



THE FUTURE IS HERE! THE FUTURE IS NOW!

From the President's desk

1 March 2026



Welcome to our latest issue of the Bugle. Writing this as we come to the end of January, we should look ahead to our goals and plans for the year ahead. For most of us, I am sure, this will mean working hard, maybe some foreign travel for hearings or events abroad – whether in Europe or beyond. I wish you all a fruitful and rewarding year, but also plenty of opportunities for downtime and relaxation, whether alone, with friends and/or family.

For BIVR, this means hosting a large and prestigious event – Intersteno 2026, in Liverpool, from Friday 24 July to Thursday 30 July. There will be a full programme of meetings, competitions and entertainment for all ages, and I sincerely hope lots of our members will take the opportunity to attend and participate. As for myself, it will be my first Intersteno, so I aim to make the most of it.

In June last year I reached a milestone birthday, though I still feel (and my wife might say act) like a 20-year-old. I have been reflecting on my career and how far I have come since training in 1988. I was disappointed that a hearing booked for the second two weeks of January in my home city of Newcastle was cancelled due to the parties settling, but nevertheless, the impending visit to my old stomping (drinking) ground made me reminisce.

I trained from September 1988 and began working in Crown Court by the summer of 1989. In November 1995 I moved to That London and began really working. Although the BBC offered me a captioning position, I opted to work for Marten Walsh Cherer, where I remained until 2017, working mainly in the Patents Court. I also covered international Trades Union meetings, taking me often to Brussels but notably Denmark, Hong Kong, Durban, Miyazaki and Nagasaki in Japan.

After leaving MWC, I became freelance and worked as a captioner for 9 months, which I loved, but soon realised, with my first child imminent, that I needed to earn more money, so it was back to court reporting. Since then, I have been to many more places in the world. most notably Kathmandu.

Last year saw my first visit to an NCRA Conference in Minneapolis, just as this year will be my first Intersteno attendance. I really do hope to meet more of you at Intersteno. Let's have fun together!

Alan Bell
President

From the Secretary's desk – nowhere near as tidy as the President's, I might add, as those who attend the Monday evening IPS practise sessions could well attest!

BIVR is hosting...



Registrations for Liverpool are now open.

https://www.intersteno2026.org/register_info.php

We also hosted the first Intersteno Congress in 1887!

<https://www.intersteno.org/congresses-1887-1937/>

	Year	Town – Nation	President	n. of participants and nations	printed report	remarks
1	1887	London – England		145 – 13 nations	yes	

It's as if Intersteno is coming home.

The full list of those who organised and attended that first Congress is available:

<https://www.intersteno.org/our-history/the-names-of-the-founders-of-intersteno/>

but here are some names that you may recognise from our archives.

Chairman and Treasurer: Mr T. A. REED

Mr. J. D. BARNETT, Shorthand writer; Central Criminal Court

Mr GURNEY-SALTER, The Shorthand Writer to the Houses of Parliament, Agency

Mr THOMAS HILL, Member of the Shorthand Society

Mr J. G. HODGES, Institute of Shorthand Writers

Mr W. J. INGRAM, Secretary of the Phonetic Shorthand Writer's Association

Mr M. LEVY, Secretary of the Institute of Shorthand Writers

Mr H. H. TOLCHER (Past President of the Institute of Shorthand Writers)

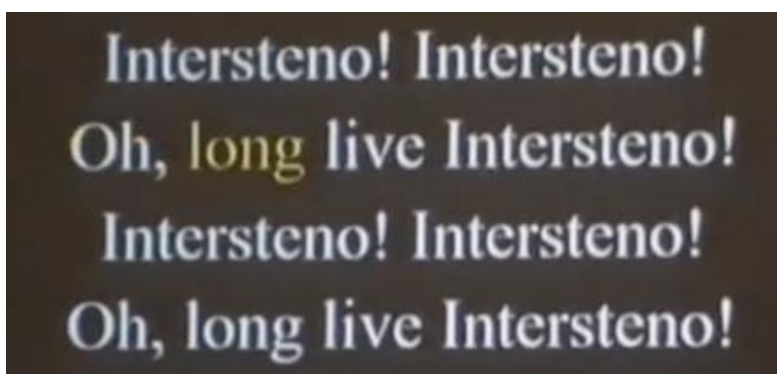
Mr H. M. WALSH, Past President Institute of Shorthand Writers

Mr THEODORE WRIGHT, Member of the Council of the Institute of Shorthand Writers

plus many more.

Let's hope we can add your name this year.

