

STAMMINA

FEST 2022

GLOBAL

REPORT

24-28th August 2022

Liverpool University

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THANK YOU

HEADLINE SPONSOR : **IBÉRICA RESTAURANTS**



“Supporting STAMMA is part of our diversity and inclusion programme. We chose stammering to lead this since our CEO and an HR executive both stammer, so we already have excellent leadership within the organisation.”

*Marcos Fernandez Pardo, CEO,
Ibérica Restaurants*

PLENARY & EVENT SPONSORS

*YPO
Refinery
Stamurai
Kaleidoscope Health & Care
City Lit
Action for Stammering Children*

GRANTMAKERS

*National Lottery Community Fund
Arnold Clark Community Fund
Alder Hey Children’s Hospital*

INDIVIDUALS

*Lara & Nicholas Cournoyer
Joanna Gaukroger*

My heartfelt thanks to all the STAMMA team and to everyone who contributed so much to make STAMMAFest a thought-provoking, energising, and emotionally moving event.

Jack, STAMMAFest delegate

PLANNING

STAMMAFest Global took place at Liverpool University from 24-28th August 2022. It combined STAMMA's biennial conference and the International Stuttering Association's World Congress.

The conference launched with a welcome reception at the Crypt, Liverpool Cathedral on Wed 24th and finished Sunday afternoon on 28th. Days started with a plenary session and then an extensive choice of themed workshops – each chosen to share fresh thinking about stuttering, and build knowledge, skills and confidence. There was a self-contained family event on the Saturday.

The social programme was designed to encourage delegates from every nationality to mix and to share their experiences. It included a coach tour of Liverpool on the Friday with a Fish & Chip supper and quiz later that night and a social event with a band and food on Saturday night.



Dean and Paul from STAMMAFest Planning Committee

ORGANISING COMMITTEE

The STAMMAFest Organising Committee included two of the original organisers from the cancelled Sheffield event – Dean Ridge and Paul Roberts, who were local to Sheffield/Cheshire. Joining the team was the then Chair of STAMMA Tim Fell, Hanan Hurwitz, an active member of the international community, SLT Jenny Packer and STAMMA staff member Kirsten Howells. Jenny and Kirsten had organised an excellent international conference in Hiroshima in 2018. Hilary Liddle, an SLT from Merseyside later joined, along with volunteer Steven Babic. Lynne Mackie, STAMMA trustee and an original member of the Committee sadly died in 2021.

The themes were community, change & empowerment, culture, work and education.

Covid loomed large during the planning process – what if lock-down were repeated, if Covid rates rocketed, if large numbers couldn't attend? We looked at providing a hybrid conference and had a plan for sessions to be streamed, which would have significantly added to the cost. In the event Covid rates were low and didn't greatly impact on physical attendance. Concerns around Covid were overshadowed by the fear of a rail strike preventing attendance.

PRICING

A full ticket cost £280 for the 5 days. This included everything except university accommodation which was £55 or £65 per night, including breakfast. Delegates could keep costs down by staying with friends or AirB&B which many did. The maximum delegates could pay was £500 for the whole event including full board (except Thursday night). Daily ticket prices ranged from £20 for Wednesday to £85 for Saturday.

Our conference in Cardiff in 2018 cost £180. This started on a Friday evening and finished on a Sunday. A single ticket for Sunday, no accommodation cost £25 and £89 for the Saturday.

Family Day tickets were £15 for adults and £10 for children. Local families could attend for a £5 booking fee, courtesy of a grant from the Alder Hey Children's Charity.

TICKETS

People could buy a single ticket to cover the whole event, daily tickets, a week-day or a weekend ticket. Additional tickets were available for partners and children who might want to attend the social events. Tickets for the main event were sold up until a week beforehand, and for the Family Day until the day before.

CONCESSIONS

With the support of grants from National Lottery Community Fund, and money we'd set aside from the Owen Simon Legacy, we were able to offer 32 concessionary places. These were promoted on our website, direct to our members and on social media from the start of July.

There were 16 tickets available for adults and 16 tickets for students or young people. Concession tickets included the cost of accommodation. A further 8 places were made available to international guests by the International Stuttering Association and Alder Hey Children's Hospital supported local family attendance.

SPONSORS

The overall sponsor was **Ibérica Restaurants**. In addition, **Action for Stammering Children** sponsored the Family Day, **City Lit** sponsored the final plenary – Changing the World, as well as the STAMMAFest Social evening on the Saturday. **Kaleidoscope Health & Care** sponsored the Open Mic sessions, **YPO** sponsored the opening 'Our Tribe' plenary, **Refinery** sponsored the 'Is there Beauty in Stammering' plenary and **Stamurai** sponsored the 'We Work' plenary.

