

As I write this article, the temperature is soaring - inside and out! Retailers report their delight as air coolers and conditioners fly off their shelves - which made me wonder if the noise these machines generate annoys hard of hearing people in the workplace. We would be interested in your views.



In the Autumn 2005 issue of SCoDnews, I wrote about the lack of communication access in emergency situations and said that we would raise this issue with the Scottish Executive, the Central Office of Information and other responsible bodies. I am pleased to report that, since then, some positive developments have been made. In April, Fife Constabulary Emergency Services became accessible by SMS. One text puts users in touch with three key services: Police, Ambulance and Fire and Rescue.

At the same time, the Scottish Executive held meetings with representatives from the emergency services to which we were invited. They are looking at ways of running a national SMS Text Emergency Service and later this year will hold a consultation meeting with deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing people as well as those with a communication difficulty.

We asked the Scottish Executive what plans they have in place for disseminating emergency information to deaf, deafblind and hard of hearing people (for example, health warnings and terror alerts).

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We advised the Scottish Executive to look at the successful "Deaf Watch" project, which ran a few years ago, now being

implemented by Greater Glasgow & Clyde NHS. The Scottish Executive agreed. On health issues, we remain heavily involved in the campaign for specialist mental health services for deaf and deafblind people in Scotland. The Public Petitions Committee is still considering our petition, lodged in January 2005.

Following a successful presentation by our delegation to the Cross Party Group on Mental Health, its Convener Adam Ingram MSP lodged a motion for debate on mental health services and deaf & deafblind people. This was debated in the Scottish Parliament in June. While grateful to Adam Ingram and the MSPs who spoke in support of the motion, we were very disappointed with the response from the Deputy Minister for Health, Lewis MacDonald MSP. Find the full debate on our website.

As a result of the presentation to the **The Royal College of Psychiatrists** *Let Wisdom Guide* Cross Party Group on Mental Health, we have been invited to give a presentation to a workshop of senior psychiatrists run by the Royal College of Psychiatrists in September. Also speaking is Dr Margaret DeFeu, a deaf consultant psychiatrist from England. We hope they will offer us their full support. You could support our campaign by writing to your local MSP and asking them to persuade the Scottish Executive that there is a need for specialist mental health services in Scotland and a need for improved access to mainstream psychiatric and counselling services.

We will happily work with you to draft a letter to your MSP.

As always, we are more than willing to raise any issue of concern on your behalf.

Enjoy the rest of your summer!

Lilian Lawson, OBE
Director





The panel comprised:

Anna Blair, Audiology
 Ruby Davidson, Education
 Cllr Charles Gray
 Colin Harris, Strathclyde Police
 Susan Kelso, Social Work



Frances Dolan, Family Officer at West Scotland Deaf Children's Society, expertly chaired our most recent Deaf Question Time and has written a review of her experience.

When Nicola, SCoD's Information Officer, originally asked (persuaded) me to chair the Question Time in Motherwell, I reluctantly agreed. When, a few weeks later, she told me that the event was taking place in the debating chamber of North Lanarkshire Council, with its state of the art technology, I thought 'what have I got myself into!'

On the night, Nicola and I arrived early to make sure everything was organised. By 6.55pm, most of the panel had arrived, but there were very few deaf people. I thought 'this could be a short night'.

How wrong I was! By 7.15pm, I was looking out at a very packed chamber, with about 60 people in attendance.

Having always been a fan of the BBC's Question Time, I tried to recall how David Dimbleby chaired and controlled his audience, which helped a bit. However, he does not have to use interpreters and remember to be deaf aware which, even as a parent of 3 young deaf people, I found difficult to do as the night progressed.

