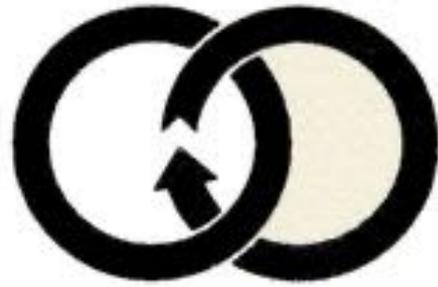


Annual Review 2010-2011

**The Trust for Deaf
Studies**



The Vassall Centre
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Bristol BS16 2QQ
Charity Number: 289302

www.deafstudiestrust.org

Progress for

Deaf Community Views Mental Health and Video Telecommunications

Chair Report

There is no doubt that the financial climate is working against us.

In common with most charities we have severe financial problems and will need to work hard to continue to deliver the research and innovation which we wish.

We are continuing to look for projects in the Deaf community and are committed to providing accessible results for Deaf people to see in sign language.

As is usual, thanks must go to Anne Stygall who has managed the Trust Office and done a great deal of the public work on behalf of the Trust. And also to Esther Drewe who prepares the accounts, writes the cheques and manages the Finances.

We thanks Linda Day and Neil Dunlop who are stepping down this year and we are now actively recruiting new Trustees.

Thanks to everyone.



David Jackson, Chair, June 2011

Secretary's Report

Amid the considerable financial gloom, the Trust has managed to continue to function. The level of activity is much less than in previous years but we have made significant contributions in our research work and in teaching

We continue to support the Sign50 project through the REACH112 project which will continue until 2012 and which has enormous implications for the reduction in isolation and for access to services which hearing people take for granted. The target is that all Deaf people in the Bristol area will have the opportunity to be connected by video for free and that this connection can be extended to friends and families as well as to service personnel.



Sign50 itself is a longstanding provision for older people to use videophones to connect at a distance, to reduce loneliness and to increase personal security.

DeafBlind Worlds remains an active project in discussion and development but is due for proper dissemination. It is also essential that we seek more funding in this area.

For us, the new venture this year, was the setting up of the teaching programme. We planned and delivered a summer school in English for Deaf people from the Czech Republic. We provided a special training programme over 10 weeks for two groups of medical students – in total, 45 new doctors will know more about Deaf people. We hope to expand in this area and have drawn up plans for future provision.

We completed and delivered a community project for Wiltshire Council. As we have mentioned before the issue here is the reduction of the Deaf community and the resulting difficulties in contacting Deaf people. Understanding Deaf lifestyle has become a major topic for us – it is no longer the case that the models of the 1980s apply to young Deaf people in mainstream education and in their every day life.

The Trust continues to support the Healthy Deaf Minds project which aims to deliver seminars on health to Deaf people. This is a very important endeavour which offers accessible information to Deaf people.

We are looking to expand our support to the Digital Switchover programme – where the analogue television channels are switched off and produce significant effects on the community. There is a considerable demand among Deaf people for more information.

It has been a productive year although we are struggling to find the finances to continue in increasingly unfriendly financial circumstances. The Trust will hope to look for larger scale funding and by taking on some innovative teaching programmes it will hope to create a more stable financial environment.

Jim Kyle, Secretary

Sign 50+ and REACH112

We first began work on videophones in 1997 but it was greatly expanded in the 2002 when BT supported the provision of videophones to older people. When Bristol Council supported this work we were able to show the value of relay services to older people. Since then we have significantly upgraded the provision and now offering Internet based services. Users are able to interact at a distance in sign language through a videophone, or a computer or a netbook or even with a mobile smartphone. In fact, it is now possible to communicate in sign language from anywhere. It is also true that the software developed allows people to connect to existing textphones and to text relay services.

As part of the development in 2011 we have taken part in experiments allowing relay services to be provided in sign language and in lip-speaking/lip-reading format. There have also been trials of speech to text so that the hearing person just needs to talk normally and the Deaf person can read the words displayed.

In conjunction with Avon and Somerset Police and Avon Fire and Rescue Service, there have been trials of direct access to emergency services and also relay access to the emergency call centres. It is expected that this provision will be available from late 2011 onwards. We are moving very quickly from the use of fax to get help to direct contact with online interpreters.



From
←here to here→



There are now over
1000 users of this

service and it continues to expand throughout the UK.

We expect the Trust to continue to benefit from this work and will seek ways in which we can evaluate, promote and then find more funding for this major development.

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

DeafBlind Worlds

This area of work continues to be of major interest as there is so little understanding of the issues. However, we have not yet found the right project proposal to continue this work. It will receive closer attention in the coming year.

We will seek to influence the training of workers in this field.

Healthy Deaf Minds

This is a new area of work for the Trust involving a series of meetings aimed at Deaf people in order to explore particular topics in health. During the year to March 2011 a further five Healthy Deaf Minds talks have taken place. The organisation of these talks has been facilitated by setting up an HDM project group (sub-group of the Pacesetters Stakeholder Group). The members of the group advise on the suitability of topics and also offer help advertising the Healthy Deaf Minds talks and providing practical help at the events.

For communication support a palantypist (speech to text writer) is used and two BSL interpreters voice over. It has also been found advantageous to use two Deaf relay interpreters to provide the best possible service and make the events fully accessible.

1. *Advocacy by* Jeff Brattan-Wilson, Advocacy Manager, British Deaf Association (Wales). It was held at the Centre for Deaf People in Bristol. Around 45 people attended the two hour talk, most of them from the South Gloucestershire area.

2. *Eat Well* by Mark Gill, a Deaf sports coach. About 20 people attended and took part in a quiz which highlighted questions about eating and health, including asking questions such as which country had the worst record in the world for heart attacks, and which country had the most obese people.

3. *Keep Fit* by Mark Gill. He explained the purpose of exercise, and provided activities so that attendees could participate.

4. *Seasonal Affective Disorder (SAD)* by Sam Mawaura, Chief Executive of Changes in Bristol. SAD refers to winter depression or winter blues. He described the symptoms of SAD and the treatments. Becky Hall, a service user who has SAD talked about her experiences and provided useful tips about coping with it.

5. *How to Manage Your Money Well* by Ivan Angell, Managing Director of the Ross Court Management Ltd who is based in Bristol and Brian Phillips, a freelance accountant. They covered the economic crisis, personal savings, investments, pensions and mortgages.

Some found his talk useful and information and said they had learnt things they didn't know before. One or two others found his talk too lengthy and complex with too many topics to remember. The talks lasted about two hours.

Community Research

In completing the community project in Wiltshire, we had a good deal of difficulty in finding Deaf people as the Deaf centres and meeting places have closed down and Deaf people are more isolated than before.

Deaf people felt disadvantaged but lacked the access to information which hearing people take for granted. We find that this community is marginalised and has little opportunity to express its views to society at large.

The overall conclusion here is that the deaf community in these locations is in decline and new models of research and new views of Deaf needs will need to be formed.

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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