BRIEFINGS ON STAMMERING

Prior to the conference a video briefing was prepared and shared with the staff at the university and the adjoining Starbucks café about stammering. This worked well, and delegates commented very favourably upon the way in which they were treated.

TEAM-WORK & OUR VOLUNTEERS

Many delegates commented favourably on the way the conference team worked together and were responsive to any issues arising. The AV crew received lots of compliments and **Nicola Gilmore**, Conference Coordinator, and her staff were always present, always helpful.

In particular we'd like to thank the absolutely fantastic volunteers for making the conference run smoothly, for spotting issues when they arose, for looking after the workshop hosts and for running registration so smoothly: -

Anne-Marie Withers, Bethannie Hartley, Beverley Sime, Bob Adams, Catherine Marshall, Derek Maynard, Helen Mawson, Jacqs Oxley, Jennifer Murphy, Jessica Arnold, Joanna Chaffe, Kate Horner, Lauren Clarke, Maor Yavetz and Victoria Bowden. Thank you too Bob Adams who volunteered throughout the event, and entertained all children and adults alike with some magnificent balloon blowing.



THE CONFERENCE

Each full day began with a plenary, followed by workshops. Paul Roberts brilliantly compered and introduced the plenaries, like a duck to water, announcing sponsors and housekeeping announcements, creating a warm friendly atmosphere.

ATTENDANCE

Overseas delegates hailed from, Japan, the USA, Rwanda, Germany, Italy, Israel, South Africa, Denmark, and Sweden. Many of our UK returning delegates commented upon the high numbers of young people attending and the large numbers of people who were new to the stammering community. The excitement of finding new friends and old, of being able to talk and stammer without worry, generated a heady brew of excitement.

365 people booked for the conference, of those 26 couldn't attend, largely because of Covid. Attendance varied from 194 on the Wednesday to 239 on the Saturday during the day, and 247 for the Saturday night. Saturday included 62 attendees from the Family Day (28 children and 35 parents and carers).

PLENARIES

There were 4 main plenary sessions reflecting the themes of the conference: -

Sponsored by **YPO**, '**Our Tribe**' was brilliantly presented by Hanan Hurwitz and set the scene for the whole conference and our tribe, our community was a theme that was picked up again and again throughout the conference.

Sponsored by the **Refinery**, '**Is there Beauty in Stammering**', an entrancing discussion led by rapper and actor Scroobius Pip with artists JJJJJJerome, and Paul Aston and writers Hannah Tovey and Owen Sheers.

Sponsored by **Stamurai**, '**We Work**' a tightly focussed discussion about some of the professional stammering networks (the NHS, the police, Education and the BBC) hosted by Prasan Modasia with Vincent Tse, Clive Collins, Liz Reschwamm and Bhupinder Purewal.

Sponsored by **City Lit**, '**Changing the World for people who stammer**', was hosted by the ISA's Doug Scott with Patrick Campbell (stammering pride), Yvette Genn (the law), Georgia Scott (TikTok star) and Jane Powell, STAMMA.





Hope Gerlach-Houck leading her workshop



Ciel Waagens Udbjorg, cluttering workshop



Douglas Scott, ISA



STAMMA Registration Desk



One of over 50 workshops



Scroobius Pip & JJJJerome (on screen)



WORKSHOPS

Applications for running workshops opened in December 2021. Proposers were encouraged to collaborate with others and to say which of the conference themes their workshop would fit into. Submissions were reviewed and rated and finally given a time and room slot. By March the 85 proposed workshops had been whittled down to the 52 which took place.

The workshops covered a good spread of speakers, themes and perspectives. Each workshop had a volunteer host to introduce the presenter(s) and keep them to time, and a volunteer runner to help deal with any situation which arose. Up to 6 workshops were able to take place in parallel, see visual below showing the Saturday sessions.

On each day of the conference there was a closed workshop for those leading national or international organisations, where we discussed some of the issues and opportunities facing us all. One of the outcomes of these sessions was the [‘Declaration of the Right to Stutter’](#).