It was a lively debate with some very interesting points made by the audience. The majority of the questions tabled were however, about the issues deaf people face on a daily basis - topics that come up again and again:

- No social work services specifically for deaf people
- Support for the elderly deaf in the community
- The waiting time for appointments at Audiology departments and the provision of digital aids
- The lack of deaf awareness from the statutory services in particular the police and mainstream education

It was obvious from some of the panel's responses that this was the first time they had been in contact with deaf people and were not aware of the many issues surrounding being deaf in a hearing world.

To be fair, the panel did try their best to answer the many questions posed, and indeed offered to discuss them further after the event.

A panel member suggested that we hold the event again in six months to see if any of the issues raised had been addressed in the interim. I am sure the deaf people attending found this quite patronising given that they have been fighting all their lives for these rights and here was someone suggesting that things could be changed in 6 months!

As the night wore on I was very conscious that we were fast approaching the end of the event and tried to bring the evening to a close. However, given that there were so many hands still shooting up to ask questions, this was very difficult to achieve. We needed to be out of the chamber by 9pm, so I allowed just one more question. We could easily have gone on for another hour or more!

The evening was an extremely well-attended and worthwhile event. I know that already deaf people have had written responses from some of the invited panel.

Would I do it again? Well, I think I could be persuaded if only to see if things have changed in the last 6 months!

Are Your Counselling Courses Accessible?

Forum in Perth

Tutors and staff from a range of counselling organisations, universities and colleges, came together in Perth to share experiences and learn more about making their counselling training courses accessible to Deaf Sign Language users, deafened, hard of hearing and deafblind students. The Forum was co-ordinated by SCoD staff and followed extensive work with colleges and universities across Scotland to gauge the accessibility of their counselling training. The event was primarily designed to share the work and success of the partnership between SCoD and Strathclyde University on Scotland's first COSCA Certificate in Counselling Skills course for deaf students. It was also aimed at giving trainers the opportunity to feed into and to inform SCoD's future work in this area. SCoD Director, Lilian Lawson OBE, chaired the forum and speakers included representatives from Deafblind Scotland, the University of Strathclyde and SKILL Scotland. Presentations were also made by Michael Davis - one of only two Deaf counsellors currently working in Scotland - and by Rita McDade and Patricia

Middlemiss, past and current students of the Strathclyde course. All were very informative and delegates

learned a great deal from each talk. Emphasis was placed not only on the need for professional communication support, but also on the need to acknowledge the diversity of the 'deaf' population. Delegates took away practical tips and suggestions for their organisations about how to face the challenges posed by facilitating access to counselling courses for such a diverse group. It is hoped that delegates will keep in touch with SCoD and will work towards making their training opportunities positively accessible to deaf people.

Lorna and Teresa would like to thank all those who attended the forum and also all of the excellent speakers who made the day a great success.



Party Time!



On 1 June, the Counselling Training Project held a party for students who have completed the first and second COSCA

Certificate in Counselling Skills, their tutors, mentors and support staff. Also present were counselling

trainers from FE colleges, diploma courses and the voluntary sector.

The evening got off to a good start with wine and soft drinks served and then Lilian Lawson congratulated the students who will graduate from Strathclyde University in November. Several counselling trainers described their courses (HNC in Counselling, Bereavement, Relationship and Alcohol Counselling) and then students were free to ask trainers questions



about the courses. The students had a great time meeting up with each other and learning about training and counselling opportunities. The trainers were impressed at the level of commitment shown by the students and hope that many of them will continue into the counselling profession.

If you are interested in counselling but missed the SCoD courses, Motherwell College is running "Introduction to Counselling" - a 12 week course taught in BSL by Alison McBride (aka Alison Read). The course will start in November and be on Wednesday afternoons. If you are interested, you must contact Alison soon. It will only run if there are enough people. If you are on benefits you can apply for a fee waiver. For more information, contact Alison direct on amcbride@motherwell.co.uk.

