



SCoD History DVD Launch • BSL Bill Update
Four Days in the Saddle • Lip Reading Campaign



The Director's Diary

We thought you might like to have a bit more insight into what our Director does on a daily basis. There is an awful lot of work which goes on behind the scenes before we have a result to publish in our

newsletter. Some of our achievements have taken us many years and there are some areas where we just have to keep on working. Lilian participates on numerous groups and committees particularly Scottish Government working groups and NHS committees. There are really too many to mention so we shall just highlight some of them to give you a taster. Lilian is the only deaf member of the Independent Living in Scotland Core Reference Group. This means she has the responsibility of representing all deaf people there. The Scottish Government has taken up the essence of the Independent Living movement and is keen to develop their policies in line with its ideologies so it is imperative to have deaf representation on this group and Lilian is just the person for this.

The BSL and Linguistic Access working group continues with Lilian as the temporary Chair for one year. You will know how passionately we feel about

linguistic access for deaf people and this group is the point of contact with the Scottish Government regarding this issue.

The NHS24 BSL pilot aims to provide complete access to NHS 24 for Deaf people through various media including online interpreting. This must be done correctly and to ensure this, Deaf professionals as well as Deaf service users must be involved with the pilot and for that reason we are proud to say Lilian is involved in the pilot team.

SCoD also has three new sub-committees: Deaf Children and Adolescent Mental Health; Communication & Access and Health & Wellbeing. Their titles more or less speak for themselves. In addition to these commitments, Lilian's door is always open to anyone who seeks her advice or assistance.

Finally, as you know, we have three National Council meetings each year as well as our AGM in October. Lilian works hard to find speakers who will keep our members up to date and give deaf people the opportunity to put questions to government officials and NHS representatives as well as striving to make these meetings interesting and a good opportunity for networking.

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EDITORIAL NOTE

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this newsletter, SCoD disclaims any liability for inaccuracy or omission.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of SCoD. No endorsement of services, events or products is intended or implied.

This newsletter is prepared in-house by SCoD staff, with contributions from permanent staff, project staff and other interested parties. Articles for future issues are always welcomed and considered. Please contact the editor:

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An Invitation

...to our AGM at the Tayside Deaf Hub. Hamish Rosie, a Deaf watercolourist will talk about his life in art.

The meeting is on Thursday 27th October and starts at 2pm. The Hub is at 23 Brown Street, Dundee, DD1 5EF. Attendance is free, but let us know you wish to attend by email: admin@scod.org.uk, textphone: 0141 248 2477, fax: 0141 248 2479, voicephone: 0141 248 2474.



Three Cheers for Our Volunteers!

We would like to say a huge thank you to our volunteers. We really appreciate your time and hard work and we also enjoy having you with us. Thanks to:

Juliette Begg
Graeme Sinclair

Kathleen Summers
Beatrice Cook

Cover photo by Brian Forsyth on the Hebridean Odyssey Cycle, raising funds for SCoD. Find out more about his experience on page 6.



Where is the BSL Bill now?



The overwhelming response to the consultation on the draft proposal for the BSL Bill was reported in our last newsletter. So here's what's happened since then:

A summary of responses to the consultation on the draft proposal together with copies of each response is available in the Scottish Parliament Information Centre (SPICe). Cathie Craigie MSP lodged a Motion of Intent about the Proposed British Sign Language (BSL) Bill in the Scottish Parliament before the elections.

This she did on 10th March. For it to go through it needed the support of 18 MSPs across all parties. 41 MSPs supported the motion - more than double what was needed!



The motion read:

Proposal for a Bill to encourage and support existing and future users of British Sign Language, to develop a wider public knowledge and understanding of the language, with a view to securing its status as an official language of Scotland.

While parliamentary candidates, including Cathie Craigie, were busy canvassing for the Scottish Parliament elections, the Non-Executive Bills Unit was busy researching and drafting the BSL (Scotland) Bill and the policy and financial memoranda.

Cathie Craigie was sadly not re-elected on 5th May. However, very quickly she was talking to Mark Griffin MSP for Central Scotland and it was agreed that he would keep the BSL (Scotland) Bill alive and steer it towards the statute books. In June, Mark issued a press

release in which he said: "There is a deep-seated inequality endured by Deaf and hard-of-hearing people across Scotland and I believe it has to be addressed. British Sign Language (BSL) is the first language of a great many deaf people, but users do not have access to the same information as those without a sensory impairment. This has to change.

"The Bill also aims to increase awareness of BSL, especially among our young people, and address the fundamental problem of low interpreter numbers, by getting the language taught in more of Scotland's schools.

"Cathie Craigie deserves a great deal of credit for the work she did for the deaf community during her twelve years in the Parliament. The Bill received a lot of cross-party support in the last session of Parliament and that is a testament to her efforts."

We are delighted that Mark Griffin MSP is taking the Bill forward because it is crucial that Cathie Craigie's work and support for BSL is continued, especially after the unprecedented and phenomenal response to the proposed BSL Bill consultation in 2010.

Deaf people and their families from all over Scotland as well as SCoD members are really grateful to Mark.

We now wait for the Statement of Intent to be lodged in the Scottish Parliament.

More information about the progress of the Bill will be posted on our website as soon as it happens.
www.scod.org.uk

Ramesh Meyyappan Artist-in-Residence

Solar Bear is delighted to announce a year-long Artist-in-Residency project for Deaf performance artist, Ramesh Meyyappan. The residency, in partnership with the National Theatre of Scotland and The Arches, began in May to coincide with Deaf Awareness Week.