WORKSHOP ROOMS						
	LT1	TR4	Flex2	TR5	Stanley	Flex 1
11:00-12:00	Self-Help Support & Therapy in Africa Dieudonne Nsabimana Dina Lilian	‘Stories Beyond Words’ Co-created filmmaking to reclaim pride in non-normative voices Cathy Soreny Emily Fox	The future of stammering therapy - what are your best hopes? Elaine Kelman Martha Jeffery	Stammering and academia - university lecturing with a stammer. Claire Tupling Deborah Johnston	Speed friending Marc Van Kralingen Jurjen de Jong	
12:00-12:15	go to next workshop					
12:15-1:15	Work - leading when you stammer Joanna Gaukroger James Davies Prasan Modasia Deborah Johnston	Words matter! Patrick Campbell Sam Simpson	The effect of mindfulness, self-compassion & decentering on the experience of stuttering Shiran Israel Relaxation for the body & mind Sophie Mitchell	Being a good significant other Liv Goldstein		
1:15-2:15 pm	Lunch in the Courtyard					
2:15-3:15 pm	How can we improve the journey from isolation to community involvement? Ronan Miller	How embracing my stammer as a teacher has changed my life. Bhupinder Purewal Empowering, engaging & educating around stammering. Zain Ghani	A creative workshop from ‘My Percussive Lips’ Jonathan Hunter	Young voices across borders Anila Blom Penny Farrell Vibia Bornemann	Exploring stammering through performance art Bob Adams	Action for Stammering Children youth panel - past, present & future Mike Scott Singing for all voices Abigail Mann-Daraz
3:15-3:30 pm	go to next workshop					
3:30-4:30 pm	Stuttering advocacy & building community through podcasting Maya Chupkov	Stammering through a lens Natahsa Zack	Stammering Rocks Hilary Liddle Emma Dawes	closed workshop	Open Mic	
4:30-4:45 pm	Refreshments in the Courtyard					
4:45-5:45 pm	STAMMA AGM					

Parents from the Family Day may attend any session. Family-friendly sessions are shaded in yellow.



STAMMA Trustee Rhian Binns in conversation



Iain Wilkie, 50 Million Voices



How do we create a better world for people who stammer, Plenary, Lecture Theatre One



Bob Adams with Giant Bubbles welcoming children



Questions from the floor, Naheem Bashir



Vee Meyners at the STAMMA stall selling hard to Anita Blom, Stamily

OPEN MIC SESSIONS

The Open Mic session is always a key part of any STAMMA conference, allowing people who stammer the chance to stand up in front of a warm sympathetic audience and speak in public. This year we held 3 Open Mic sessions, the final one in the main plenary room. It was a privilege to hear members old and new, the very young and old, speak in public. As ever, it brought the house down and tears were shed.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Marcos Fernandez, Iberica Restaurants and STAMMA Trustee Alex Harrison



The social events were stupendously well organised by the Events Team of Dean, Jenny and Paul, with lovely attention to detail and a firm focus on giving everyone a good time.

THE WELCOME

The Reception was held in The Crypt on Wednesday night. The Pimms flowed freely, the venue was majestic, the food scrumptious – and everyone was delighted to see one another again in person. Tim Fell (STAMMA) and Sybren Bouswma (ISA) made delegates welcome, Marcos Fernandez, CEO of Iberica, was pleased to speak, and Canon Antony O'Brian, (Dean of the cathedral) gave a lovely welcome from Liverpool.

LIVERPOOL SIGHT-SEEING

Four coaches took delegates around the sights of Liverpool on Friday afternoon. Except for one delegate – who found the focus on The Beatles too much - the trip was enjoyed by all. The trip was fitted in between the morning workshop sessions and the evening quiz, so delegates were invited to pick up a packed lunch.

Quiz

The Quiz was held in the cavernous Mountford Hall, festooned and satisfyingly packed. Their plan to mix everyone up worked beautifully and an enjoyable evening was had by all, although not without a little griping that the opening questions were a little tough for people whose first language was not English, although this had been considered in the mixing of teams, and no team was made up solely of overseas guests.

From left to right: Tim Fell (Chair of STAMMAFest Committee) Holly Bradshaw (Refinery), Sybren Bouwsma (ISA), and from Iberica Restaurants Marcos Fernandez, his wife and Graziano Cocco. Dean Ridge (STAMMAFest Committee), Joanna Gaukroger (STAMMA Chair)





The Mountford Hall ready for STAMMAFest Social

STAMMAFEST SOCIAL

Held on Saturday night, and sponsored by City Lit, the STAMMAFest Social was the high point of the social activities organised by the inimitable Events Team. The band rocked, the food was superb, and the double act of Paul and Dean went down a storm. Taking place in the same Mountford Hall, but presented and lit very differently, the room was even more tightly packed. A very pleasant evening.

