

The first College of Speech Therapists conference held in Scotland: coming of age in 1966

It must have been a bit of a coup for Dr Anne McAllister and for the Glasgow School of Speech Therapy to host the 1966 College of Speech Therapists national conference in Scotland. The previous five (between 1945 and 1961) had been held in London (three times), Oxford and Birmingham. This was College's 21st birthday year, it having been founded in 1945. The conference came to Scotland and Glasgow again in 2017.

Minutes from 1963 College Council and the Executive Committee meetings (held at Strathclyde Archives and Special Collections) show how long the conference was in the planning - well before Dr Anne was elected the first President of College in 1965. In the call for papers in October 1964's *Bulletin* (College's magazine), we see that the date and venue had been decided: 25-29 July 1966 at Jordanhill College of Education, Glasgow with which the Glasgow School of Speech Therapy had been long associated. The conference theme was speech pathology diagnosis: theory and practice.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE, 1966.

at

JORDANHILL COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, GLASGOW

on

25th - 29th July, 1966.

Theme:

"Diagnosis, Theory and Practice"

Call for Papers

The intention is that the programme should consist of papers on the pathology of speech disorders, followed by reports from Speech Therapists on research into specific speech disorders and therapies in relation to diagnosis.

An invitation is extended to members of the profession to offer papers to be read at the Conference. Name and title of paper should be submitted by 31st January, 1965.

Secretary: R.M. Beggs,
Speech Therapy Department,
Knightswood Hospital,
Glasgow, W.3.

Chairman: A.H. McAllister

From *Bulletin* October 1964, p. 2



https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:University_of_Strathclyde,_Jordanhill_Campus_-_geograph.org.uk_-_1742248.jpg&tbnid=algratfXwuEoM&vet=1&docid=MrSZtFMj1xMuMM&w=640&h=326&itg=1&q=jordanhill+college&source=sh/x/im

The names of the ultimate organising committee may be familiar to some ex-students of the Glasgow School and retired therapists in central Scotland: Dr Anne McAllister, Margaret Sievwright,

Maud Wohl, Dorothy McKirdy, Helen Kennedy, Catherine McCallien, Agnes Maxwell and Alison Neaves. Several of the committee also appear as speakers in the conference programme.