Solar Bear is an arts organisation that works with professional artists and people from marginalised groups throughout the community. They run Scotland's only dedicated deaf youth theatre. The company creates inclusive and accessible theatre productions as well as offering creative workshops and consultation services.

A multi-faceted artist, Ramesh has worked with a number of theatre companies in Europe, Asia and America as director, performer, teacher and workshop leader. He aims to make theatre fully accessible to deaf and hearing audiences.

During this coming year Ramesh will direct a theatre production as part of Arches Live in September and explore script development with the National Theatre of Scotland as well as working closely with the participants of Deaf Youth Theatre. The residency will allow him to develop his skills and explore opportunities to develop a wider visual vocabulary as well as raising his profile as a performer in Scotland.

"I am thrilled to be part of this exciting partnership between Solar Bear, The National Theatre of Scotland and The Arches. It's a great opportunity to explore the contributions that deaf artists can make to the arts community." - Ramesh Meyyappan

The Artist in Residence Project is funded by Creative Scotland Partners Fund and is in partnership with The National Theatre of Scotland and The Arches.



Role Model Rena Retires at 72

Rena Murray recently retired as a Deaf Role Model at Dingwall Primary School's Deaf Base. The lady with 'hands of gold' has thoroughly enjoyed her many years working with the Deaf pupils at the school.

Rena became Deaf at the age of three. At four, she was sent to the unfamiliar city of Aberdeen to attend the specialist Deaf school there – a school she was to come to hate with a passion.

She disliked being separated from her beloved family, and felt that she had been 'dumped'. The harsh regime where children were forced to speak and where signing was forbidden was especially difficult. Nearly seven decades later, Rena has no regrets about becoming Deaf and she is very happy with the huge changes in attitudes and facilities for Deaf people.



Rena with staff and pupils at Dingwall Primary School

"Things are a lot better now than in my time when I went to Aberdeen. It was awful. I was away from my parents. I only saw them 10 weeks a year. I was not allowed to sign. I was forced to talk. I kept looking for my mum. I thought I had been dumped. I thought maybe I had been bad. In fact my mum was heartbroken and felt awful about sending me away."

After school, marriage to her joiner husband Roddy followed. The couple have now been happily together for 48 years.

Jobs as cook and cleaner followed, but it was only when she began teaching British Sign Language that Rena had found her true calling.

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She recalls her many years working at the Dingwall Primary School Deaf Base with the deepest pleasure. Rena has lost count of the number of pupils she has supported and today enjoys socialising with Deaf adults that she knew and taught when they were children.

At 72, Rena has mixed feelings about retirement.

"I don't know how to stop working! I've really enjoyed my life. These kids are in my heart. I've watched them grow up and, if they want me, I'll come back any time."

With her experience and many qualifications, Rena continues to support BSL Tutors working with the Highland Deaf Communication Project. "Having someone with Rena's talents and knowledge to support new BSL Tutors as they train is very valuable for our service" says Jenny Liddell, the Project's Manager.

"Rena has a gentle way about her and is able to guide and advise our BSL Tutors in all sorts of ways – from lesson planning to dealing with awkward students!"

Rena enjoys arts and crafts, especially card-making, and going on coach holidays. She and Roddy usually take a coach holiday once a year and have visited many European destinations. Game for anything, Rena recently had no hesitation in hurtling down the water sluice on a visit to Landmark Outdoor Visitor Centre!

Our very best wishes to Rena in her on-going adventures.



Rena with her celebration cake

Emergency SMS Service

If you cannot make voice calls, you can contact the 999 emergency services by SMS text from your mobile phone. Emergency SMS is part of the standard 999 service which has been designed specifically for people with hearing loss or difficulty with speech.

By sending an SMS message to 999 you can call for help and the emergency services will be able to reply to you. But first you must register your phone.

Send the word 'register' in an SMS message to 999. You will then receive an SMS message with further instructions.

Register now. Don't wait for an emergency.

The Renfrewshire Hard of Hearing Support Group

meets at 1.30pm on the first Thursday of every month. If you live in or around Renfrewshire why not pop in.

They use speech to text on an overhead screen to make sure sessions are accessible.

The group meets in the Conference Room of the Mile End Centre, 30 Seedhill Road, Paisley PA1 1SA.

Meetings last about an hour and a half and tea/coffee is available.

To find out more:

Tel: 0141 847 4979

Fax: 0141 847 4981

Text: 0141 848 7232

SMS: 07799477108

... or just call in at the meeting.

Spring Gathering



Deaf History Scotland (DHS) held its second Spring Gathering in Glasgow in May. Despite clashing with two competing events in Edinburgh and Dunblane, around 15 members and non-members came and enjoyed the three presentations.



Philippa Merricks from DeafWay in Preston spoke about the "Signed Voices" Project which aims to film Deaf people interviewing each other on a chosen topic; resulting footage is to be archived. Philippa was seeking deaf volunteers and two DHS members came forward to be filmed.

The next two speakers were Lilian Lawson and Muriel Nairne who both attended the "Exploring Your Deaf History Course" which was delivered by DHS in 2010 and funded by an Awards for All grant. Lilian Lawson shared her research information entitled "Jock Young and Europe". In a PowerPoint presentation she described how Jock had become involved in setting up the European Community Regional

Secretariat (now known as the European Union of Deaf People) in 1985.

Muriel Nairne gave an interesting talk about Rev J Stewart Lochrie who was a child of deaf parents, the Principal Officer of Glasgow & West of Scotland Society for the Deaf and Minister of John Ross Memorial Church. Rev Lochrie was well known for his signed Late Call programmes on STV and also presented "Signs of Life", the pioneering television programme for deaf people in 1970s. Muriel brought along some of her research material for us to look at. Lilian Lawson drew the Spring Gathering to a close after telling DHS members about SCoD's Deaf People at Work DVD which was recently launched (more about this on pages 8-9).