SUMMARY

The conference was a great success. It ran smoothly and was well attended. The sessions were engaging and varied, the social events were great. People reported getting a lot out from the conference and left energised. There was a LOT of positive, uplifting and heart-warming feedback. This success reflected the dedication of the planning committee leading up to the conference, as well as their expertise and experience in previous conferences. This showed in the briefing of Starbucks staff, the mixing of people in the quiz, the support for the workshop presenters.

More than that, all the volunteers and staff were hugely responsive, careful and enthusiastic in their determination to make the conference the best experience for attendees. Our Trustees, past and present, jumped in to help. Many, many people helped make this conference a success – the workshop presenters, the volunteers, the speakers, our sponsors and grant makers, as well as the staff at Liverpool university, the caterers and the team on the AV desk.

A huge thanks to all.

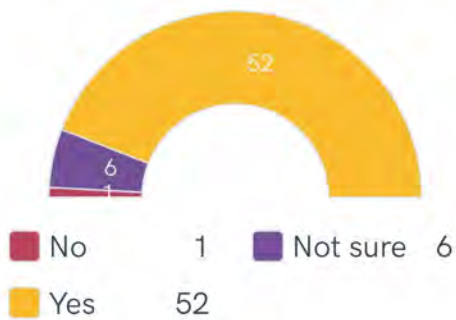
Pimms at the Wednesday Welcome



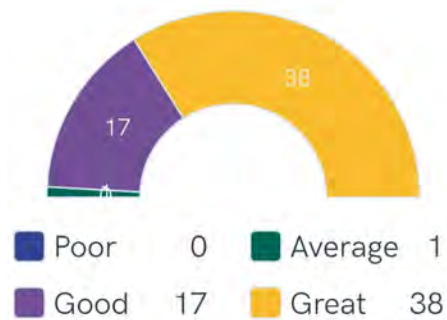
CONFERENCE RATINGS

We had 59 responses on Survey Monkey to a poll for those attending the conference, as well as 6 responses from speakers. A separate poll was undertaken for Family Day, not reported on here. Where there are many lessons to be learned, the big takeaway, that we can see from this polling, and the feedback, is that that the overwhelming majority said that the conference was either good or great.