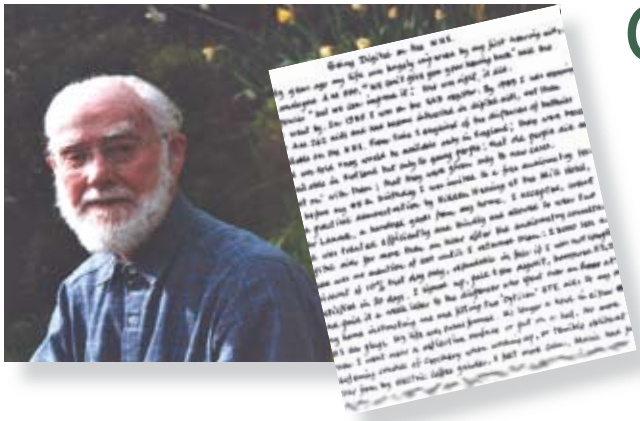
"it was great to celebrate everyone's hard work"

Teresa Brasier
Counselling
Project
Co-ordinator



If you have any comments or would like to know more about counselling training provision for deaf students, contact Project Co-ordinators Teresa Brasier or Trudi Collier at the SCoD Counselling Training Project

Email: counselling@scod.org.uk | Voice / Textphone: 0141 248 1854



Going Digital on the

Peter Whyman reports

Twenty years ago my life was hugely improved by my first hearing aid, an analogue AM500. "We can't give you your hearing back," said the dispenser, "but we can improve it". She was right, it did.

Time went by. In 1985 I was on the register with the Scottish Association for the Deaf (SCoD's old name). By 1989 I was wearing two AM262 aids and had become interested in digital aids, not then available on the NHS. I made enquiries but was told they would only be available in England; they were becoming available in Scotland but only to young people; that old people didn't 'get on' with them; that they were given only to new cases.

Just before my 85th birthday, I was invited to a free audiometry test and practical demonstration by Hidden Hearing at the Mill Hotel, New Lanark, a hundred yards from my home. I accepted, went along and was treated efficiently and kindly and allowed to wear two digital aids for more than an hour after the audiometry consultation.

There was no mention of cost until I returned them: £3000 less a discount of 10% that day

only, refundable in full if in 30 days I was not completely satisfied.

I signed up, paid £500 deposit, borrowed £2,200 and paid it a week later to the dispenser who spent over an hour at my home instructing me and fitting two Oticon BTE (behind the ear) aids to my own NHS ear moulds. My life was transformed! No longer a howl in each ear when I went near a reflective surface or put on a hat.

No more deafening crashes of crockery when washing up, or terrible obliterating roar from my electric coffee grinder. I felt calmer. Music had fresh clarity and I could not only hear speech but understand it, even over background noise. Was it worth most of a year's DHSS pension? The guarantee was only for one year, insurance was offered at extra cost as were batteries. I explored other options.

A week later I saw my GP, by six months I had an audiometry test and another month later was fitted with two Siemens Prisma M2 digital aids.

Getting a refund from Hidden Hearing needed a visit to their manager in Glasgow who refused to accept the OTEC aids over the counter. Returning them by recorded delivery with a strongly worded letter produced a refund cheque for £2,700 within 21 days.

So I live happily ever after!

| % of Hearing Aids Issued which are Digital (as at October 2005) | |
|---|-----|
| NHS Board | % |
| Argyll & Clyde | 98 |
| Ayrshire & Arran | 99 |
| Borders | 76 |
| Dumfries & Galloway | 99 |
| Fife | 59 |
| Forth Valley | 100 |
| Glasgow North | 91 |
| Glasgow South | 95 |
| Grampian | 81 |
| Highland | 96 |
| Lanarkshire | 63 |
| Lothian | 100 |
| Tayside | 100 |



Audiology Modernisation Project Update

Audiology Modernisation in Scotland is a four year project which applies to both children and adult services. The project comes to an end in 2007.

But what happens then?