She also invited members to the DHS AGM taking place in Dundee on Saturday 29th October. An exciting line up of speakers is planned for this meeting, including Pam Bruce, Elizabeth Adam, Antony Boyce and John Hay.

All will talk about Deaf history relating to Dundee.



New Mental Health Service for Deaf People

The Scottish Mental Health Service for Deaf People was launched in May. This is the first national specialist community mental health service for people with sensory impairment in Scotland.

The service is commissioned by National Services Division, NHS National Services Scotland (NSS) on behalf of all 14 NHS Boards in Scotland. NHS Lothian is the host Board responsible for delivery of a Scotland-wide service.

While an individual's care, treatment and support will remain the responsibility of NHS Boards, the new service offers specialist advice to local mental health teams and specialist support in assessment and treatment. This support includes providing British Sign Language, technological resources, education packages and training for healthcare professionals – all available in order to help continue to improve communication and service responsiveness.

Lilian Lawson, SCoD Director attended the launch. She and representatives from deaf organisations were delighted to see the service at last up and running after a long but successful campaign led by SCoD and its member organisations.

For more details about the service you can visit www.nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk

Scottish Mental Health Service for Deaf People, Mental Health Management Offices, Block 1/2, The Residences, St John's Hospital, Howden Road West, Livingston EH54 6PP
Tel: 01506 523671
Fax: 01506 523812



Find out more about Deaf History Scotland by visiting their website: www.deafhistoryscotland.org.uk
You might also consider joining. Annual membership starts from £10 and a lifetime membership costs £200.

Four Days in the Saddle



find out more

For further information about Charitytrek events you can visit our website at www.scod.org.uk. We'd also be pleased to provide any information you need if you would like to help raise funds for SCoD. Full contact details can be found on the back page or you can send an email to fundraising@scod.org.uk. Read Brian's blog which gives a more detailed account of his cycling experience on his own fundraising website:

www.justgiving.com/brian-forsyth

One of our members, Brian Forsyth from Kirriemuir in Angus, recently took part in a long distance cycling event called 'The Hebridean Odyssey' to raise funds for SCoD.

Brian, who has been hard of hearing since childhood, succeeded in cycling 175 miles from The Butt of Lewis to Castlebay on The Isle of Barra, and raised over £1750 for SCoD whilst doing so.

We asked Brian to send us an account of his experience. This is his story and his pictures.

"I first read about The Hebridean Odyssey whilst looking at the SCoD website towards the end of last year. It's many years now since I was last active in any sport and at the age of 63 I was looking for a new challenge which I felt was manageable, but which would still need some preparation and determination to complete. The fundraising page on the SCoD website suggested either The West Highland Way or The Hebridean Odyssey Cycle Challenge which are organised on their behalf by Charitytrek, an organisation which helps other groups to raise funds. Never having cycled more than 10 miles at a time I opted for the bike challenge, signed up with SCoD and started training in the middle of January.

The route goes from the very top of the Outer Hebrides to the bottom of Barra, scene of the current TV series 'An Island Parish'. It took a day to get there, 4 days cycling 50 – 60 miles / day and a day to get back home.

The Hebrides are also known as the 'Long Island' and I soon discovered that most cyclists who complete this popular cycling route, do so in the opposite direction helped by the prevailing SW wind, but not for us – we were doing it the hard way!

There were eight people cycling and Charitytrek provided a support team of three including an expert bike mechanic. We met in Inverness and travelled together to Ullapool by minibus and then by ferry across to Stornoway. The next morning, after being driven to The Butt of Lewis, we nervously lined up to begin the challenge.

The group was mixed in age and ability but we were assured that it was not a race and set off to cycle the first 20 miles to lunch, then 10 more to a 'comfort stop' and a final 20 to Leurbost. Enjoying the bright sunshine and making new friends, the miles soon passed and I was delighted to find that the distance was fairly comfortable, even though my training at home had worked up slowly to around 20 miles at a time.

Day two turned out to be the most fabulous sunny day and we cycled from Leurbost to the first really big hill. 'The Clisham' is a long climb complete with hairpin bends and proved a stiff challenge for all of us. Needless to say this was rewarded later with an equally steep downhill to Tarbert Harbour for lunch. The Hills of Harris and the white sandy beaches of the Sound of Taransay, with its crystal clear turquoise water, have to be seen to be believed. The views on this part of the route are so spectacular that there were frequent stops to take photographs and sometimes just to admire. Pressing on reluctantly we reached Leverburgh having covered another 50 miles in surprisingly easy fashion in fabulous conditions.

After an early breakfast it was off to catch the ferry to Berneray and the start of what turned out to be the longest cycling day of the event. The infamous Outer Isles wind was now blowing from the South and we settled into a stiff 20 mph against us. Still applying the sun cream as well as other suitable emollients, we fought our way over the causeways to North Uist, Benbecula and finally into South Uist, reaching Daliburgh after an energy sapping 9 hours cycling. Now we know by experience why most folk do this ride from South to North!

By this time the group had become good friends and were sharing the fun and encouragement in a way that only such a joint experience can bring. Denise, who was cycling with some of her family, said that when we first met in Inverness she had thought that I was shy and that I had now come out of my shell. On reflection I realised that she would have little idea how difficult it can be for a deaf person to join a group of strangers and have to 'learn' their voices and accents just to be able to keep up with everything

that's going on. I've worn two hearing aids for many years now and depend a lot on my lip reading skills to keep up with conversations. The elated dinner chatter was just as challenging for me as the cycling, but I felt accepted and welcomed by everyone once they learned to attract my attention before speaking to me.

