

Deaf Support

DEAF SUPPORT VOLUNTARY ORGANISATION ANNUAL REPORT 2018

In January we received a request to offer BSL sessions on a one to one basis. Thanks to members Lisa Ward for offering sessions and to Veronica Wilson for advising. As the new learner was using the left side as dominant we produced handouts in a small booklet designed for lefthanders. This is available to learners who wish to learn BSL using the left hand as dominant. It can be downloaded from the Resource page of Deaf Support Website.

On Saturday 14th April Sandra attended the annual City Lit Deaf Day and met with 2 other members of Deaf Support, Sue Baines and Jacqueline Varney. Sandra also visited an attractive stall organised by Deaf Artist and former pupil of Luton Units, Olivier Jamin.



*Sue Baines & Jacqueline Varney
Photos by Sandra Dowe*



Olivier Jamin artist

Olivier has designed calendars for next year featuring the use of hands for signing. You can see them on his website www.ojart.net

On 19th June Lisa Ward, Veronica Wilson and Sandra had a meeting at Poplar Nursery to discuss plans for teaching BSL to children in 2019. We have a list of topics and updated a booklet of handouts for primary aged pupils. This is available on the website for anyone to use but it is best to have lessons taught to children by Deaf native users of BSL. Linda Squelch continues to advise us, communicating from her home in Wales where she works supporting Deaf people, some with extra needs.



Sandra Veronica Lisa discussing BSL course at Poplars Garden Centre, Central Bedfordshire

We received a request to deliver 2 sessions of deaf awareness to a school in Dunstable. On 6th November, Sandra and Veronica did presentations to 2 classes of 11 year olds. It was the first time Veronica had taken a class and the pupils' showed great interest as she told them about her experiences as a deaf pupil in mainstream school.



Veronica explains how she was taught to recognise words for colours

Photo by Sandra Dowe

In response to requests for resources from Deaf teachers of BSL via Facebook - BSL & linguistics teachers, assessors & researchers - we posted details of the 'Nutshell' book. Sandra then received requests for hard copies from Deaf teachers of BSL and packets were sent, free of charge. Some teachers are printing them using the resources page on the Deaf Support website. The Association of British Sign Language Teachers Assessors (ABSLTA) have endorsed the Nutshell booklet and recommending it to its members.

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)