

# Deaf Support

## DEAF SUPPORT VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION ANNUAL REPORT 2014

The Deaf support publication, Sign Linguistics in a Nutshell was distributed at the City Lit Deaf Day on 26.04.14. Thanks to the new organisation Signback, set up by Linda Squelch and Frances Elton, which had a stall on the 4<sup>th</sup> floor, 100 of the publications were handed out to teachers and learners of BSL free of charge.

As in previous years several members of Deaf Support attended the Deaf Day workshops and picked up information from the stall displays. There were well-known Deaf celebrities about and Linda and Sandra were pleased to have a photo taken with the actor/comedian John Smith.

*Sandra and Linda with John Smith at the Signback stall*



In June an article by Linda Squelch on the use of iPads for communication was published in the British Deaf News for Deaf readers. A similar article by Sandra Dowe was published in the September magazine of the British Association of Teachers of the Deaf for members who are qualified teachers of the deaf. A shorter version has been placed on the Deaf Support web site.



On June 3<sup>rd</sup> Linda and Sandra attended a performance of A Midsummernight's Dream produced by Deafinitely Theatre at the Globe in London. Whilst there they met and chatted to members of DEX (Deaf ex-mainstreamers group) and pupils from 2 schools who came to see the performance. Hopefully there will be another production of a Shakespeare play and members of Deaf Support would enjoy one.

*Linda with David Leach and Jill Jones of DEX at the Globe*

Details of DEX are on the link page of our website

Throughout the year Linda Squelch and Linda Brine have taught level 3 BSL for Central Bedfordshire College. There has generally been a reduction in BSL courses offered in Luton, Bedfordshire and Milton Keynes. A level 4 course and CSW training is needed in these areas in future.

In the Summer Lisa Ward held another weekly lunchtime BSL course at Mary Bassett Lower School for hearing pupils. Deaf Support provided assistance with the design of booklets of handouts and Linda gave advice on BSL. Lisa is training to teach BSL and plans another course in 2015. This is very valuable as it is easier to learn BSL at a young age and the pupils are quick to master the phonology of BSL and the non-manual features essential to give meaning.



*Lisa with Linda and 2 pupils at Mary Bassett School*

Congratulations to Oliver Monksfield who completed the Teacher of the Deaf two year course awarded by Oxford Brooks at Mary Hare School. It is good for deaf children to see a teacher with a hearing loss. Oliver teaches sport in mainstream classes and basic subjects to deaf pupils in an attached unit near his home in Edmonton, London

Oliver's wife, Martine (née Laverty), who is an ex-Mary Hare student and qualified teacher is also hoping to qualify as a teacher of the deaf in future.

*Oliver on the right on 9<sup>th</sup> in front of the Mary Hare Arts Centre, May after sitting audiology assessments; on the left is Diarmuid Laverty a student at Mary hare and brother in law to Oliver.*



Thanks go to Debbie Jakeman for attending a meetings on Health Care Services in Milton Keynes and Bedfordshire. Debbie raised important points at the meetings including:

- Emergencies - MK hospital staff can use the Signtranslate service in emergencies, will this service carry on? Does Bedford hospital have the Signtranslate service and will it be provided if Bedford hospital is upgraded?
- Treatment - If the patient needs to go out of their local area for treatment, they will be isolated - they may rely on a relative (parent, partner, friend, child) for communication support. How will this be addressed? Will the hospital provide interpreters in the wards? Will wards be equipped with loop systems?

There is no consideration for families travelling greater distances - deaf patients, particularly BSL users will be more isolated, stressed and more vulnerable. Debbie will follow up important issues for the Health Care Services.

## Members News

Miriam Tantardini and Julie Simms have moved to Norfolk; Miriam is retired and Julie works in King's Lynn as a hearing therapist and lipreading teacher.

## **Members of DEAF SUPPORT**

Executive Officer: Sandra Dowe,

Adviser on BSL: Linda Squelch (Deaf)

Deaf qualified teachers of BSL: Linda Brine, Brenda Campbell, Victoria Page,  
Sehrish Rashid and Victoria Curtis

Deaf teachers: Oliver Monksfield, Martine Monksfield

Deaf teaching assistant: Marcus Fucillo

ICT Adviser: David Wilson

Communication/Interpreter Adviser: Lorraine Elliott

Adviser on legal matters: Debbie Jakeman

**Qualified CSWs/Interpreters:** Susan Baines, Karen Beattie, Natalie (Whyte)

McCalman, Hilda Duguid, Lorraine Elliott, Azra Farooq, Renu Fulham,

Seonaid Gooding, Michelle Halfpenny, Linda Horwood, Carla Adams, Sally Jackson,

Kelli (Taplin) Kawa, Rebecca Shute, Julie Simms, Miriam Tantardini

**Members:** Alison Sheehan, Nicolette Green, Sarah Higman, Sarah Carlier, James  
Arnold, David Marshall, Julie Cooper, Linda Sarkar (Deaf), Veronica Wilson (Deaf)