The final cycling day dawned, with heavy rain and a fierce 25 mph headwind. We had 90 minutes to cycle the first 10 miles to our final ferry to Eriskay with Barra beyond and made it with only minutes to spare. Had we been going in the other direction it would have taken only half that time. The crossing is about 40 minutes and turned out to be so rough that I needed a seasick tablet! Thereafter it was head down and a final determined push to the finish at Castlebay. We had finally completed The Hebridean Odyssey 'the hard way' and celebrated our success with a champagne toast, a relaxed dinner and finally the presentation of our Charitytrek Challenge Certificates.

Tired but happy, all that remained was a leisurely sail next morning from Castlebay to Oban via The Sound of Mull returning to Glasgow by minibus. I've been amazed and delighted by how much my family, friends and colleagues have supported me in this challenge. Together we have raised much needed funds for SCoD, but in addition I have realised that deciding to push myself and join a group of 'strangers' in such an event has been a massive personal encouragement to me and my own ability to live life fully in spite of my hearing loss. I would certainly encourage anyone to consider taking on a challenge like this and using the experience to raise funds for SCoD. For now, I'm retracing this fabulous journey in my imagination and dreaming of the next challenge for 2012.



Climb Britain's highest peak!
The **Ben Nevis Challenge** takes place over a weekend, in September (9th - 11th), and we ask you to pledge a minimum £375 for the trek. Is walking the **West Highland Way** on your 'to do' list? Get it off that list at last! With the support of trained Charitytrek guides, you can enjoy some of Scotland's most breathtaking views – raising vital funds for our charity as you go. Walk the 95 miles from Milngavie to Fort William in June 2012 (2nd - 7th). Just pledge to raise a

minimum £750. Help us to support deaf people across Scotland by participating in one of our treks, accompanied by Charitytrek's experienced guides. A deposit of £75 and a completed registration form secures your place. Forms and information packs can be downloaded from our website. Just visit **www.scod.org.uk** and click "support us". To make it even easier to raise funds

for the trip, you can start your own personal 'Justgiving' page by going to:
www.justgiving.com/scod
If you would like to know more you can also contact our fundraiser, Linda Ogston. Email: **linda@scod.org.uk** or telephone/text: 0141 248 1854. Linda is part time and usually works on Wednesdays.



HIKE IT



BIKE IT LIKE IT



Deaf People at Work

What was life like for Deaf people of our parents' and grandparents' generations? SCoD was awarded a grant by the Heritage Lottery Fund to enable us not only to find out, but also to record for future generations the experiences of older Deaf people in various situations, for example their schooldays, at work and their wartime experiences. After months of hard work interviewing people all over Scotland, the first DVD "Deaf People at Work" was launched at the Scottish Sensory Centre on 21st April.

We were delighted that so many people came along. Everyone was very positive about the project and eagerly looking forward to seeing the DVD. We were not disappointed: the footage was so interesting and there was a real feeling in the audience of sharing a special experience. Maybe because many of those who had shared their memories on film were there too. Credit must be given here to my colleagues at SCoD (you know who you are) for the incredible amount of effort which went into the filming, editing and final production of this piece of work. One of the aims of the project was that younger Deaf people would be able to learn about their own heritage so we were particularly pleased that pupils from Dundee, Calderside, Carnoustie and Windsor Park schools were able to come along. Craig Bryson of Windsor Park told us "I thought the DVD was something younger Deaf people like myself needed to see" and his fellow pupil Craig Andrew said "I enjoyed the privilege of meeting older Deaf people." We'd like to say a big "Thank you" to all the pupils who

gave us their feedback.*

It certainly seems that the DVD has given them an insight into how life used to be for Deaf people and made them think about the differences between then and now.

We would also like to thank the Big Lottery Fund's Maria Challoner for coming along and for her very positive comments and also the Scottish Sensory Centre for their assistance in hosting this event.

Future titles

It doesn't stop there, though. We are making a further five DVDs on the following topics:

War
Driving
Home Life
Social Life
Schooling

As we experienced at the launch of the first DVD, there is a strong sense of community among deaf people and one of the aims of the Heritage Project is to introduce younger deaf people, most of whom nowadays attend mainstream schools, to that culture. In fact the HMIE Report Count me in – Achieving Success for Deaf Pupils mentions that "Deaf pupils (should) have access to specific programmes... such as programmes for learning BSL and awareness of deaf culture." It will be particularly interesting to



A captive audience and an enthusiastic 'thumbs up' for the DVD from the pupils of ***

see their reactions to schooling experiences and the lack of freedom compared to today. Life for deaf people has certainly changed however not necessarily always for the better and these DVDs show us both the good old days and the bad old days.

One certain advantage of the "digital" age, however is that we have been able to undertake this project at all. So much of deaf heritage must have been lost over hundreds of years compared to written history. Now, we can preserve these unique memories for ever.

I mentioned younger deaf people, but there will also be advantages for older deaf people. Reminiscence and shared



* Daniel Allison; Craig Andrew; Amy Bastianelli; Connor Bryson; Dean Calder; Connor Leyden; Emma McRae; Rachel McRae; Cameron Milne; Shona Ramsay-Hogan and Kirsty Ramsay-Hogan

SCoD DVD Launch



memory is important later in life and we can now offer this set of DVDs as a valuable resource for Memory Boxes.

It's not just old and young who can benefit though. The material is of sociological and sociolinguistic interest as well as simply being fascinating for the rest of us who enjoy finding out about others' life experiences. All of the interviewees volunteered to take part so we



This inquisitive little Hearing Dog attended our launch!



would like to say thank you to each of them for sharing their individual memories, some of which we appreciate may have been difficult to talk about, but for that reason are even more precious.

