

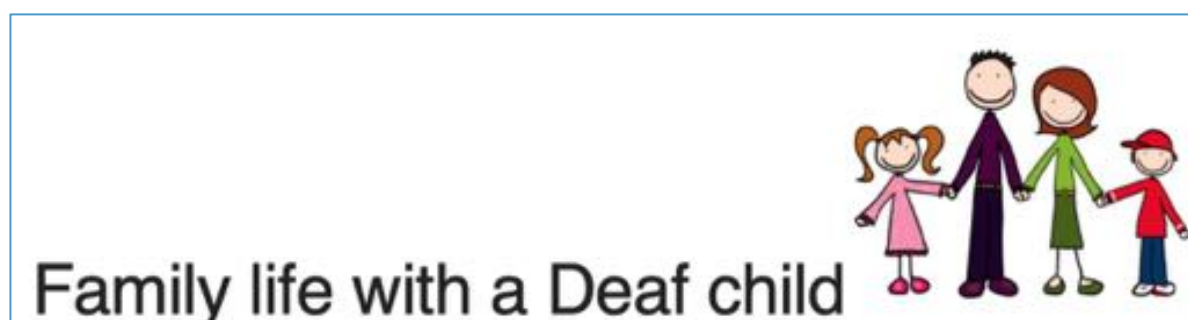
Annual Review 2018-2019

The Trust for Deaf Studies



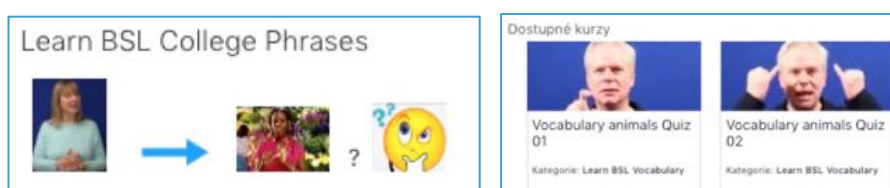
The Vassall Centre
Gill Avenue
Bristol BS16 2QQ
Charity Number: 289302

www.deafstudiestrust.org



We continue to work with families with workshops this year

BSL Online for Deaf people in other countries



We have developed an online BSL course to support students from other countries and have set up a summer school in Bristol

Chair Report



This is my second report as Chair of the Trust. It has been a varied year for deaf people - both good and bad.

It was good to see DST succeed with a 3 week full-time medical training course as part of the University of Bristol degree programme; the Deaf Studies students won two of the five awards (for that year) for best posters/assignments. Feedback shows our work is enhancing the communication and awareness of future doctors and will continue promoting better health care for the deaf community. As part of the EU ERASMUS + programme, we created a BSL learning platform (for deaf students from other countries) and provided a week-long English learning workshop in July. Together with a teachers' workshop, this programme will be developed and repeated in the coming year. We had a Dementia meeting, attended by nearly 60 deaf carers in the Bristol Deaf community. We also ran a Families with Deaf children Workshop with over 50 participants.

DST now has a healthy budget; it will mean we will be able to develop projects on Dementia, Families with Deaf children, Deaf heritage and Deaf sports and health through the coming year.

Now the not-so-good news. We continue to see deaf services closing down: ELDS in Blackburn and Deaf Connections in Glasgow. The latter opened in 1822, (it's 197 years old) and is now forced to close due to falling revenues and lack of funding. It had to suddenly close its doors, leaving 100 elderly Deaf people in the city without support. Glasgow Live said: "Volunteers and care staff were informed early on Wednesday that they had until 5pm that day to clear belongings out of the charity's Norfolk Street base, in which the group has been based for the past 25 years. The closure of Deaf Connections will have a huge impact on the deaf community in Glasgow."

Just like Bristol when the Deaf Centre closed in 2014.

We have not abandoned our Bristol Deaf Worlds initiative to preserve Deaf heritage and we continue to believe that we can preserve deaf heritage in the Bristol area. We expect to take this forward this coming year.

Finally, our grateful thanks go to Jim Kyle, our secretary and to the other Trustees for their efforts to support the deaf community.

Clark Denmark
Chair, 2019

Secretary's Report

During this year, we developed a completely new online course in British Sign Language, within the Language Skills project, funded by the ERASMUS+ programme. The unique aspect of this online course is that it is aimed at those deaf people in countries other than the UK, who do not have access to English written language. The course had to be designed with the premise that learners would be fluent in their own sign languages and thereby, visually aware. The content as



a result had to stand alone visually and could not rely on written text. Six full units of 10 hours work, each with assessment exercises, was developed and passed on to colleagues in the Czech Republic to set it up on their open Moodle server. This remains to be fully released for self-registration but content will be extended with a further set of six units. The units are aimed at a level of the Common European Framework for Languages of B2/C1 - an advanced level. Within the same project, DST participated and contributed to a meeting in Budapest and assessed potential students ahead of a Summer School to be held in Bristol in July 2019.

