

Deaf Support

DEAF SUPPORT VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION ANNUAL REPORT 2017

The year began with the preparation and publication of a booklet of handouts on the phonology of BSL. In March it was published on the Deaf Support website resources page. We received a request by the Association of British Sign Language Teachers and Assessors (ABLSTA) to add it to their website, and this was agreed.

This was followed by the publication of a booklet of handouts on BSL grammar which met a favourable response from Deaf Support members.

After receiving a request from a mother of a deaf child in Bedford for sign language tuition, we made contact with Keith Clark and visited the 'Young at Heart' group at the Salvation Army Café in Bedford. The group meets once a month and is frequented by BSL users who can advise on where to go for BSL classes in the Bedford area.



'Young at Heart' group on 7th April 2017



Keith Clark front right with cap.

On the 22nd April the Sandra EO attended the Deaf Day event at the City Lit. Sandra took copies of Sign Linguistics in a Nutshell and gave 20 copies to Mark Hopkinson Head of Sign Language and Lipreading at the City Lit for its library.

Sandra also gave copies to Mark Hart and Michelle Jones who were on the Institute of British Sign Language (IBSL) stall. In return they gave Sandra information on the BSL courses run by the institute. Sandra met up with Deaf Day regulars, Peter Brown, historian and Nadia Nadarajah, actress. Everyone kindly agreed to pose showing the Deaf Support Nutshell booklet.



Mark Hopkinson, City Lit Head of SL and Lipreading



Mark Hart & Michelle Jones IBSL



Peter Brown Deaf Historian



Nadia Nadarajah Deaf Actress

Thanks to Linda Squelch and Frances Elton for allowing Sandra to give copies of their book and DVD London and South East Regional Signs to Bedford College and City Lit libraries for use by staff and students involved in BSL courses. Distribution to other establishments that provide BSL classes will continue.

During the summer we met with teachers working in Bedford and Luton and gave them e-resources for BSL lessons levels 1-3, suitable for pupils and adult learners.

In September, following a request for help via our website, one of our deaf members visited a family with a toddler who needed BSL as a first language.

This year two deaf BSL teachers passed away: Sheila Webster in March and

Doreen Monk in September. Both worked in the Bedfordshire Hearing Impaired Service during the 1980s and 90s: Sheila as a peripatetic teacher of BSL; Doreen as a tutor in FE and on the CSW course. Their work is greatly appreciated by pupil, students and families with deaf children. They are remembered fondly by colleagues who worked with them.



Sheila Webster



Doreen Monk



We have news from our member Julie Simms on what is happening in Norfolk:

Here in King's Lynn our Deaf Community are supported by the West Norfolk Deaf Association www.wnda.org.uk

I try to give them as much support as possible delivering voluntary Hearing Therapy Tinnitus Management, Lipreading Taster, Tinnitus Information and Hearing Aid Maintenance Information sessions.

Throughout the year we have received requests for information on sign linguistics and have sent out hard copies of the 'Nutshell' book and emailed handouts on different topics. Responses have been very positive and complimentary.

Thanks to all who have carried out unpaid voluntary work, including, Lisa Ward, Linda Squelch, Jacqueline Varney and Sehrish Rashid.

Deaf Support continues to be a member of the Voluntary and Community Action South Bedfordshire and receives useful information from it.

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 Fuccillo

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, Azra, Farooq, Renu Fulham, Seonaid Gooding, Michelle Halfpenny, Linda Horwood, Carla Chynoweth, Sally Jackson, Kelli (Taplin) Kawa, Rebecca Shute, Julie Simms, Miriam Tantardini

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