We want to make sure that these DVDs get to those of you who really want to see them.

So we are offering you the chance to have the DVDs sent to you. A donation of £10 will secure you all six titles in the series, a copy of which will be sent to you as each title becomes available. Upon receipt of your £10 we will despatch the first in the series, "Deaf People at Work".

If you would prefer to order the titles individually or just order a single title, then a donation of £2 will secure you one copy. This charge will cover postage and our administrative costs.

Please be aware that numbers are limited to 500 copies per title, so when they're gone they're gone! Make sure you don't miss out - complete the form below and post it to us with your donation.

If you don't want to cut up your newsletter feel free to photocopy this form.

DVD titles are presented in British Sign Language with captions and voiceover.

Priority Order Form

Name:

Address to send the DVDs:

Postcode:

I wish to order all six titles for £10 ☐

I wish to order single titles at £2 each

Deaf People at Work ☐

Deaf People at War ☐

Deaf People on the Road ☐

Deaf People at Home ☐

Deaf People Socialising ☐

Deaf People at School ☐

I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to Scottish Council on Deafness ☐

Once completed, please send with your remittance to:

Scottish Council on Deafness, Central Chambers Suite 62, 93 Hope Street, Glasgow G2 6LD



Dan Ogilvy

Sept 1922 – May 2011

Dan Ogilvy died on 17th May after a short illness. He was 88. In the SCoD office this news was received with sadness. Dan was a SCoD Associate Member and a great supporter of our work.

Dan attended Langside School and when he left joined Fairfields, the shipbuilders based in Govan. He served his apprenticeship in the machine shop and then moved to London where he stayed for a year before securing a job with Rolls Royce in Hillington. Apart from a year in Canada, Dan was with Rolls Royce until his retirement in 1982. Lilian Lawson first met Dan in 1974 at a BDA Congress in Ayr. Dan always loved meeting and talking with people from all over the country. When they met, neither could have known that they would share a common bond as a decade later, Lilian married Jock Young,

Dan's old school chum! Over the ensuing years the couples (Lilian & Jock, Dan & Esther) would meet up regularly.

Following a strong recommendation from Jock, Dan became a volunteer supporting Deaf patients in Carstairs state hospital for Edinburgh & East of Scotland Deaf Society (now Deaf Action) and for those with complex needs in Glasgow at Hayfield Support Services. Although newly retired, Dan tackled these challenges unselfishly when he could have chosen to put his feet up and take things easy.

Dan had an unquenchable thirst for knowledge and loved to discuss Deaf politics, which explains why he was always travelling around the UK attending Deaf events like the rallies and congresses. He cared passionately for his Deaf community.

In January, Dan began feeling

unwell but that did not stop him from contacting us to raise concerns on a number of local matters. Two specialist social workers with deaf people had retired in late 2010 and Dan was very concerned that the local authority was not going to replace them. This was typical of Dan's caring nature.

Dan and Esther celebrated their Diamond wedding anniversary in 2009 and we celebrated that milestone with a special feature in our newsletter.

As a SCoD supporter, Dan made the effort to attend our Open Days with Esther. He loved learning about our projects.

More recently, he participated in our history project, "Presenting the Past: My Firsts". He was filmed at the People's Palace sharing his memories of school, work, home life, social life, travel and World War II. We are fortunate to have recorded over an hour of footage which is currently being edited into a series of DVDs.

We will all miss Dan.
Our deepest condolences to Esther.

Sporting Memories

Our Sporting Memories project is underway. The Awards for All grant of £8.3k is for a heritage project focussing on deaf sporting memories. Not only will we preserve digitally these memories we will also enable them to be passed on to younger people. We hope that by watching these memories young deaf people will be encouraged to participate in sport.

Deaf sports men and women will be filmed talking about their achievements and also about overcoming the communication barriers and other issues around accessibility in order to secure the training needed to participate in deaf and mainstream competitions. In August we will be filming deaf

people who have participated in a wide range of sports – netball, tennis, judo, ten pin bowling, badminton, golf, sailing, bowling. They will share their experiences of participating in national and international competitions including the Deaflympics and also discuss their training and coaching. The completed DVD will be presented at the Deaf History Scotland AGM in October 2012 and then at the Deaf History International Congress in 2015 which has a sporting theme. DVDs will also serve as useful research materials. We will help to ensure the diverse history of deaf people does not die out.



Deaf Golfers Reunited

The Scottish Deaf Golf Association (SDGA) is keen to find past members who played in SDGA competitions between 1986 and now because they want to reunite everyone at their Silver Anniversary Celebration on Saturday 26th November. This is a chance to meet old faces from the past, meet new golf enthusiasts and find out what's happening with the SDGA today.

Celebrations are taking place in the Airth Castle Hotel, Airth and you can find out more by visiting the SDGA website:

www.scottishdeafgolf.com or email info@scottishdeafgolf.com or write to 14 Roselea Gardens, Ladybank, Fife, KY15 7NW.



Policy & Research

Mandy Reid

At the start of 2011, we were unsure whether or not the Scottish Government would continue to fund the Policy and Research Officer's post as no one knew how budget cuts would affect government spending. Thankfully, in March we heard that funding for the post would continue for another year. This year has been an extremely busy one in the policy world, even though there has been a Scottish Parliamentary election. When there is an election, things usually quieten down considerably, but not this time.

Why has it been so busy? The Coalition Government in Westminster is in the process of reforming the Welfare State. What this means is a Welfare Reform Bill is going through the UK Parliament at the moment. There have been a number of consultations taking place: Disability Living Allowance, Pensions, the Work Programme, and Employment Support Services – Access to Work, Remploy and Residential Courses. Many of the proposed changes to the benefits system could have a huge impact on the quality of life for deaf people in Scotland.