*Intersteno 55th Congress, in Liverpool, Sat 25th – Thurs 30 July 2026 hosted by BIVR
(Please consider participating in the competitions!)*



Competitions...

Machine shorthand (or pen!) QWERTY keyboard typing; audio typing – there's something for everyone, all ages.

Important - Don't wait too long to register. Several events and excursions have limited attendance. It's first come, first served.

Check out everything here:

<https://www.intersteno2026.org>

Meanwhile, here's the full programme as listed (but check out the website for lots more info!)

Tentative congress programme

(BTW, it's only "tentative" because the free Karaoke evening venue is still to be confirmed, but it will be within a few minutes' walk of the **Adelphi Hotel Liverpool!**)

<i>Time</i>	<i>Activity</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Friday 24 July 2026		
09.00-11.00	Intersteno Jury meeting	Adelphi - Executive
11.00-13.00	Intersteno Board meeting	Adelphi - Executive
17.30-20.30	Opening registration and information desk	Adelphi - Hypostyle
18.00-20.00	Training competitions TP TC AT (for those who already arrived in Liverpool)	Adelphi - Kensington
Saturday 25 July 2026		
08.00-16.00	Opening registration and information desk	Adelphi - Hypostyle
08.00-09.00	Training and testing - TP TC AT	Adelphi - Kensington
09.00-10.00	Testing - Infrared broadcasting - SC RT NT Attendance compulsory!	Adelphi - Kensington
10.30-12.00	Competition Note Taking (NT)	Adelphi - Kensington
13.30-15.30	Competition Word Processing (WP)	Adelphi - Kensington
17.30	Opening ceremony and welcome cocktail [Doors open at 17.10 h]	St George's Hall - Concert Room
Sunday 26 July 2026		
07.30-16.00	Opening registration and information desk	Adelphi - Hypostyle
08.00	Competition Speech Capturing Doors will be open at 07.15 h.	Adelphi - Kensington
11.00	Competition Real Time (RT)	Adelphi - Kensington
12.30	Competition Text Production group 1 (TP1)	Adelphi - Kensington
14.30	Competition Text Production group 2 (TP2)	Adelphi - Kensington
16.00-18.00	Workshop on parliamentary reporting strategies	Adelphi - Sefton
16.30	Competition Text Corrections (TC)	Adelphi - Kensington
17.30	Competition Audio Transcription (AT) - group 1	Adelphi - Kensington
18.30	Competition Audio Transcription (AT) - group 2	Adelphi - Kensington
18.00-19.00	IPRS Social Club	Adelphi - Sefton
until late	Corrections all competitions	Adelphi - Pearce

Monday 27 July 2026

whole day	Corrections all competitions	Adelphi - Pearce
08.30-14.00	Opening registration and information desk	Adelphi - Hypostyle
08.00-09.00	Meeting Auditing Committee	Adelphi - Executive
09.00-12.30	Diamesic 9 Conference - 1	Adelphi - Sefton
13.00-14.00	Youth texting competition	Adelphi - Kensington
15.45-18.15	Excursion 1 - Visit Royal Liver Building Liverpool	Adelphi - Meeting point
21.00-23.00	Karaoke evening	???

Tuesday 28 July 2026

08.30-14.00	Opening registration and information desk	Adelphi - Hypostyle
09.00-12.00	Youth Event 08.50 h @ meeting point	Adelphi - Meeting point
09.00-12.00	Diamesic 9 Conference - 2	Adelphi - Sefton
13.15-15.15	Intersteno Council meeting 1	Adelphi - Sefton
16.30-18.00	Excursion 2 - Liverpool City and Beatles tour	Adelphi - Meeting point
20.00	Council dinner (on invitation) 19.45 h @ meeting point	Adelphi - Meeting point

Wednesday 29 July 2026

08.30-14.00	Opening registration and information desk	Adelphi - Hypostyle
09.00-11.00	Intersteno Council meeting 2	Adelphi - Sefton
12.00-13.00	Intersteno General Assembly	Adelphi - Banqueting Hall
13.00-15.00	Scientific committee meeting Tiro editorial committee meeting	Adelphi - Sefton
16.30	Prize-giving ceremony Doors open at 16.00 h.	Adelphi - Banqueting Hall
19.30	Farewell dinner and party	Adelphi - Banqueting Hall

Thursday 30 July 2026


09.30-17.30	North Wales day trip	Adelphi - Meeting point
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You'll see that we actually begin on, **Friday 24 July 2026**, with the Intersteno Jury and Board meetings and practice sessions for competitors at 18:00-20:00, so be sure to arrive on Friday morning – even though the banner says Sat 25 July – if you are competing.