We had workshops on dementia for deaf carers and we had a full-day workshop for families.

The Trust is entering a new phase where we are able to plan a budget around specific initiatives. Due to the extensive work over the last few years the Trust is in a stronger position financially and is able to work on topics which we have identified as particular priorities. These will include Families with deaf children; dementia and carers; deaf health and activity; and deaf heritage.

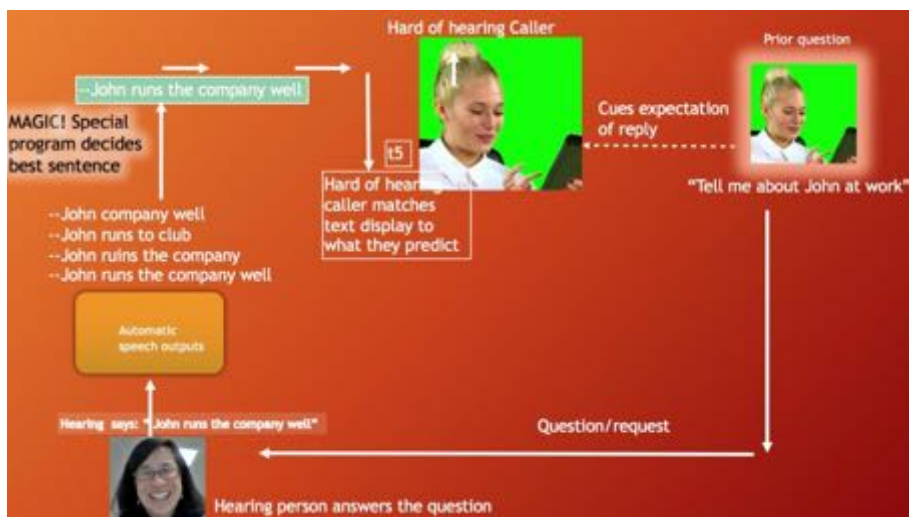
Special thanks as always to Esther Drewe who manages our finances and to our Chair, Clark Denmark who has enormous experience in all matters to do with the deaf community.

Jim Kyle, Secretary

Total Conversation – captions for telephone conversations

The TC-Cap project (June 2017-May 2018) was set up to work out exactly how to automatically recognise speech in a phone call and turn it into text on a smartphone. We did make considerable progress using artificial intelligence to enhance the speech to text and presented the results to the funding body. We had a prototype and needed the funding to develop this further and make it available to deaf people. *Unfortunately, the funding for the next phase was not awarded and the project has had to stop.*

TC-Cap was a project carried out as a collaboration with BBITG in Bristol, a company that specialises in relay services for sign language. What we achieved is shown here:



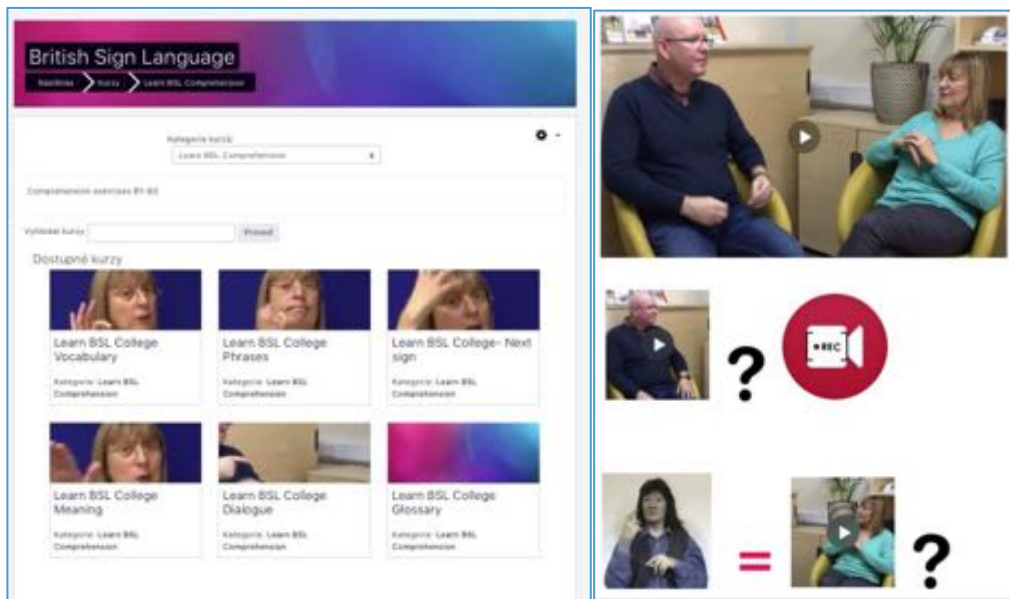
The hard of hearing person asks a question in speech, or the deaf person types the question and the system translates this to spoken words. The speech of the hearing person goes through our automatic system and several possible options are produced in text. TC-Cap then decides which text is best; and that text appears on the screen of the deaf or hard of hearing person.