The UK Government has also been consulting on the "Future of the Equality and Human Rights Commission", "Strengthening Women's Voices in Government" and the "UN Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities".

Independent Living in Scotland (ILiS)

In September last year, the Core Reference Group of ILiS agreed that there should be a working group set up to look at one of the ILiS priorities – Inclusive

Communication. I became a member of that group as I had done some work with Communication Forum Scotland and the Scottish Disability Equality Forum earlier in 2010. The group was given the task of putting together a national standard with principles and indicators on inclusive communication for all public bodies in Scotland. By the third meeting, the working group had agreed that we didn't have the authority to put together a standard, but we could put together the principles and indicators. After many versions of the document and a consultation over the festive period, finally we have the Principles of Inclusive Communication which are being published shortly. Communication Forum Scotland has been given the task of taking these forward with Scottish councils and will set up a steering group to look at how this will be achieved. SCoD will be a member of that steering group.

United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities

Those of you who read the SCoD News on a regular basis will be aware that SCoD and its member organisations spent a good deal of time trying to get the Scottish Government and the General Registrar for Scotland to change the way the disability question was worded in the 2011 Census so that the information gathered would give an accurate picture of how many deaf people there are in Scotland, their level of deafness and where they live. We were not successful this time, but will start the campaign again soon. In the meantime, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights put out a call for evidence on how Article 12 of the Convention

– the legal right to recognition – could be put into practice. The SCoD Management Committee decided that we should put together a paper on the lack of statistics on deaf people in Scotland and the rest of the UK to highlight the problems of giving people legal recognition if governments do not know where they live and what their communication support needs are.

Scottish Consultations

As the Scottish Government has had its budget cut by the UK Government, it is looking at how to improve services while giving value for money. The government has been consulting on the future of the police and the future of the fire and rescue services. Having attended a consultation event, I have been invited to attend a training event with Lothian and Borders Police to make sure that all aspects of deafness are covered.

NHS National Services Scotland (NHS NSS) came to a SCoD National Council meeting to talk about how they are starting to gather information and statistics on deaf people in Scotland. As part of the work that SCoD has been doing with NHS NSS, I have attended two "Involving People" events. At the last one, I spoke to the Head of Public Affairs of the Scottish National Blood Transfusion Service (SNBTS), Lynne Kidd. She is aware that SCoD has been trying to get answers to several questions gathered at our Open Meetings about deaf people and giving blood. At last, SCoD is getting the chance to meet with staff from the SNBTS to discuss the issues and get some answers!

Lip Reading Campaign Launched

What happens if you break your leg and are in traction for many months? When you try to stand up on your own, you discover your legs no longer want to hold your weight. You get exercises that will strengthen the muscles in your legs so that you can walk again. Do you have to pay for this? No. Why not? Because it is seen as a necessary part of your rehabilitation programme.

At the moment, lip reading classes are not seen as an essential part of the rehabilitation process for people who lose their hearing. We hope to change this.

Lip reading classes are provided in many areas of Scotland in the same way as flower arranging or learning Spanish – as an adult education course, and the person who needs to learn to lip read has to pay something towards the course.

Courses may be subsidised by the local council, but in these days of cutbacks in funding, this subsidy is becoming rare.

In the UK Parliament, Ian Lavery MP for Wansbeck in Northumberland submitted a Private Member's Bill on Lip Reading, which will "require lip reading to

be classified as an essential skill for the purpose of skills funding; to require the Secretary of State to ensure that people who are deaf or hard of hearing have access to lip-reading classes provided by local learning providers at no cost to the learner; and for connected purposes."

This Bill will receive its second reading in the House of Commons in November this year. While this is really good for England, access to lip reading classes is a devolved matter. In Scotland, it is a matter for the Scottish Government.

In January SCoD held a meeting in Kirkcudbrightshire for deaf people who used to attend lip reading classes that were subsidised by the council's social work department. Everyone at the meeting missed learning lip reading skills and being able to practise in a safe environment as their hearing decreased. They also missed the peer support and the fact that while in class, everyone understood their communication needs and what it is like not to be able to hear. The classes were places where they "felt normal again".

SCoD has launched a campaign

in Scotland to ask the Scottish Government to invest in lip reading as part of hearing loss rehabilitation.

What we would like you to do is write to your MSP to ask for the following:

- Fund lipreading classes as part of rehabilitation support
- Fund the training of lipreading tutors
- Support an awareness raising campaign of the benefits of lipreading classes

We have prepared a template letter so all you need do is download it from our website, add your details and send it to your MSP. If enough letters are sent, MSPs might be persuaded to have the Scottish Government address the lipreading issues.

To download the letter, visit www.scod.org.uk, click Parliament and then Campaigns.

Please get involved and then maybe everyone in Scotland with a hearing loss will have access to this vital service.

Thank you in advance for your support.



Mandy Goes to London

Earlier this year, I met with Linda Sharkey and Lorraine Gailey of Hearing Link to look at how people with a hearing loss can get involved in policy work. It was a very productive evening and Lorraine suggested that as I had booked to attend the Hearing Link Conference in London on the 11th June, that maybe I would like to attend their Volunteer Event too as it was taking place the day before.

As suggested, I contacted Rebecca, Hearing Link's Volunteer Manager, for more details so that I could book my accommodation and make travel arrangements. Over the next few weeks, Rebecca emailed me lots of information and then asked if I would facilitate at one of the workshops they had planned. Then I was asked to run a workshop on policy and community involvement – three times over during the afternoon!

