

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IMOGEN MAY SEEKS HELP TO REGAIN HER VOICE

Disabled woman's communication aid appeal

Cottenham, Cambridge – October 13, 2009 – Imogen May, a 26 year old photography student, is appealing for help to raise £7000 for an essential communication aid. Imogen is disabled, and has not been able to speak since emergency surgery in July. She is not expected to be able to talk again, and urgently needs a device which will enable her to 'speak'. Imogen has managed to raise £2000 to date but is now appealing more widely to raise the remaining £5000.

The NHS is unable to help; their response was to offer Imogen a laminated alphabet for her to point to. Although Imogen's Speech and Language Therapist (SALT) has been very supportive, the NHS simply does not have the funding to provide communication devices for adults.

Imogen said: "I can't make phonecalls with an alphabet sheet! I need to be able to talk to my friends, to take part in university classes, and to give instructions to my personal assistants. Until I have a proper communication device, I can't leave the house, let alone return to university. I was ill last week and couldn't tell doctors how I felt. It's isolating and frightening. No speech shouldn't mean no communication."

She has made a short video demonstrating different communication aids, which is online at www.imogenmay.com and illustrates exactly why a high-tech device is essential for her safety and quality of life.

Fundraising is organised via the website www.imogenmay.com where donations are invited direct to Imogen's savings account, or via Paypal.

Background: Imogen May lives independently, with 24 hour care, in Cottenham. She has a progressive illness similar to muscular dystrophy which has led to the loss of her voice. A vibrant and outgoing person, Imogen is in the final year of a photography degree at Anglia Ruskin university. For more information please contact her friend and PR co-ordinator Flash Bristow on 07939 579090.

Contacts:

Flash Bristow (PR co-ordinator)

flash@gorge.org

07939 579090

Imogen May

funds@imogenmay.com

07549 933030 (text only)

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