Saturday 25 July 2026 when the competitions begin. The Opening Ceremony and welcome cocktail is in the Concert Room at St George's Hall – doors open 17:10. Be sure to be there, especially to see the flag-waving – notably ours!

<https://www.intersteno2026.org/stgeorges.php>



There is an  **Intersteno Anthem** which you can download and practice beforehand. <https://www.intersteno2026.org/anthem.php>

Once you have seen which competitions you wish to participate in and which other events you fancy, you can register with Intersteno and then your accommodation. You can attend all week, or just the day of your competition – plus the Prize-giving ceremony as I'm sure you'll not want to miss out on getting your prize.

The competitions are open to all ages. As I mention later in this Bugle, there is also an Intersteno Keyboarding Competition. Many schoolchildren learn to touch type at school clubs, or maybe they're fast two-finger typists, so be sure to tell all your friends and relatives about the 55th Intersteno Congress in Liverpool, that all are welcome not just verbatim reporters using shorthand machines.



Training time

Sheryll in pink in the middle of the photo in Katowice.

If you want to know a bit more about what goes on at Intersteno, watch our free webinar from last year's AGM. <https://bivr.org.uk/product/bivrs-fun-at-intersteno/>



Notetaking and Word Processing on the first day of competition in Katowice

On the website click on “Competition types” where you get a full description of what is involved.

Speech capturing (SC)
(previously named Steno)

Text production (TP)
(previously named Keyboarding)

Realtime Speech Capturing (RT)

Text Correction (TC)

Note taking & reporting (NT) *(which includes pen and voice writing, but definitely not AI!)*

Professional word processing (WP)

Audio transcription (AT)

And, for the really clever clogs! – and believe me, there are plenty:

Multilingual Speech Capturing (ML)

BTW, there is practice material on the main Intersteno website: <https://www.intersteno.org>

Under Competition Texts you will see past years’ texts as well as the audio dictation, so a lot of practice material for you there. <https://www.intersteno.org/katowice-2024/competition-texts-2024/#>
They go back to 2007 (the Congress is held every two years.)



Georgina concentrating on captioning in Katowice



Check out the BIVR website – Members Area/Speed Practising/ - you will find practice material if you're going to Intersteno – put there a few years ago. <https://bivr.org.uk/resources/speedbuilding/>

Coming up to date: There is “incremental” dictation on Monday evenings with the IPS (£3 per session) which I hope you will consider attending. Mondays at 7 – 8 p.m., except Bank Holidays. Contact marycsorene@gmail.com for the IPS Zoom link and IPS bank details. I do some speed-building first (which is straight-forward dictation on a word count basis) and then the incremental dictation (which is syllabically counted, 100-250 wpm). You get preview words from me the week before. Maybe I'll see you there? *Sec.*

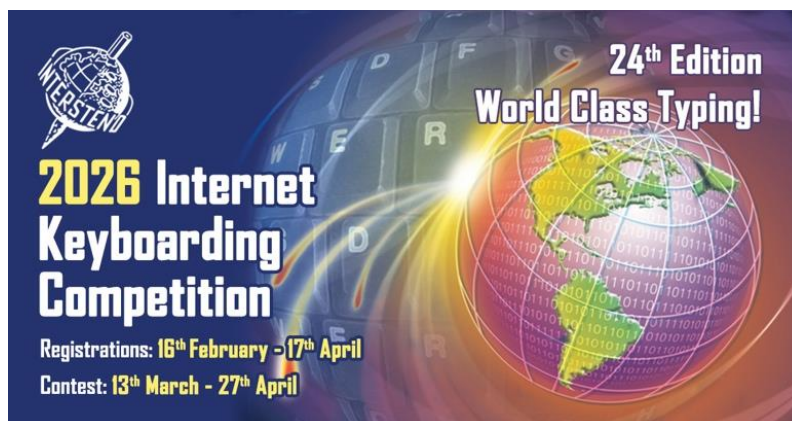


Ian (when President of BIVR) and Georgina (when Vice-President of BIVR) at Katowice.

Book your accommodation at the Adelphi. The link to book should be available very soon!

<https://www.intersteno2026.org/adelphivenuue.php>

Another Intersteno competition this year:



There is actually another Intersteno event this year, the Internet Keyboarding Competition – registration is already open until 17th April with the contests starting 13 March – 27 April.