The Volunteer Event was held in a lovely hotel in

Bloomsbury in London. A third of the volunteers who attended were from Scotland. I met lots of wonderful people at the event and my workshop discussions were lively with lots of discussion for and against volunteers getting involved in policy work. After the event, there was a celebration dinner. This was a chance to talk to people in a more relaxed atmosphere – and talk we did! I learned more about the work that Hearing Link does and what is like to be deaf in other parts of the UK. The volunteer event, the dinner and our luxurious hotel accommodation for the night was paid for by a legacy left by a former Hearing Link volunteer.

The Conference took place the next day. Just as it was about to start there was a delay! Sian Williams, of BBC Breakfast and one of the patrons, had unexpectedly dropped in and agreed to welcome everyone to the day. The keynote speaker was

another of their patrons, Stephen Lloyd MP for Eastbourne. He told the conference of growing up with a hearing loss and how it was not diagnosed until he was almost a teenager and the effect that his hearing loss has had on his life. Stephen is the Vice Chair of the All Parliamentary Group on Deafness and is 'determined to make deafness an ordinary, normal issue.' Ronnie Bourne, one of the trustees, took the time to introduce me to Stephen in the break.

Presentations on improving access to social and leisure facilities for deaf people were followed by the 'soapboxes'. This slot gave four members the chance to present their arguments on issues where they want to see change. Two of the presenters are volunteers in Scotland, and Angus Swan's issue of "loop systems in public buildings" was the one that the conference voted as first to campaign on.

The final 45 minute slot was taken by deaf comedian and Hearing Link patron Steve Day. He was very funny and many of us had tears rolling down our faces as we were laughing so much.

Going to London was hard work, but I wouldn't have missed it. I met lots of great people, deaf and hearing, and got as much information as I shared. The next thing I have to do is to share some of the stories I got at the volunteer event – about DLA, the Work Programme and Access to Work – with Stephen Lloyd MP, to highlight the needs of deaf people who had earlier asked me for more information.



DAVID'S PROGRESS

It was an exceptionally quiet day in the SCoD office. I was wondering what was missing. Oh, yes! For the past few years at this time in the calendar I would be preparing for a work placement student. This year, though, St Vincent's school had closed and I had no student coming. For the last two years, David Aitchison had come to work with us and we were so impressed with his progress we wondered how he was getting on now that he had left school.

I went to meet him at James Watt College in Kilwinning to find out. It's a big step from school to college, but David looked relaxed and at ease in his surroundings. His facilitator, Liz, stayed with David for our meeting and we were joined by his mum who had come to give him a lift home. Liz accompanies David to all his classes and interprets into BSL for him and he also has a scribe as writing for long periods can be difficult. (And to think of all the work we gave him when he was here at SCoD and not a word of complaint!)

David's mum said she is very happy with the support he is getting at college. Now, that's good to hear, isn't it?

David told me about his first day. He met Liz and went up to a classroom to fill in lots of forms and get his timetable. He has to go to a different classroom for each subject. There are about 20 students on his course but only one other Deaf student and David doesn't really know him. David is studying NC Computing and he explained to me that he

has to learn binary because the computer can only recognise binary code. He has a busy timetable which he showed me. Most of the subjects didn't exist when I was at college, though, so I had to ask him to explain a bit more. . For example in Digital Media, he made a film using Dreamweaver and other software about the dangers of playing computer games and not being aware of what's going on around you. He wrote the script, drew story boards and then had to choose who to act in it. There isn't really a subject he doesn't like, but he finds HTML difficult as there is a lot to learn. He loves to learn new things, though. So far he's passed everything in the continuous assessments but will be studying hard for the end of block exams.

David is very organised and is not pleased if Liz puts a page in the wrong place in his folder! He has a wicked sense of humour and his support workers obviously enjoy working with him. In his spare time he loves to play his PS3 game – after he's done his homework, of course! And he enjoys meeting up with his three best friends from St Vincent's – Emer, Ross and Mark.

We are so pleased David is doing well and is happy at college. We'd like to wish him all the best for the future.



Lorraine Gailey, Stephen Lloyd MP, Sian Williams



Western Isles Sensory Project

This new project began in Stornoway in January 2011.

The need for high quality community support services for people of all ages affected by blindness/sight loss or deafness/hearing loss is long recognised by the Scottish Government, and various projects are being funded throughout Scotland.

The project provides services and training throughout the Western Isles.

Needs and numbers are projected to more than double over the next 20 years, and people with dual sensory needs are also on the increase.

The sensory spectrum is wide and individual, and numbers are increasing so much, that it is becoming a mainstream issue.

The project builds on the achievements of Sight Action (www.sightaction.org.uk); developing new community support services to people affected by deafness and raising mutual awareness amongst various health and social care agencies, promoting safer and more independent living options for people who may have sensory and/or physical support needs.



www.sightaction.org.uk

There is much that can be done to support people wanting to live as independently as possible. The project provides assessment, equipment demonstration, information, advice, direct support and training throughout the Western Isles.

Specialist assessments seek to find options for individuals

On the blindness front these range from accessing print - through magnification, audio, tactile or technological means, to safer mobility at/around home and in the wider community, to education and employment and benefits advice. There is a surprising range of equipment, advice and information that help mitigate the negative stereotyping that persists.

On the hearing front, again the spectrum is wide and very individual; from those who communicate in sign language, to the higher numbers of people with very significant hearing loss. Help is available, from managing hearing aids, being alerted to callers at the door or on the phone, to hearing smoke alarms, to enhanced listening devices. In the main, lack of awareness of the significance of sight or hearing loss has been the biggest barrier to progress, and there will be various efforts to develop excellent training programmes.

