



Services at Falls of Sound:

- Hearing assessments
- Hearing aids
- Counselling related to hearing impairment and tinnitus
- Noise-, Swimming- and Musicians earplugs
- Assistive listening devices

Trading hours:

Weekdays:

8:30am - 5:00 pm

Thursdays after

5 pm and Saturday

By appointment

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Season Greeting and Best Wishes for the New Year,

With the days getting very warm, a nice refreshment in the pool is the best solution. For those swimmers who need protective earplugs or those who have middle ear infections, grommets, swimmer's ears, surfer's ears, ruptured eardrum, water caught up in the ear canal, itchy ears, there is a solution. Falls of Sound has increased the stock of swimming plugs and they are only \$24.00 a pair. These plugs have been recommended by many doctors and Ear Nose and Throat Specialists. A bonus: the plugs float on water and can be used while bathing and showering. Ear wrap, instead of a cap, can be used to keep earplugs in place and come in a range of exciting color combinations. Recently we received new technology in hearing aids, the "automatic" hearing aids are now available in the mid range! So, it's all great news. Please contact us for more information.

Katia Peeters

Design of hearing aids is changing!

In the last couple of years, design of hearing aids is been constantly changing. Manufacturers are working hard to change the look of hearing aids, almost all of them have launched the practically invisible fine tubing. Placement of the electronics



are very important for the way we hear with hearing aids, so there are still limitations of what we can do. If you compare the headsets for mobile phone or Ipod devices with hearing aids, we are getting very close. An exhibition in the Victoria and Albert Museum in London features some fantastic new designs, so we are very excited to see how manufacturers will react on that..

Part of the exhibition is dedicated to making hearing aids more attractive. Exhibits include pink plastic flowers and sleek silver surfaces that disguise unsightly implants as elegant jewellery, underlining an effort to turn the hearing aid market into a fashion industry. Falls of Sound will definitely follow this up and inform our clients about the latest technology and fashion! Or, if you have a trip planned to London, let us know us what you think! And below some history of hearing aids.....



Photo: Courtesy of V&A



Humidity is rising!!

Hearing aids are delicate (and very expensive!) instruments. Within their tiny, fragile cases, they pack an enormous amount of highly sensitive, sophisticated electronic circuitry. Unlike eyeglasses, hearing aids need regular upkeep and a lot of tender loving care to ensure continued optimal performance. With reasonable care, the life expectancy of a hearing aid is about five years; with care and attention to maintenance, that lifetime may be extended.

Protection and Storage

There are some things hearing aids do not like: shock, temperature extremes, and moisture.

Shock: Trauma to the hearing aid caused by being dropped or roughly handled, or parked temporarily on undesirable spots of high or low temperatures such as radiators or air conditioners. Dogs love to chew on hearing aids. Babies also find them attractive, sometimes edible. Any of these can be devastating to the proper functioning of a hearing aid (not to mention the baby!)

Some preventative measures: Provide proper storage for your hearing aid whenever it is not in your ear. Set aside a good place, protected from danger of being knocked off a table or picked up, or subjected to the teeth treatment of a pet or child. A box in a drawer by your bed is a good place and is handy when you rise or retire.

Temperature extremes: Damage incurred from high heat or cold, which may adversely affect a hearing aid's performance. Much of this damage is caused by the changes in temperature, which causes a condensation of moisture within the aid, rather than the temperature itself. This change can occur many times a day, as someone goes from hot to air-conditioned comfort and back again. High humidity and perspiration exacerbate this problem.

Some preventative measures: Never leave a hearing aid on a radiator or an air conditioner, near a stove, in a sunny window, in the glove compartment of a car on a hot day, or in any other extremely hot or cold place. Do not try to dry the hearing aid in an oven or clothes dryer, or wear it while using a hair dryer or tanning under a sun lamp.

Moisture: Anything wet, high humidity, perspiration, condensation, accidental immersion in a bath or pool can cause damage to a hearing aid and prevent it from functioning properly. Keep your hearing aid dry.

Some preventative measures: If you live in an area subject to high humidity or regularly engage in perspiration-inducing activities, consider buying some sort of DRI-AID kit. This is a small, inexpensive kit consisting of silica (desiccating) crystals in a jar. At night, after removing the battery, place the hearing aid down in the jar. During the night, the moisture in the hearing aid will be absorbed by crystals. Some kits can be recycled but there are also very easy to use kits available, please come and visit us and we will explain the differences and show you how to use them!

Did you know ?....

When you have purchased your hearing aids under the Government system and your hearing aids are 5 years or older, you may be eligible for new digital hearing aids.

We also have a large stock of clearance hearing aids and second hand hearing aids available.

SEASONS GREETINGS!

**STAFF AT FALLS OF
SOUND WISHES YOU A
MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW
YEAR!**

**Falls of Sound will be
closing from**

**26th of December till
3rd of January 2006**