<https://www.intersteno.org/intersteno-internet-contests/>

BIVR has already had one entrant. €5. BTW, this is also open to children! Many schoolchildren learn touch-typing as a school club activity, so do tell your friends and relatives. We hope to see as many people there, not just BIVR members – though hopefully you’ll be there too.

Contact Mary Sorene sec.bivr@gmail.com if you wish to participate.

For Sale:

Tiny Mod steno keyboard (handbag size) basic machine.

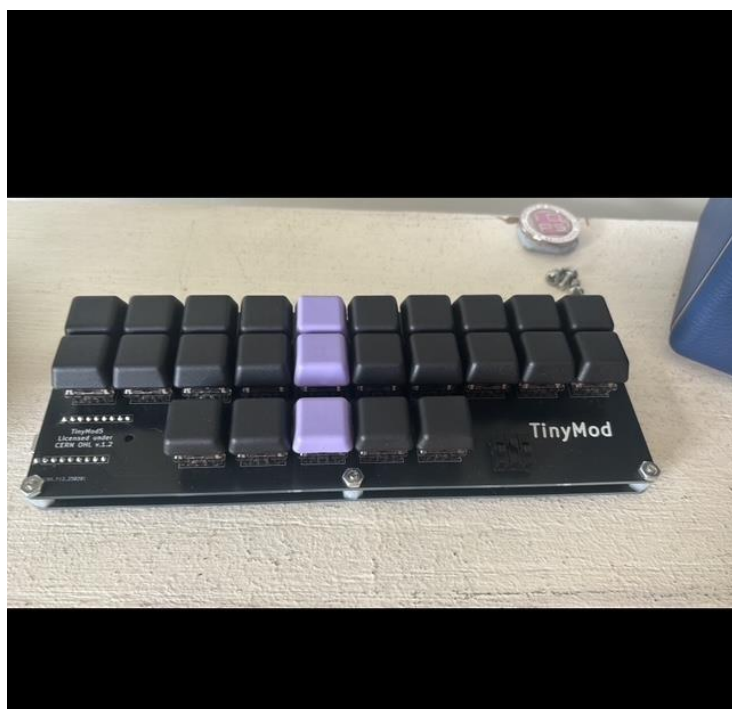
Total: £199 includes postage

New and unused. FedEx charges all paid.

Works with all software as has a protocol switch.

Easy to set up.

Email abavinsteno@hotmail.co.uk



AI Watch



I read recently about AI taking over several jobs. But they shouldn't be taking over ours! We know that it is nowhere near good enough for serious verbatim work such as ours. I am asking you to keep a watch for any subtitles – many of which are done using straightforward AI without an editor going behind cleaning it up! Therefore, will you keep an eye on AI?

If you spot anything inaccurate on the TV, or at work – without breaking any confidentiality, of course – can you get a screenshot and send it to me with the correct wording? I notice it a lot. If you record a programme you can replay it, pause, take a screenshot and send it through to me with the details of

when/what it was.

I wish to keep a dossier of them as proof that in a court trial, arbitration, or a business meeting, possibly other events too, the wrong word/s could mean disaster for those participating, or not be understood by a deafened person, effectively excluding them from full enjoyment of the event. One

thing we may not be able to get proof of is the fact that names are often dropped. Whole sentences are dropped, but we should be able to harvest a good crop of errors for my file. Thanks.

Sec.bivr@gmail.com *Sec.*

BTW, please do not use my old ntlworld email. It has been defunct for several years, but people are apparently still sending emails to me via that address. My personal email is

marycsorene@gmail.com. *Sec*



SAVE
THE
DATE

We will be hold our AGM remotely via Zoom on **Saturday 1 August 2026**. As we will have just been very busy at Intersteno we will not be including any workshops, just strict BIVR business – election of members to Council, electing a new President (as Alan will have completed two years.

We will, however, hold some workshops later in the year, so please get your thinking caps on and let us know what you would like to learn and earn CPD at the same time. *Sec*

Obituary

MEMORIES OF MICHAEL STANLEY MOUNSEY-THEAR RIP SEPTEMBER 2025

My name is Jenny Chandler and I am the managing director of Marten Walsh Cherer Ltd, the company for whom Mike worked for over 40 years, although I first met Mike in 1967.

When Chris, his son, informed me that he had passed away peacefully in his sleep on the night of 14 September, I just couldn't believe it. Only four days before I had spent a memorable evening with Mike and other MWC colleagues saying farewell to a long-serving member of staff at our favourite local wine bar in Chancery Lane. We had all managed to get together in spite of the tube strike. Mike looked tanned and well, having spent a relaxing holiday with his wife, children and grandchildren in Norfolk. He and I chatted and laughed throughout the evening, as well as having a competitive game of pétanque, and discussed the possibility of our having a joint retirement party in another couple of years or so, as we approached our 80th birthdays.