The Centre is open on weekdays from 10am to 2pm. It is hoped to open part of the day on some Saturdays in due course.

In a novel approach to improve joint working and raise awareness in mainstream services, Occupational

Therapy and Faire (the Community Careline Service) are also involved in the venture. They are providing a drop-in clinic to members of the public on Tuesdays between 10am and 2pm and appointments to see an Occupational Therapist on Thursdays between 10am and 2pm. Occupational Therapy (OT) will offer assessment and support to adults and children to overcome functional problems and live as independently as possible. If appropriate, the OT will provide advice, direct access to equipment to support independence as well as information about minor adaptations and the system involved with major adaptations. There will be an opportunity to view and try a range of equipment which aid independence in everyday living tasks.

It is hoped that a strategic body will be formed to ensure sustainability beyond the timescale of the Project and that high quality services will continue to be provided, with better trained staff and facilities retained locally.

Sustainability will be vital and the Western Isles Volunteer Centre has already been promoting opportunities for volunteering, with more to follow.

The Project also links with the new Audiology service and Ophthalmology.

This is undoubtedly an ambitious project that will hopefully make lives better for people with independent living needs and their carers in the Western Isles.

The Sight Action office is located in the narrow lane between the Crown Hotel and the Port Authority Building.

Transitions Project

Donaldson's School in Linlithgow is running life-changing courses for young deaf adults from all over Scotland, so they can move on from school into the hearing world. The Transition Project, for young people between 16 and 24 who are deaf or have communication difficulties helps them to access essential services and be more confident in communication, enabling them to live full lives.

Donaldson's, which is Scotland's national school for children who are deaf or have communication difficulties, has to date helped over 90 young Scottish adults to learn essential life skills such as personal safety, how to build a career and understanding personal rights. The success of the Transition Project has enabled the school to run another session in 2011-2012. Demand is high, but places remain for those who need them.

The projects take place on various dates between now and March 2012 and young people can apply at any time. The first project in July 2011 is a Healthy Body and Healthy Mind Boot Camp delivering personal fitness training and healthy eating guidance, this will also be repeated later in the year. Other projects will also include: preparation for the driving theory test; creating a DVD on building CVs and attending interviews; creating a DVD on deaf awareness for employers; and Transition Support which offers young people guidance on moving into work or further education. All projects within the Transition Project are free to attend and are a combination of day courses and some residential.

Any young person who is between 16 - 24 and is deaf or has communication difficulties and wishes to find out more about the Project should contact Billy Docherty, Transition Project Coordinator by email: wdocherty@donaldsons.org.uk or on 01506 841900 (voice) or 01506 841902 (text).

Further information is also available at www.donaldsons.org.uk/about-our-school/transition-project where you can also download a project application form.



While we may not be one of the nine charities Will Aid is supporting this year (see the logos opposite), getting your will prepared in November will benefit charity.

How does it work?

Will Aid is a special partnership between the legal profession and nine UK charities. Every November, participating solicitors waive their fee for writing a basic Will. Instead, they invite their clients to make a donation to Will Aid. Each year, thousands of people use the Will Aid scheme. They not only gain peace of mind by writing their Will, they help fund life-changing charity work at the same time.

The Will Aid Charities for 2011

actionaid

ageUK
Improving later life

BritishRedCross

christian aid

NSPCC
Cruelty to children must stop. FULL STOP.

Save the Children.

SCiAF
Scotland's child abuse agency

Sightsavers

TROCAIRE
Working for a Just World

Last year over 1,100 solicitors joined in Will Aid, writing Wills for 19,000 clients and helping to raise over £1.5 million. Visit their website to find a participating solicitor near you: www.willaid.org.uk

Dear Readers

We would like to thank all of you who responded to our recent mailing. We were overwhelmed by your generosity and heartened to know so many people support our work.

As a charity every donation is most appreciated and contributes to our work with Deaf deafened hard of hearing and deafblind people. This is work that you know about through reading our newsletter.

With such support behind us we are ready to roll up our sleeves and achieve even more on your behalf.

Thank you again!

Yours sincerely



Lilian Lawson OBE
SCoD Director





Scottish Council on Deafness (SCoD)

Representing the interests of Deaf Sign Language users, Deafblind, Deafened and Hard of Hearing people throughout Scotland for over 80 years

Support us

Here's how:

- Become a Full Member
- Make a Donation
- Ask your employer about Give As You Earn
- Leave a Legacy in your Will
- Volunteer with SCoD

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Are you reading a borrowed copy of the newsletter? Would you like to receive your own copy sent directly to your home for free? Then get yourself on our mailing list! Email your name and address (including postcode) to: news@scod.org.uk. Or send your details to:

Newsletter Mailing
Scottish Council on Deafness
Central Chambers Suite 62
93 Hope Street
Glasgow
G2 6LD

Join us



SCoD membership offers excellent benefits, including the opportunity to shape government policy and improve the lives of deaf people in Scotland. Renewable annually, **full membership** runs from April 1st to March 31st of the following year. Full membership is open to organisations only.

Full Membership

Band	Income/Turnover	Fee
1	up to £50k	£50
2	up to £100k	£100
3	up to £250k	£125
4	up to £500k	£150
5	up to £1million	£200
6	over £1million	£300

Full SCoD Membership Application Form

Organisation

I wish to become a Band Member (see above for banding)

Key contact

Voice

Address

Text

Fax

SMS

Postcode

Email

Please invoice me at the address shown ☐

Web

I enclose a cheque or postal order payable to the Scottish Council on Deafness ☐

Once completed, please post or fax this page to SCoD - details below