



## The History of the first newsletter of the British Society of Audiology.

The Ninth International Congress of Audiology was held at the Royal College of Surgeons in London from 15–18 September 1968. The President of the Congress was Air Vice Marshal E. D. Dickson CB, CBE, FRCS.

The initial idea for a society had begun to take shape earlier, at the 8th Congress in Mexico in November 1966. On his return to the UK, Dr Ron Hinchcliffe convened a meeting on Friday, 13 January 1967, at BMA House in London. The meeting was opened by Dr Ladislav Fisch (Larry) and chaired by Gavin Livingstone, during which a declaration was made to take the idea forward.

The inaugural meeting of the British Society of Audiology was subsequently held at the Royal Society of Medicine on 8 September 1967 and attracted a membership of over one hundred. The address was delivered by Dr John Derrick Hood.

The following year, the Ninth International Congress of Audiology took place in London. Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Kent formally opened the proceedings. The Lord Mayor of London attended the opening banquet at the Guildhall, and on the final evening the Government hosted a reception at the Banqueting House, Whitehall, to honour overseas delegates.

As the Society became established, the need for a newsletter was recognised. In 1970, Dr John Derrick Hood (first Chair of the BSA, 1967–1971) persuaded Mike Martin OBE of the value of such a publication. With the support of Mike Martin's colleagues in the RNID Technical Department, a newsletter was produced and continued to be printed for ten years at no cost to the Society.

Mike Martin OBE (Chair, 1985–1987) launched the first *British Society of Audiology newsletter* in Spring 1970. It consisted of five typed A4 pages. He continued as editor until 1977, when Peggy Chalmers (Chair, 2000–2002) took over the role.

This publication was distinct from *SOUND*, the Society's first journal, which was launched in 1967 and later evolved into *The British Journal of Audiology*. *SOUND* was also produced by the RNID. Mike Martin worked for the NID, which became the RNID in 1967, with the new title formally conferred by HRH Prince Philip at a Mansion House dinner that year.



Between 1987 and 1996, Peter Haughton—Council member and BAAT examiner—and one other colleague served as joint editors of the newsletter alongside Peggy Chalmers.

In 1990, *The British Journal of Audiology* was revamped and relaunched as *BSA News*, which was the same year that Peggy Chalmers received the Society’s Ruth Spencer Prize, which at that time recognised non-graduate members.

Over the years, *BSA News* continued to evolve, undergoing further changes before becoming the *Monthly e-Update*.

In 2025, it was refreshed with a new look, paving the way for its next stage of development. In 2026 the *Monthly e-Update* has transitioned to a new name and publication schedule with the launch of the *BSA Quarterly Newsletter*.

This will be published alongside the brand new *BSA Research, Recruitment Round Up*, which will be distributed each May and June.

The *BSA Research, Recruitment Round Up* provides a dedicated space for students and early-career professionals to share their studies and research requests with the wider BSA community.



*Information and images provided by*

*Rosie Mayer*

*BSA Heritage Lead*

**British Society of Audiology**  
Promoting excellence in hearing and balance