Recently in Parliament, Deputy Minister for Health and Community Care, Lewis Macdonald MSP was asked this very question and replied as

follows:

"Ring-fenced funding for audiology will be provided to NHS boards for the next two years. It will then be the responsibility of NHS boards to meet the needs of the audiology service from within their general allocation." But how is your audiology service doing? Did you know the aim of the project is a high quality service with a maximum waiting time of 26 weeks from referral to fitting?









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Dual Purpose Dogs



Thamara (left) and Tracey visit Glasgow

In 2004, we told you about Roddy, the Labrador cross golden retriever (pictured, far right) who was hailed as the World's First "Dual Purpose Dog". This was a collaboration between Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and Guide Dogs for the Blind.

In June this year, Thamara Meirovich, a deafblind woman from Israel completed a two-week tour of the UK to raise awareness and funds for deafblind guide dogs (dual purpose) in Israel. Thamara travelled throughout England, Scotland and Northern Ireland with her deaf friend and guide, Tracey, meeting with Deaf groups to share experiences from different cultures and promote Thamara's dream of one day having her own guide dog training centre in Jerusalem.

It costs US\$5,000 and takes up to one year to train a guide dog for deafblind people. "But," as Thamara rightly points out, "overall this is cheaper as the dog's working life is about ten years and the cost of paying a person as a guide over a ten year period would be much more!"

Thamara, who already has an Israeli qualification for training deaf guide dogs, would like to attend the Hearing Dogs for Deaf People Centre in Buckinghamshire to obtain a UK qualification, as she believes the standard is higher here. This would involve a three month course with a guide-translator. In view of the costs of the course, the guide-translator and accommodation and living expenses, Thamara is currently trying to obtain sponsorship from corporate businesses and particular well-known dog food companies.

Thamara trained her own dog, aptly named Hope, who is not only her guide but also her constant companion and friend. As a result, Thamara's project is also called Hope and the aim is to bring hope to over 1000 deafblind people in Israel. Thamara said, "I want my life to be useful."

She is married and has raised her two children at home independently because of the help Hope has provided. "Independence is so important," says Thamara "and every deafblind person should be allowed that opportunity."

'Lanarkshire Three' meet their MSP

Three local Deaf people met Jack McConnell MSP recently in his Wishaw surgery. During this meeting, a number of pertinent issues were raised: the lack of specialist mental health services for Deaf people in

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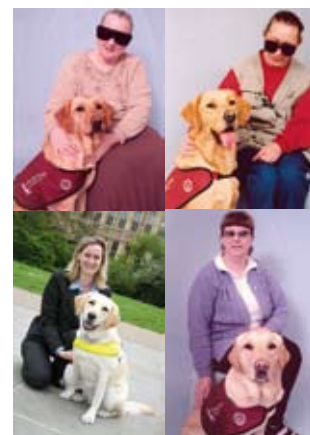
www.actualsigns.com

"Hearing Dogs for Deaf People and The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association have worked closely to train four dual hearing /guide dogs that are now helping their deafblind recipients lead a more independent life with confidence," said Gemma Baxter, of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People.

"A dual dog's response to sounds needs to take into account his recipient's visual impairment. For example, the response to the alarm clock needs to be very precise as the deafblind person needs to know if it's time to get up - or if the dog has woken them for some other important reason. Hearing Dogs' trainer Jackie Boyle trained the first-ever dual dog Roddy to respond to the alarm clock by waking his owner with his paws, then touching the alarm clock with his nose so his owner could follow the contour of his head to the tip of his muzzle and feel the alarm ringing."

Of her dual dog Erica, Molly says: "I was really downhearted until Erica came along and changed my life completely. I think she's a one-off - an angel at the end of a harness."

"As well as guiding me and alerting me to sounds, Erica has taught herself to fetch things for me, whether it's the washing up liquid, my medication, milk from the fridge, or clothes from my wardrobe or even the washing machine!"



