



The area newsletter for:

- > Bedford Speakers
- > Cornerstone Communicators
- > Cranfield Toastmasters
- > Eldergate Toastmasters
- > North Bucks Speakers

# +44

## Beds, Bucks and Beyond

### The King’s Speech (and the Prime Minister’s)

If you’ve seen the movie, *The King’s Speech*, you’re sure to remember the inspiring story of the man who overcame both a stammer and a lot of fear to become the King that Britain needed during the second World War.

The invention of radio meant that his speeches went out not just to those who were present at the time, but to the entire British empire. But did you notice that he wasn’t the only great leader of the time to suffer a speech impediment?

Winston Churchill mentions in passing to the King that he himself suffered from a speech impediment - that he was ‘tongue tied’ - perhaps surprising, given that he is now remembered for his eloquent

radio speeches during the war. Churchill suffered from a lisp, and depending on who you ask, may also have had a stammer. But practice made him into the great speaker we now remember. His lisp became a characteristic of his voice. His difficulty with the letter S caused him to prepare speeches carefully to avoid excessive use of the letter. And his habit of hesitating while groping for words became dramatic pauses, lending gravitas to his speeches.

Through the magic of the Internet, we can all listen to the speeches of these two great leaders. Many of King George’s speeches, including the 1939 speech to his peoples from the end of the movie is available on YouTube, as are many of

Winston Churchill’s speeches, including ‘We shall fight them on the beaches’ and ‘Their finest hour’.

### Stammering and Toastmasters

Did you know that David Jones, three times winner of the District 71 Table Topics Contest, is a stammerer? And he’s far from the only Toastmaster with a speech impediment. The British Stammering Association suggests joining a public speaking club such as Toastmasters as a way of gaining more confidence within a supportive environment, and Harry Dhillon of Trojan Speakers, London, is hoping to start a Toastmasters club specifically for people with stammers and other speech impediments.

### Education, Education, Education

When did your club last present a module from one of the educational manuals, ‘The Successful Club’, ‘The Better Speaker’, or ‘Leadership Excellence’?

It’s easy to ignore these three manuals until you’re doing ACS or ALB and suddenly find you have to use them. But consider the benefits of presenting these modules to your club.

The Successful Club series is a goldmine of ideas for keeping your club running effectively.

The Better Speaker series could be exactly what your new members need—guidance on every aspect of constructing a speech, plus a useful guide to table topics.

And the Leadership Excellence may be just what it takes to

encourage your new club officers to step forward.

Best of all, all three of these manuals can now be downloaded **free** from the Toastmasters International website—log in, go to [www.toastmasters.org/shop](http://www.toastmasters.org/shop) and select ‘Digital Content’ under the masthead to find all the materials you can download for free.

#### Inside this issue:

The King’s Speech (and the Prime Minister’s)	1
Education, Education, Education	1
Area Calendar	2
Something To Say?	2

## Area Calendar

### February 2012

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1	2 North Bucks Speakers	3	4	5
6	7 North Bucks Speakers Tall Tales Contest	8 Cranfield Toastmasters	9 Bedford Speakers	10	11 Club Officer Training	12
13 Eldergate Toastmasters	14	15	16 North Bucks Speakers Contest	17	18	19
20 Cornerstone Communicators Contest	21	22 Cranfield Toastmasters Contest	23 Bedford Speakers Contest	24	25	26
27 Eldergate Toastmasters Contest	28	29				

### March 2012

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			1 North Bucks Speakers	2	3	4
5	6	7 Area 44 Speech Contest	8 Bedford Speakers	9	10	11
12 Eldergate Toastmasters	13	14 Cranfield Toastmasters	5 North Bucks Speakers	16	17	18
19 Cornerstone Communicators	20	21	22 Bedford Speakers	23	24	25
26 Eldergate Toastmasters	27	28 Cranfield Toastmasters	29	30	31	

### Something to say?

#### Want to see your name in print?

If you've got something you want to share with fellow Toastmasters in Area 44, please send it in to +44 as we are always looking for new articles and features.

#### Achievements

Has anyone in your club achieved an educational award recently? Or done something else worthy of recognition? Let us know and we'll print it in the next issue.

#### Future Events

Got a special event coming up? Let the rest of the area know about it through +44 and get more support from neighbouring clubs.

#### Area 44

#### Division G

#### District 71

#### Toastmasters International

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