Value for Money



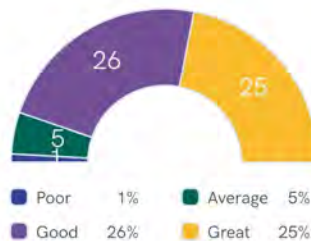
Overall



Accommodation



Catering



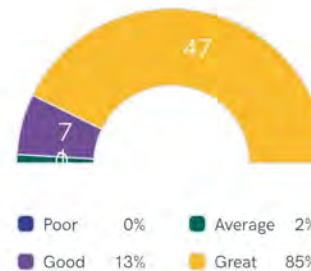
Programme



Workshops



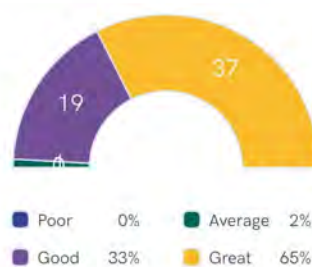
Social Events



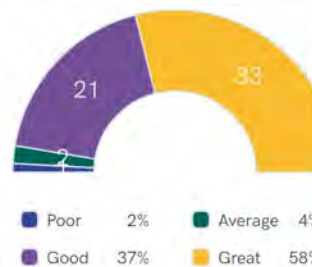
Venue

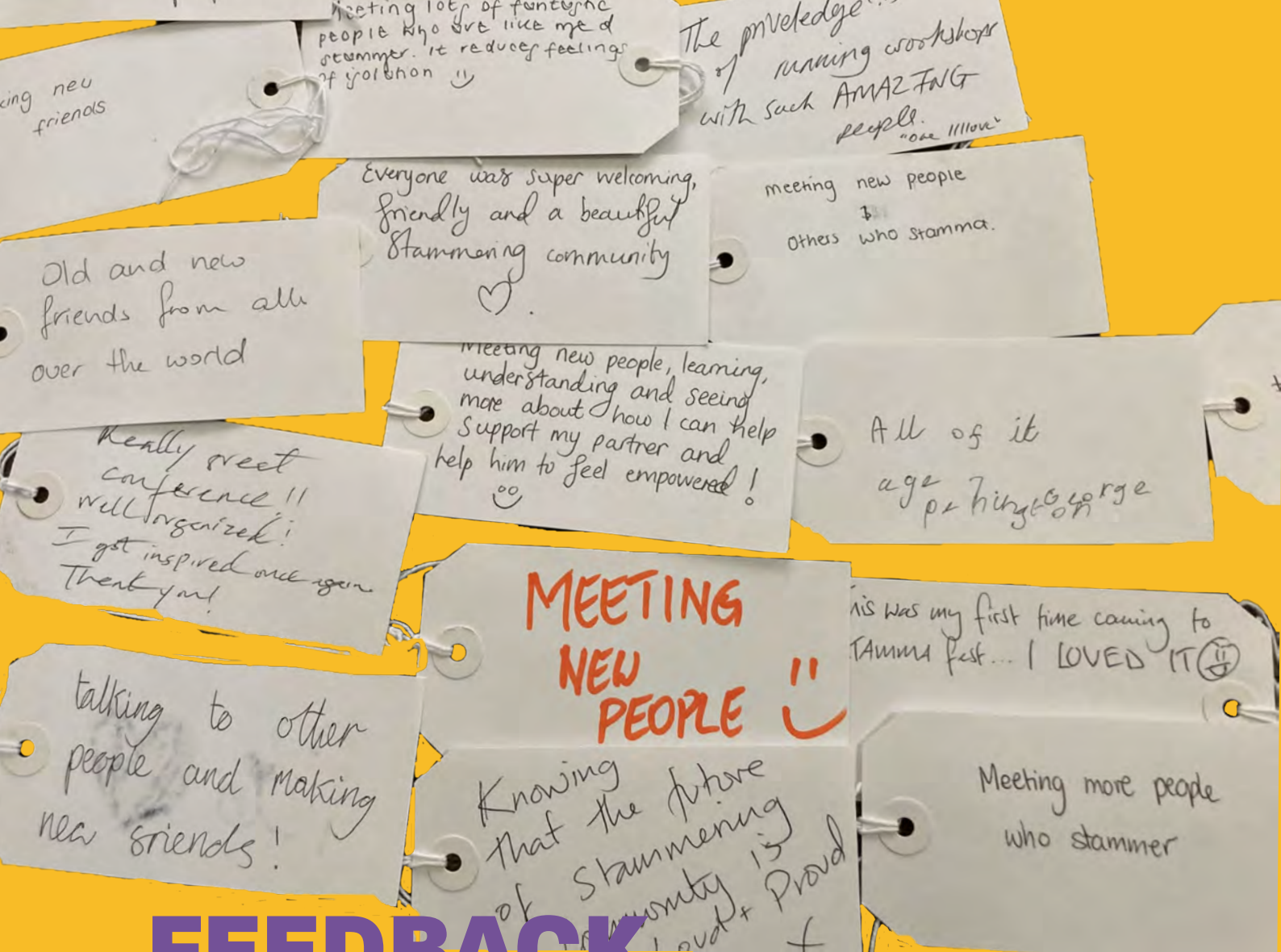


Speakers



Registration





FEEDBACK

Some of the comments on the conference: -

Gerald Maguire, MD Professor of Clinical Psychiatry

"I want to thank you for all your great work for our stuttering/stammering community! Fantastic conference! I also enjoyed my first tasting ever of mushy peas. The city tour Friday was especially memorable! Jerry"

Yvette Genn, Specialist employment lawyer

"I was really pleased to have the opportunity to participate in your conference, to meet you and your team, and all the interesting people that I spoke to, even if fleetingly."

Nicola Maddy, Speech & Language Therapist

"I wanted to send a personal thank you to you and your utterly amazingly incredible Stamma team. Words cannot express what a truly fabulous space you created!! I'm astounded by the smooth running, impeccable organisation, invaluable workshops, social events and everything else you created. And it was so clear that what lay behind it all was a backbone of exceptionally hard working, dedicated staff who go over and beyond. Every team member were a credit in the own right. My heart is full!"

Jack Nicholas, STAMMA Helpline Volunteer

"Many people, including me, have expressed their appreciation of StammaFest on social media, but I would like also to record a more formal "thank you" for all that you have all done to make

the event such an outstanding success.

StammaFest was an inspiring four and a half days. I have never seen people listening and talking over such a time with such continued respect, focus, and energy. I now need many more days to think about all the people I have met, all the ideas I have heard.

I have known a few corporate conferences in my time but never seen such extended professionalism. In my experience, those involved in putting on a conference start the event already stressed from weeks of planning, already exhausted from the final 48 hours logistics preceding going live. None of that showed and managing a 4.5 day event with such grace and energy is remarkable.