Although Mike trained and worked in his early years for another court reporting company, and then spent a couple of years at Hansard, House of Commons, he joined MWC full time in 1984 and was still working this year on his favourite union conferences. He was a passionate supporter of workers' rights and particularly enjoyed taking notes at the meetings of the TUC, ASLEF, the GMB and other unions in the UK and abroad. He was held in such high regard for his work at trades union conferences that the GMB asked delegates to stand in silent tribute to him at their most recent London regional meeting which he was scheduled to cover a few weeks ago. He worked on major DTI inquiries, including going to Qatar in 1987 to take evidence about Mohamed Al-Fayed when the House of Fraser acquisition was being investigated.

His work ranged from proceedings at major disciplinary hearings, the Bank of England Board of Banking Supervision Inquiry into the collapse of Barings Bank and Lord Donaldson's Inquiry into the Prevention of and Pollution from Merchant Shipping as a result of the Braer Shipping Disaster, to annual meetings of the Yacht Club of Monaco and House of Commons Select Committee hearings in Parliament and at the Science Museum and Kew Gardens.

Mike didn't smoke or drink but he did have one addiction: he loved studying, which he managed to do whilst working full time. Between 1971 and 1976 he enrolled in evening classes, passing 'A' Level examinations in English Lit, Law, Economics and British Constitution and 'O' Level Latin. Between 1976 and 1979 he was awarded a BA Hons. Law, City of London Polytechnic. In 1995 Mike was awarded an MA degree from London Guildhall University in International Business Law.

Mike was particularly upset when he couldn't come into our office in Chancery Lane during Covid. As soon as there was a break in the restrictions he returned to work on site, preferring the buzz of the office to working in solitary splendour in his office at the bottom of his lovely garden in Bounds Green. He was always early, and on many occasions Gareth, our Operations Director, would send him off to cover a last-minute booking, which he was always willing to do.

I remember so many late afternoons at the office when Mike would come over to my desk and ask what time I was leaving. We would walk together to Chancery Lane and he would always carry my steno case and/or computer equipment down the stairs into the station and even down the escalators if they weren't working. He would get off after one stop at Holborn to change on to the Piccadilly Line,

but in those short walks we always managed to have lively conversations about politics, world affairs and his beloved Arsenal, and he would update me on what was going on in his family, being so proud of Diane's teaching achievements, and Chris's and Helen's budding careers.

Mike was one of the most cheerful people I have ever met. Even after a long day's work he was full of energy and enthusiasm for his evening at home and was always looking forward to the next day's work. I never saw him depressed or fed up, which made everyone who knew him feel happier. I was fortunate to be invited, along with other MWC staff and their partners, to the most amazing summer parties that he and Diane held in their lovely home and garden. There was always the most wonderful spread for us to enjoy, including live music. We were even able to play table tennis at the bottom of his garden.

My abiding memory of him will be when he stood up on behalf of all of MWC's staff to make a speech about me at my 60th birthday party in Lincoln's Inn. I have a wonderful photo of him at the lectern addressing a huge gathering of colleagues and members of the legal profession.

As lifelong court reporters, Mike's and my job has always been to turn what other people say into good English and make them more grammatical and eloquent, whilst keeping the transcript true to the essence of what they have said. The task of writing a eulogy to Mike is not an easy one because mere words cannot do justice to capturing the essence of the man. He was unique and is irreplaceable. The court reporting profession has lost one of the great legends; my colleagues and I have lost a very dear friend. We all miss him so much.

**Jenny Chandler, Managing Director, Marten Walsh Cherer Ltd
October 2025**



I am grateful to Jenny for this heartfelt eulogy. I too remember Mike's willingness to help out. For two years' running he took the BIVR AGM notes when no machine writer would volunteer. He showed us what a good job we pen writers could do! RIP Mike. Sec.

We learned recently that former BIVR member Carole Tasker had passed away at the end of January. We send condolences to her family.



We have also just learned that Dan Glassman passed away in September. Many of you may remember Dan attending our BAW in 2019 and spoke about his varied life in many spheres before he was a Stenograph rep and more latterly an Eclipse rep, running his own business Word Technologies. We send condolences to his family.

BIVR DETAILS

BIVR's Registered address:

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Your Council:

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