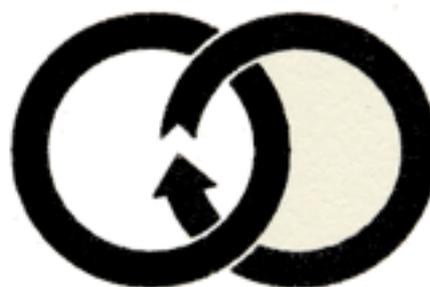


# Annual Review

**2011-2012**

The Trust for Deaf  
Studies



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

[www.deafstudiestrust.org](http://www.deafstudiestrust.org)

## Progress for

**Deaf people and Legal Services  
Health Promotion and  
Total Conversation**

## 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.

Thanks to everyone.

David Jackson, Chair, 2012



## Secretary's Report

Considering the difficulties of funding and the general economic gloom, it is remarkable that the Trust has been able to continue its work and even begin to build again.

Our new teaching programme has continued to make progress. The summer school in English for Deaf people from the Czech Republic skipped a year in Bristol but returned in 2012. We provide a special Deaf awareness training programme over 8 weeks for medical students and this is increasing (now 64 participants in 2012). This may help to deliver better health services to Deaf people in future.

A new project on IT training started right at the end of the year in March but will need some nurturing in the coming year in order to reach the Deaf community and create the impact which is desired.

Support to older Deaf people remains a key part of the Trust activities and this has been done through the REACH112 project managed by the University of Bristol, where the Trust took on the role of providing broadband services to Deaf people who would not otherwise have been able to engage in the roll out of Total Conversation.

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 now supports and advises on the Deaf Health Promotion project, formerly the Healthy Deaf Minds project which aims to deliver changes in behaviour in health professionals and improvements in wellness for Deaf people.

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

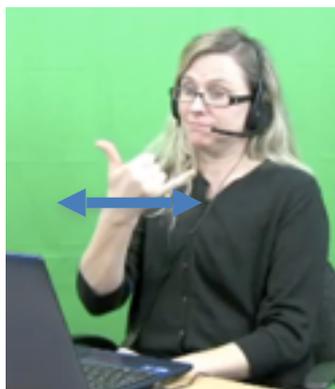
Secretary

## Sign 50+ and REACH112

There has been longstanding work 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.

Data collected from users indicates that Total Conversation is welcomed, life-changing and liberating. There is very little question in the minds of Deaf end users that these services are required. Other users such as relay agents and emergency service have given very positive feedback on its use.

See [www.reach112.co.uk](http://www.reach112.co.uk) for more information on the project and [www.myfriendcentral.com](http://www.myfriendcentral.com) to access the free software and to register.



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.

## **Deaf Health Promotion (formerly Healthy Deaf Minds)**

The programme has evolved from a series of health workshops to becoming a strategic development in order to create improvement in health. There were a number of presentations.

**“Deaf and Signing Brain”.** 8 June 2011 Mairead McSweeney.

The talk compared a Hearing Brain with a Deaf Brain, and described how it appears when scanned.

**“Do you know what is Abuse?”** 21 July 2011.

**“Deaf Parents Mentoring”.** 7 September 2011 Hilary Sutherland was invited to talk about the Deaf Parenting Mentoring Scheme – a project that has arisen as part of the Deaf Parenting Skill Courses. Hilary also invited Jennifer Ackerman to share her experiences of being a group facilitator on the course.

This programme of presentations and workshops has now become a more targeted plan to change behaviour towards wellness and to provide information to the professionals which will aid their interaction with Deaf people.

## **Training**

Deaf Studies Trust made a slight shift in focus during the year in order to provide a means to feedback the work it has done over many years. This has taken the form of two training programmes for medical students to improve their knowledge and to teach them some sign language. There has also been a summer school, primarily for Czech deaf students. This is managed wholly by the Deaf Studies Trust and it is hoped that further summer school provision can be developed. As of March 2012, the trust has also begun a programme to give IT training to unemployed Deaf people. This work will continue until the middle of 2012.

## **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.

In Legal Choices-Silent Process, we have examined the experiences of Deaf and hard of hearing people in their contact with the complex and varied legal services in England and Wales.

Semi-structured interviews were conducted in British Sign Language and in speech and text as appropriate. The project report presents this qualitative analysis and sets in the context of the Legal Services Consumer Panel objectives and the statutory duties of the Legal Services Board.

Deaf and deafened people encounter problems at every level from receptionist through advisers, solicitors, barristers to judges. There were no reports of any central support

infrastructure to aid in this access. Hard of hearing people experience these difficulties to a different extent. Problems reported tend to outweigh the few examples of very good practice.

We have offered some suggestions for change and development and have tried to set the highest priority in the understanding of the way in which Deaf and hard of hearing people engage with legal professionals. Only by understanding this do we believe will the necessary adjustments be made.

The report is available from the Legal Services Consumer Panel or from the Deaf Studies Trust.

## **Treasurer's Report**

### **on the Annual Accounts to 31 March 2012**

In general the financial situation has improved significantly over the year. The best measure of the state of financial health is the total of the "unrestricted" funds. This stands at £5,001 and is a great deal better than the £433 last year (see Note 6). Traditionally, this should be equivalent to at least 3 months "unrestricted" spending. The "unrestricted" spending came to £12,464 for the whole year (see P 4) or £3113 per 3 months. The trust is therefore just under £2000 clear of the danger zone.

The other useful figure 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 how much profit we will make nor when we will receive it. At the beginning of this year, "restricted" funds stood at £10,090. At the end of the year, this stood at £17,629 - a useful improvement (see note 6).

We were particularly fortunate to receive donations totalling £3350. (see note 3)

Note 4 lists the expenses. These have been tightly controlled with useful savings in accountancy and staff costs.

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

Clive Kittel, 2012

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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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Treasurer Clive Kittel



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