferences exhausted)		2 2	9 11	4 15	7 22	56 78	92 283
TOTAL	3,146	3,146	3,146	3,146	3,146	3,146	3,146

Published by The Electoral Reform Society of Great Britain and Ireland, 6 Chandos St., London SE1 0UX

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From College News (Bulletin supplement) August 1990

The resolution that, with effect from 1st April 1991, the College of Speech Therapists shall be called The College of Speech and Language Therapists was then put to the vote and duly carried 62 votes in favour and 19 abstentions. There were no votes against. In response to a question, the cost of promoting the new name and new College image was reckoned to be of the order of £10,000.

From Minutes of the 1990 CST AGM

CST was officially renamed the College of Speech and Language Therapists (CSLT) as from the end of May 1991 (when it also launched *Communicating Quality*). This resulted in the abbreviations SLT or SALT(!) for speech and language therapist.

The 30 May, 1991, is a major landmark for the speech and language therapy profession. Not only do we formally announce our new name. More importantly, we unveil a major publication unprecedented in its scope by the efforts of any other caring profession.

From *Bulletin* No. 269, p. 15

Bulletin

The College of Speech Therapists
PATRON: HM QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER

March 1991 No. 467
ISSN 0953-6086

Bulletin

The College of Speech and Language Therapists
PATRON: HM QUEEN ELIZABETH THE QUEEN MOTHER

ISSN 0953-6086

April 1991 No. 468

CSLT was awarded royal status in 1995 (the College's golden jubilee year) and became the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists.



COLLEGE GOES ROYAL !

From 18 May 1995, CSLT became the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists. Among the first to congratulate the profession was Virginia Bottomley, Secretary of State for Health, at a reception given by the DoH to mark the Golden Jubilee.

However, the name of the profession continues to be debated into the 21st century as the clinical areas and client-groups with which speech and language therapists work evolve and develop, eg the balance of work between communication and swallowing disorders in adults with acquired neurological disorders has shifted significantly to the latter. Some suggestions are more tongue in cheek than others.

Joking aside

I thought at first the letter from SLTs recommending the name swallowologists ("More on names", Bulletin, April 2010, p4) could be an April fool.

Surely our job is primarily to help everyone who has poor communication skills, feeding and swallowing difficulties. We have had enough problems getting people to remember speech and language therapists and if we change our name it should be accessible to all our caseloads.

Communication therapist makes more sense to me but I hate to be called a SALT. A very personal point of view but it is our client groups who come first.

Libby Gilliver
Independent SLT



Bulletin No. 697 (2010)

Like the magazine's new look.

Linda Armstrong
Communicoswallowologist,
Perth

—

Bulletin No. 697

Spice boys?

Come on, SALT ladies ("More on names", Bulletin, April 2010, p4) remember there are a few males in the profession. Perhaps we're the spice boys, or maybe the pepper men.

Ian Bell
Lead SLT, RNIB Rushton School
and Children's Home

Bulletin No. 697

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Linda Armstrong, December 2020