Clockwise from top left: Molly Dyson and Erica, Angela Hassall and Roddy, Elaine Norman and Ingrid, Emma and Drew

Learn more about



Hearing Dogs
for Deaf People

The Grange
Wycombe Road
Saunderton
Princes Risborough
Buckinghamshire
HP27 9NS

tel: 01844 348100 (voice & text)
fax: 01844 348101
email: info@hearing-dogs.co.uk
web: www.hearing-dogs.co.uk

Scotland; access to GPs and the NHS, in particular access for Deaf people in an emergency and use of SMS by emergency services. Deaf awareness in the NHS was still viewed as poor. Concern was raised about the shortage of interpreters working in Scotland and Mr McConnell was reminded of his earlier pledge to see their numbers doubled (although it was pointed out that doubling their number was not enough to address this issue). The lack of provision for elderly and young Deaf people in Lanarkshire was raised, as was the perceived divide between North and South Lanarkshire which can result in a postcode lottery of good and bad service. We shall keep you posted on any developments arising from this meeting.



Ronnie Harte, Ian Galloway and Lauranne Cuthbertson with Jack McConnell MSP
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Anything Goes at

by Margaret Johnston

ADMIT ALL
STAGETEXT
ADMIT ALL

I stopped going to the theatre because I was unable to hear what was being said and could not rely on the loop system being satisfactory. I felt isolated.

However, in March I returned to the theatre after a long absence. I went along with the Hard of Hearing Club from Deaf Connections to see the production of "Anything Goes" at the King's Theatre in Glasgow. This was a Stagertext captioned performance. From start to finish I could follow the storylines on equal terms with my hearing peers. What a difference that made!

We had seats in the middle stalls and the captions were sited on either side of the stage. The words were amber/yellow on a black background and I had no difficulty in reading them, although I thought the lettering could maybe be smoother.

I must admit that it took a lot of effort using the captioning and watching the stage to gain the best benefit from the show, but I believe with practise that would become more familiar and easier. Also the next time I attend a show I will try sitting further along towards the side of the theatre to see the captions and then the stage and vice versa.

If I was going to see a Stagertext performance in a different theatre I would state when booking that I wanted to use Stagertext so that the booking office

could advise me on the seats where I would most benefit. There are no two theatres of the same design!

Before the start of the show, we were fortunate to be given a talk by the Stagertext staff. They told us all about Stagertext and emphasised that they needed hearing impaired people to give them feedback. This was important as it would enable them to try and improve on the service with the equipment and resources they have available.

Finding about forthcoming Stagertext events is straightforward. Give Stagertext your name and address and they will keep you up to date via post or email every three months. Could not be simpler! Before Stagertext captioning, a trip to the theatre was impossible. Now it can be an entertaining and enjoyable experience and another way to help me cope with my hearing loss.



Meeting the Needs of the Local Community

Before publishing its Disability Equality Scheme, Strathclyde Police is reviewing its policies in order to adapt services to meet the needs of all members of the community.

Do you have a comment to make? If so, contact Inspector Dean Pennington on 0141 532 2002 or email:

des@strathclyde.pnn.police.uk.

Strathclyde Police also encourages people with knowledge of disabilities to get involved in the Community Advisors Scheme, to pass on their experience and expertise. Details are available on the website, but you can also email recruiting.forcesupport@strathclyde.pnn.police.uk or telephone (v) 01355 566350.

Before applying, you can discuss the matter in person. Contact Inspector Ian McKim on 0141 532 2133, or use the email address above.

Reporting Minor Incidents Online

Did you know that minor crimes can now be reported online on the Police website?

In addition to the usual methods of reporting crime, an online reporting system has been set up to report minor crimes. Of course, the site should not be used for serious and immediate incidents!

Online incident reporting means a report can be made without the need to make that trip to the station. You can also use this forum to let the police know in advance of any communication support needs should the police wish to interview you further.

You can access this service by visiting www.police.uk and choose 'Online Services' from the top menu.