The programme shows us that several social activities were offered as part of the conference: a coach trip to the Trossachs, a civic reception, Brains Trust, a recital by the Scottish Junior Singers and the conference dinner. There was something on each evening. I had to look up what the Brains Trust was to understand the event on the 27th. It was a panel of experts who tried to answer questions sent in by the audience, initially broadcast on the radio and later on television. I'm sure this one had a speech therapy feel.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF SPEECH THERAPISTS Jordhill College of Education, Glasgow 25-29th July 1966 Theme: Diagnosis: Theory and Practice (Members will appreciate that there may still require to be some alterations in the Programme)	
PROGRAMME	
Monday, 26th 2.30-5.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Registration Opening Meeting.
Tuesday, 26th 9.15-10.10 a.m.	Dr. Neil Gordon (Consultant Neurologist, Booth Hall Children's Hospital, Manchester) "The Child who does not Talk. Problems in Diagnosis".
10.15-11.5 a.m.	Miss Catherine Rendrew, F.C.S.T. (Division of Rehabilitation, Faculty of Medicine, University of Toronto) "Areas of Language Development".
11.10-11.35 a.m. 11.40-12.15 p.m.	Coffee Miss B. Burfield, F.C.S.T. (Principal, West End Hospital Speech Therapy Training School) "Therapeutic Assessment in Language, Voice and Speech Disorders".
12.30-12.50 p.m. 2.15-2.45 p.m.	Discussion. Miss H. Kennedy, L.C.S.T. (Senior Therapist County Council of Lanark Education Service) "Reading Capacity and Articulation Defect".
2.50-3.20 p.m.	Miss A. M. Maxwell, L.C.S.T. (Therapist in Charge Speech Department, County Council of Dumfriesshire) "Survey of Hearing Loss and Defective Articulation".
3.25-3.55 p.m.	Miss D. McKirdy, L.C.S.T. (Senior Therapist, School Health Service, Glasgow) "The Language of The Mentally Handicapped".
4.0-4.30 p.m. 7.0 for 7.30 p.m.	Discussion. Civic Reception.
Wednesday, 27th 9.15-10.0 a.m.	Professor Ian Taylor (Department of Audiology, University of Manchester) "Factors of Psychopathology in Congenital and Acquired Hearing and Language Disorders".
10.5-11.10 a.m.	Mr. R. Rensford and Miss P. A. B. Grady, L.C.S.T. (Sub-Department of Speech, University of Newcastle-on-Tyne) "Assessment Procedures in Delayed Language and Speech".
11.15-11.30 a.m. 11.35-12.10 p.m.	Coffee Dr. R. Milnes (Professor of Speech Pathology, Indiana University) "The Inverse Process Used in Evaluating the Adequacy of one's Speech Sounds".
12.15-12.50 p.m. 2.0-5.30 p.m. 7.30 p.m.	Discussion. Coach Trip to the Trossachs. Brains Trust. Chairmen: Dr. M. Morley. Recital by the Scottish Junior Singers. Conductor: Agnes Duncan.
Thursday, 28th 9.15-10.0 a.m.	Professor Ross Mitchell (Department of Child Health, University of Aberdeen) "Children with Minimal Cerebral Damage".
10.5-10.40 a.m.	Dr. B. Wylie (Department of Physiology, Royal College of Surgeons, London) "Resonance in Respiration and Laryngeal Neurology".
10.45-11.10 a.m.	Miss J. M. Turpin, F.C.S.T., L.R.A.M. (School Health Service, London) "Problems of Diagnosis in an E.S.N. School".
11.10-11.35 a.m. 11.40-12.10 p.m.	Coffee Dr. S. Brandon (Lecturer in Psychological Medicine, University of Newcastle-on-Tyne) and Mrs. M. Harris, F.C.S.T., L.R.A.M. (Head of Sub-Department of Speech, University of Newcastle-on-Tyne) "The Use of Syllable-Timed Speech with Stammerers".
12.15-12.45 p.m. 2.15-2.45 p.m.	Discussion. Mrs. A. Neaves, L.C.S.T. (Speech Therapist, Ayrshire) "An Analysis of Stammering: Diagnosis and its Treatment".
2.50-3.25 p.m.	Dr. G. Timbury (Medical Superintendent, Gartnavel Royal Mental Hospital) "The Neuroses in Stammering".
3.30-4.00 p.m.	Mrs. M. T. Wohl, M.A., L.C.S.T. (Lecturer in Speech Pathology, Jordhill College of Education, School of Speech Therapy) "Resonance Inhibition: A Process of Continuous Diagnosis".
4.5-4.30 p.m. 4.35-4.55 p.m.	Miss B. Kay, L.C.S.T. (Hospital Service, Belfast) "Non-Fluency".
Friday, 29th 9.15-10.0 a.m.	Discussion. Mrs. M. C. L. Goone, F.C.S.T. (Director of Studies, Department of Speech Therapy, Central School of Speech and Drama, London) "Management of Aphasia after Laryngeal Surgery".
10.5-10.30 a.m.	Miss M. Sluervright, L.C.S.T. (Department of Speech and Drama, Jordhill College of Education) "A Study of Some Aspects of Vocal Inadequacy".
10.35-10.55 a.m.	Mr. T. R. Francis, L.C.S.T., Dip. Aud. (Hearing and Speech Centre, Health Department, Huddersfield Education Committee) "Tongue Thrusting".
11.0-11.25 a.m. 11.30-11.55 a.m.	Coffee Miss L. W. Hastings, L.C.S.T. (School and Hospital Service, Exeter) "A Case of Stammer and Tongue Thrusting".
12.00-1.00 p.m.	Close of Conference. Dr. A. H. McAllister, O.B.E., D.Sc., F.C.S.T., President, College of Speech Therapists.
As accommodation is limited application should be made as soon as possible. (Forms circulated with February Bulletin.—Editor).	
AREA NOTICES	
SCOTTISH AREA The Annual General Meeting of the Scottish Area will take place on Saturday, 26th March 1966, in the Child Guidance Centre, 2 Atholl Street, Perth at 1.30 p.m. At 3.0 p.m. Dr. A. H. McAllister, O.B.E., President of the College will speak to the meeting. JENNIFER DUNLOP, Area Secretary.	

From *Bulletin* March 1966, pp. 4-5

Exhibition; The Exhibition will include books, scientific instruments and other equipment relevant to the theme of the Conference.

Accommodation; Participants will be accommodated in Douglas House and Graham House, Jordhill College and in Queen Margaret Hall, University of Glasgow.

