

Annual Review

2012-2013

**The Trust for Deaf
Studies**



The Vassall Centre
Gill Avenue
Bristol BS16 2QQ
Charity Number: 289302

www.deafstudiestrust.org

Progress for

**Total Conversation & Relay
Deaf Communities**

Chair Report

In the past two years the Trust continued to run projects with limited funds in the light of the ongoing recessionary climate. It has been involved with six projects including the annual Summer School and the short course for medical students which are now the responsibility of the Trust. The extra funds from these projects enabled the Trust to survive.

The awareness and BSL course for the year 2011-12 attracted 55 students from the Medical School. It is with thanks to the tutors that this was again successful.

The Summer School had seven Deaf students from the Czech Republic taking part. This may be the last one from the Republic due to lack of funds on their side. However the Trust hopes the Summer School will continue next year with Deaf students from other countries.

The Learning Curve organisation recently approved the Trust's proposal to run courses to help Deaf people look for employment via the Internet. This new project is titled "Seeking Employment Through Information Technology" – SETIT for short. This is a new and challenging venture.

All good things have to come to an end at any point, like everything in life. When this happens, we do our best to redress the situation. Why am I saying this? Ever since the Trust began, Anne Stygall was the secretary. She worked tirelessly over the years and if it was not for her, the administration side of the Trust would have struggled with its many projects. She decided to retire at the end of July 2012. Sincere thanks must go to her and we wish her well in her retirement years.

We must not forget Esther Drewe who continues to prepare the accounts, write the cheques and manage the Finances. Thanks once again to her.

We continue to be grateful to all the present Trustees and look forward to the Trust's future with hope and determination. Its importance to Deaf citizens in the UK must be valued and continued for many years to come.



To change

Thanks to everyone.

David Jackson, Chair, 2013

Secretary's Report

The Deaf Studies Trust continues to work for the Deaf community even in the difficult economic climate.

We have become more concerned with Deaf Health over the last year and have been working with Sign Health, the national charity, to analyse data on Deaf people's health. This will form the basis of a report and probably a campaign for better services later in 2013.

This is linked to our work with medical students where sign language training and Deaf awareness work is trying to make future doctors more aware of the communication (and then the health) needs of Deaf people.

Our IT training programme finally got underway and was being completed just beyond the end of the year in this report. It certainly seems as if there is a great need for IT training among Deaf people but it is difficult to find the right level of funding.

A major part of the work this year has been the provision of a video relay service, which DST has managed. This has allowed Deaf people to be able to call any hearing person or agency, and have an interpreter automatically come on line. The sustainability of the service remains the problem given that public services are all cutting back.

We evaluated a Lottery project on Deaf club regeneration – which is a major task at this time, given the changing nature of the Deaf community. Many of the old Deaf associations (including the Bristol Deaf club) are under financial threat or have gone under and there is now a need for a redefinition of the Deaf community and its aspirations.

With the reduction in the Deaf Studies programme at the University of Bristol, we are looking at ways in which the Deaf Studies Trust can step into the gap and we now hope to bring forward plans during the coming year.



Jim Kyle

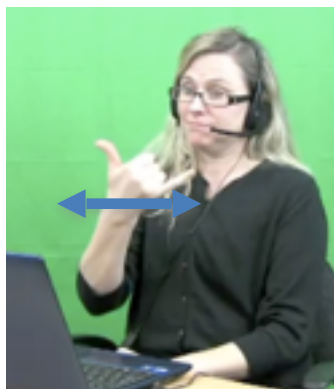
Secretary

Sign 50+ and REACH112

There has been continuous work since 2001 with Deaf people in the Bristol area in providing videophones and supporting them in the use of these to contact friends and family. From May 2011 until July 2012, the REACH112 project (a large scale pilot programme led in the UK by the Centre for Deaf Studies) added additional dimensions to this in providing a sign language relay service and a system for access to emergency services. The implementation of Total Conversation reached nearly 2,000 people and eventually involved over 6,000 calls per month. The Trust expanded its support to people and had an active role in training and in installing the necessary broadband services.

See www.reach112.eu for more information on the project and www.myfriendcentral.com to access the free software and to register.

The Deaf Studies Trust took over the coordinator role for the work which was partly funded by the Welsh Government to April 2013. With changes in the technology and better broadband connections, the concept of ubiquitous video contact becomes a reality.



We expect the Trust to continue to develop this work, seeking funds for initiatives in health and in assisted living as these are areas where there has been only limited progress so far.

There seems little doubt that providing video access allows the inclusion of Deaf and hard of hearing people in whole areas of daily life, where in the past involvement has been difficult.

Deaf Health Promotion (formerly Healthy Deaf Minds)

The programme originally funded by the Bristol Primary Care Trust but has been re-structured to focus the work on a specialist team linked to social services in Bristol. This has addressed the needs for health awareness and promotion of good practice for Deaf people and for professionals in the field. Deaf Studies has a monitoring and advisory role in this work but it is likely to converge with the research work on health mentioned earlier.

There is an extensive programme of presentations and workshops for Deaf people in the Bristol area.

Training

Deaf Studies Trust made a shift towards training in this year with training programmes in IT and in Deaf Awareness for medical students. The IT training continues into 2013-14 and the successful medical work will also be repeated over the next twelve months.

Our aim is simple: to set up an advanced training facility led by the Deaf Studies Trust, which will incorporate the online facilities we have developed and provide a national resource in the field.

Legal Choices – Silent Process

Engaging Legal Services when you do not hear

This project was carried out in the latter part of the year and reported to the sponsors, the Legal Services Consumer Panel and Solicitors Regulation Authority in February 2012. The final report appeared in May 2012 and guidance, based on the report was issued by the Solicitors Regulation Authority.

While this work focussed on the views of Deaf and hard of hearing people, we were interested to learn more about how solicitors themselves understood Deaf people's needs. As a result, a small scale qualitative study was carried out. Interesting findings were that solicitors felt it was part of their general remit to accept Deaf customers but did not feel that specialist training was needed. They also tended to be driven by time allocated to cases and considered that Deaf people might take up more time. It would be a significant step forward to expand this study and to offer the training which might clarify the needs of Deaf and hard of hearing people.

Treasurer's Report

on the Annual Accounts to 31 March 2013

In general the financial situation has again improved significantly during the year. The best measure of the state of financial health is the total of the "unrestricted" funds. This stands at £12,186 and is a great deal better than the £5,001 last year (see Note 6). Traditionally, this should be equivalent to at least 3 months "unrestricted" spending. The "unrestricted" spending came to £9,154 for the whole year (see P 4) or £2,288 per 3 months. The trust is therefore approximately £10,000 clear of the danger zone.

The other useful yard-stick is total "restricted" funds. This total is made up of monies we have received for work currently in progress. This work should result in profits which will then become "unrestricted" funds. Note that this is only a guide to future activity. There is no guarantee as to how much profit we will make nor when we will receive it. At the beginning of this year, "restricted" funds stood at £17,629. At the end of the year, this stood at an almost identical sum - £17,885 (see note 6.)

Notes 3 and 4 list our income and expenses. There has been some movement in individual budget heads, but the totals for this year and the last are very similar.

During the course of this year, the shift away from research towards teaching and support programmes has continued. Such work is within our charitable objects and is likely to be more easy to obtain.

In summary, this year the Trust has consolidated the very substantial gains made last year.

Clive Kittel
July 2013

The Deaf Studies Trust continues to move forward in its work and will work continuously to make Deaf people's lives more valued and understood by the society at large.



The Trust for Deaf Studies

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