Language Skills Project (Erasmus+, 2017 to 2020)

The major project the year has been the Language Skills project which is a cooperation with partners in Czech Republic (coordinator), in Hungary, in Austria and also at UCLAN in Preston.

We have developed an online course in BSL for deaf people who do not know English – the challenge has been to prepare all of the materials for self-teaching but without text at all. It is completely in video and in pictorial form. The level

is set quite high as it is for students who might study abroad and so they will already have knowledge of their own sign languages. Of course, this can also be used by other students as well. The course has questions for self-testing and responses are recorded. It is possible for the student to record himself or herself and compare to a model. The materials can be used as part of a University course or can be used in other situations. This is now in its piloting phase and will be released globally in 2020.



We also have a summer school and teachers' workshop in July 2019 and then we will repeat this in 2020. With Brexit, the pathway to future collaborations are unclear but we expect to be able to use the courses we develop for some time to come.

Training of Medical Students in University of Bristol

We have moved to a new course structure in line with the national curriculum for doctors. Instead of having a large number of students for a short period of time, we had two smaller groups for a three-week full-time course, based in the Vassall Centre. This allows us to go into much greater detail on GP-Patient consultation and by the end of the period the students were able to carry out a consultation with a deaf patient. With very positive feedback, we are set to continue the same format in the coming year.

Dementia Workshop

One of the new areas which DST has started to work in is Dementia and the effect that it has on deaf people and their carers. The first workshop attracted a large number of deaf people and the personal stories expressed were very important, highlighting the exclusion which deaf carers felt when a relative was discovered to have dementia.



There were significant observations about the sign language variant used by older people when they had dementia which was drawn from their childhood or from earlier experiences. This made it harder for care workers and interpreters to communicate and deaf family members often had to have the role of relay interpreter. We are planning a series of workshops for the coming year.

Families with Deaf Children Workshop

We returned to the work with families this year, having had various consultations and discussions within individual parents and groups. The invited speaker, Jane Russell from Manchester presented a fascinating parent view of service provision and she described the development of her deaf son. This made her presentation very relevant to the families who attended. She also described in considerable detail her own research work. In the full-day programme there was space for workshop groups and they explored the following topics:

Family Cohesion: daily interaction, life at home, deaf and hearing children

Family Well-Being: emotional and behavioural development, family management, health, nutrition, sleep

Impact from Deaf Education Processes: educational assessments/processes/parent-school interactions, deaf and hearing children in different schools

Resilience and Growth: the future – the family through adolescence, employment, support in adult life

These topics were not exhausted during the discussions and we are planning a series of workshops to support family life.

Finance Report

The Statement of Financial Activities for the Year to 31st March 2019

The best indicator of the state of financial health of the Trust is the total of the “unrestricted” funds. This stands at £19,075 - which has decreased slightly from last year’s figure of £22,541.

A business should look to have the equivalent of at least 3 months “unrestricted” spending (currently circa £2,500). This is clearly exceeded by a healthy margin.

There is a range of ongoing Restricted Funding which the Trust has incorporated a DST admin amount to ensure further financial security for the Trust.

The Trust is has been able to make investment in future activities – Health & Sports and Dementia Awareness and the work should generate future projects and thereby, repay any financial investments made.

The Trust is in a good financial position at this time.

Esther Drewe

September 2019

The Deaf Studies Trust continues to move forward in its work. It succeeds with low overhead margins and does not seek to generate large profits on its work.

The Deaf Studies Trust strives continuously to make Deaf people's lives more valued and understood by the society at large.



The Trust for Deaf Studies

The Vassall Centre, Gill Avenue, Fishponds, Bristol BS16 2QQ
Tel (voice and minicom): 0117 958 3040 www.deafstudiestrust.org



Chair: Clark Denmark



Secretary: Jim Kyle



Treasurer: Esther Drewe



Trustee: Hilary Sutherland



Trustee: Mike Gulliver



Trustee: Amy Gibbs



Trustee: Lesley Pender