Fees; A registration fee of £1 0s. 0d. payable by all participants at the time of application is not returnable and should be sent to the Treasurer as soon as possible and not later than 21st February 1966. Other charges will be published in the January *Bulletin* and are expected to be approximately:—

25th-29th July (inclusive): £8 8s. 0d.

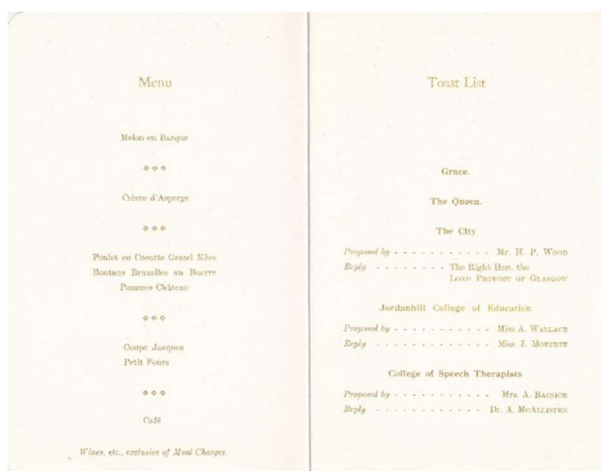
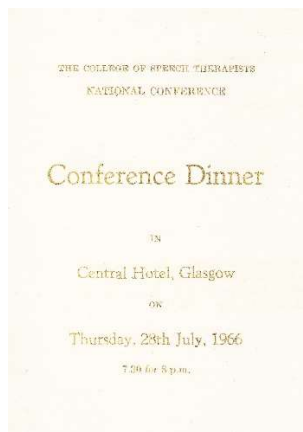
Day attendance (coffee, lunch and afternoon tea): £1 0s. 0d.

Dinner: £1 15s. 0d.

(application for residence should be made at the earliest possible date)

From *Bulletin* December 1965, p. 5

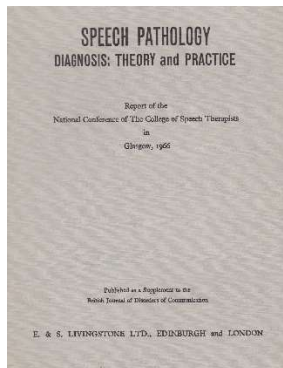
The conference dinner, a very formal event, was held in Glasgow's prestigious Central Hotel.



Speakers were mostly local but some came from England and two from overseas. I noted that Catherine Renfrew was at that time based in Toronto. Miss Renfrew published some of the UK profession's early standardised assessments for children's language in the 1960s (The Action Picture Test and the Bus Story), which are still in use today. The other non-UK speaker was Professor Robert Milisen from Indiana University, whose name I didn't recognise. I found out online that he developed a therapy method called integral stimulation, which is used with adults and children and that the speech-language and hearing clinics now offered at Indiana University are named after him. He must have been near retirement age at the time, as I came across reference online to a 1939 paper he authored.

I recognised the clinical areas covered in the conference papers as mostly long-standing ones ie developmental speech and language disorders, stammering and voice. The papers included a range of study methodologies, eg single case studies, literature review, a group study of language in mentally handicapped children (now children with intellectual impairment), a group study of the relationship between reading capacity and articulation problems in children, service description, a two-year group study of 'vocal adequacy' in student teachers, a group study of the effectiveness of therapy for stammering and work in progress towards a Fellowship of the College of Speech Therapists thesis on prognostic factors for stammering therapy. Five of the conference papers appeared in the College's peer-reviewed journal (then newly called the *British Journal of Disorders of*

Communication) and all but three of the others form the bulk of the conference report, which was published in 1967 and cost 30s (£1.50).



Dr Anne closed the conference by relating many of the papers to the conference's theme, giving her thoughts and opinions on their implications for therapy and suggesting how the delegates could take forward some of the ideas presented by the speakers. She concluded: *We are indeed grateful to the specialists who so generously gave of their best and to our own members for their careful and highly creditable statements.* I presume that she was referring to the male doctors who spoke at the conference when she thanks the 'specialists'.

I don't know whether the 1966 College conference stood out at the time in terms of the quality of the papers presented, in the novelty of their content or in their clinical applicability. However it must have provided the delegates with intellectual stimulation, networking opportunities and maybe a view of Loch Katrine. It would also have been a very powerful way of raising the profile of speech therapy in Scotland within the profession as part of the College's coming of age celebrations.

Linda Armstrong, December 2020