If this sounds gushing, it will sound even more so if I add some context. I do not feel easy when socialising: during StammaFest, I half-hugged when I should have elbow-bumped, fist-bumped when I should have shaken hands, done nothing when I should have done something; my email signature should include the disclaimer “do not expect me to attend meetings of more than six people” — and yet I have never enjoyed and learnt so much at an event.

“Transformative” is an overused word, but StammaFest was transformative for me, and I think could continue to be for many others as it encourages a spreading of new thinking and awareness across many aspects of society. I am now trying to think how I can do more, be more in that venture.

My heartfelt thanks to all the STAMMA team and to everyone who contributed so much in making StammaFest a thought-provoking, energising, and emotionally moving event. “

Steph Burgess, Speech & Language Therapist, Airedale

“Just wanted to say a huge thank you to you and the rest of the Stamma team for all your hard work putting on the conference. I honestly thought it was amazing – slick, professional, welcoming, friendly and with fantastic content. I am so pleased that I and so many of my Yorkshire colleagues were able to attend – we were definitely inspired. We have already agreed that in future we are going to try and include a person who stammers in some capacity at all of our meetings.”

AMBI – Israel International Stuttering Association

“Now that a few days allowed processing of the experience of StammaFest, please accept my sincere thanks, both as an individual participant and on behalf of the Israeli Stuttering Association, for organizing and hosting this important event.

Your hard work and attention to the tiniest details were apparent in every aspect of the conference; it was not taken for granted that the Starbucks staff patiently listened through taking orders, and that the receptionists asked us to sign our name instead of saying it and gave us such a warm welcome – STAMMA's advocating and training fingerprints were reflected in every way possible. Moreover, the selected workshops and plenary sessions were innovative, and truly reflected the discussion we wish to see about stammering, with respectful representation of different views.

As a national stammering organization, we value the global alliance between other organizations, and appreciate the opportunity to join forces in advocating for the right to stammer. We would very much like to take part in future global collaborations. Personally, it was my first international conference, and I was awestruck by how nice everyone was, and how easy it was to form connections with new people. The importance of this conference is tremendous, and your gracious and kind hospitality, along with impeccable arrangements, are highly appreciated.”

Other Comments

"Such a dedicated team - great effort!"

"When is the next one:)"

"The best conference I've ever been to by a mile. So honoured to be allowed into the 'tribe'. Inspiring and incredibly welcoming, the impact is still rippling through me!"

"This conference had a huge positive impact on me. Thank you so much for organizing it."

"Any social events are always welcome. I did enjoy the choir workshop and linked workshop the following day. But it was great to see old friends again and thanks again to the organisers."

"The conference was excellent, and I felt better than I have for years while I was there. Thanks very much to everyone involved."

"It was my first time at an UK and global conference, and it was so well organised and the volunteers were so welcoming and friendly and that was the vibe of the city too so all in all a great experience. Your cousins across the sea in Ireland are very proud of you all."

"Great organization, great stuff in red shirts, great content and great small- talks with people around the world."

"The Camaraderie was excellent and being able to be with friends and speak with them was an absolute joy."

"Stammafest is like the canopy in a tropical rainforest. You can look up to see what is the future or down towards to the past. The opportunity to also enjoy the present is a bonus."

"It was a wonderful conference and I hope I can attend next time. I would love to explore the idea of having a scholarship fund."

"The people. The people. The people. Everyone met everyone with a smile. There was definitely a sense of community - so many friends and acquaintances were made. Couldn't be happier with the people and friends who came. Staff and volunteers were welcoming and always open to pause their busy schedule to listen and speak to anyone. I laughed, joked, cried and made lifelong friends! I will definitely be attending the next one, and definitely leading another workshop! I wish I found STAMMA sooner - so supportive to every member."

"Thank you to all staff and volunteers and all members who came and said hello and introduced themselves. Brilliant."

"The AV team was the most efficient at any conference I've attended."

"It was so inspirational, life affirming, amazing to meet so many brilliant people. I wish I could've stayed longer."

"I thought the conference was excellent – one of the best I've ever attended."

"We did the 'we work' plenary. Was wonderful meeting everyone online a couple of times before the event. By the time we did our talk we felt like life long friends and that probably helped things flow and for us all to share our experiences in a relaxed and candid way"

"Frankly, I think you did a splendid job. Selecting the University was excellent as we benefitted from their facilities, which were great. Selection of the plenary panels was great."