

Stories for Lipreading **Still out there on the world wide web!**



Life has been turned upside down for everyone since mid-March, with the ongoing issue of Corona virus, Covid 19. Everyone has been impacted, one way or another, with self – isolation, social distancing, masks, not being able to meet up with family and friends, etc. And indoor meeting venues for lipreading classes stopped in their tracks overnight.

Stories for Lipreading was also affected, as the planned spring filming in April had to be postponed. However, the team are pleased to say that filming resumed at the end of July (Covid secure measures in place), and over the coming months, 10 more stories will be added to our Story Store – a mix of genre, including the ever popular story jokes! The website now has approximately 100 stories, read by 7 different story readers, so there is a good variety of lipshapes and speech patterns to choose from, as well as story length and styles.

The nature of a lipreading class means that none of us are going back to teaching lipreading in the way we previously did, for quite a while yet. But the free-to-use resource of **Stories for Lipreading** is still going as strong as ever. It was designed nearly five years ago, not to replace lipreading classes but specifically for those with hearing loss who cannot or are unable to access a lipreading class.

As we move into the autumn and winter months, please do let your students know that our lipreading practise website is still out there, with all the resources needed to continue practising their lipreading skills in their own time and at their own pace. It is wonderful that some tutors have created short videos to support lipreading learning on YouTube and others have successfully set up classes on-line via Zoom – *thank you Debbie Miller* (didn't even know myself what Zoom was 6 months ago – used to be an ice lolly in my youth!!). If any of you, through these platforms, are able to remind your students please that the Stories for Lipreading website is there to support their lipreading practise, that would be wonderful.

The website will also feature in 'The Peoples Friend' publication, due out early in September.

These are the most strange and uncertain of times, but I'm sure, that with all our collective efforts, we will continue to be there to support our students and those with hearing loss for as long as we are able, via whichever means we can.

Sandy Marlow – LR tutor in Hampshire and co-founder of Stories for Lipreading.

www.storiesforlipreading.org.uk