Strathclyde Police also has a textphone service: 0141 207 5758.





To Europe... and Beyond!

John A. Hay, Chair of the British Deaf History Society (BDHS), is about to embark upon a two month study tour of Deaf museums and archival centres in Europe and the USA.

A Senior Lecturer in Deaf Studies and BSL/English Interpreting at the University of Wolverhampton, John has been awarded the prestigious Winston Churchill Travelling Fellowship for 2006.

His tour itinerary will include: The Deaf Interactive Museum in Liege, Belgium; the Northern Netherlands Deaf Community Museum in Groningen, Holland; the 100-year-old Samuel Heinicke Library of the "Hearing Damaged" in Leipzig, Germany; The Finnish Deaf Museum in Helsinki, Finland; the library and archival centre within the American School for the Deaf in Hartford; the Gallaudet Archives and The Volta Bureau, both in Washington DC, USA; the Dyer Gallery of Deaf Artists based in the National Institute of Technology for the Deaf in Rochester, New York State and the recently-established Canadian Cultural Centre in Toronto, Canada.

The purpose of the study tour is to establish how museums and archives are operated and also,

importantly, how they are funded. At the end of the tour, John will prepare a report for the BDHS, which will be used as evidence in the Society's bid for financial

support to set up a National Deaf Archive in the UK. The venue for this archive has yet to be decided. Right now, the BDHS has a huge amount of material donated by various deaf-related organisations and individuals, including the Dorothy Miles collection. The majority of these materials are stored at Doncaster, while the rest are scattered about in members' houses! This will be an excellent resource for anyone undertaking research in the deaf field.

John is fortunate to have links with deaf museums and deaf historians developed through his close association with Deaf History International, since its inception in 1990.

Early in August, John will make a presentation entitled *Evacuation of British Deaf Schools During World War II* at the 6th DHI Conference in Berlin. He is also looking forward to presenting a paper on interpreting in the 18th & 19th centuries, in Scotland later this year.

Set up in 1965, the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust awards Travelling Fellowships for individuals from all walks of life, to enable them to acquire knowledge and experience abroad.

"I am extremely proud of this award, it is a momentous occasion," said John, a lifelong admirer of Churchill, boasting a large collection of memorabilia.

Anyone thinking of applying for 2007 should do so now - the deadline is 19th October. Apply online - simply visit www.wcmt.org.uk

A Battle Won!

by Frances Milne

Don't we all know it – being deaf makes life difficult in areas that hearing people take for granted, in particular the use of the telephone.

I needed to transfer some money to another bank account in order to buy a house. I tried calling my bank but their textphone was always on answer-machine and messages left were never returned. I then went into my nearest branch, four miles away, where I was told I would have to do the transfer by phone – this in spite of me telling them that I could not use a voice phone! No alternative method of transfer was offered.

I asked a hearing friend to call phone banking on my behalf and we were told that they would accept my request through my friend but to call nearer the time of the transfer, as it would take place on the same day at no charge.

However, when we called back the bank informed us that they would have to call me back - on the voice phone - the next day for 'security reasons' – arghhhhh!!

So I returned to my branch to request the transfer for me which, after discussion with the manager, they agreed to do. However there would now be a £30 charge as the request was now too late in the day to qualify for a fee free transfer.

It was my belief that this bank had acted unreasonably on several counts.

- their textphone was always on answer-machine and messages left were never returned. I suppose I could have used Typetalk to the voice number, but I did not wish to

give my security details to an unknown third party. Having already been a victim of credit card fraud I didn't want to take any risks.

- they insisted on me using telephone banking to carry out the transfer even though they know I am deaf. In addition, the return call for security reasons would be a voice call.
- I ended up with an unnecessary charge for the transfer due to its urgency - which was not my fault.

Many letters of complaint resulted in replies offering no satisfactory solution to the problems. I then sought the help of the Legal Caseworker at the RNID who helpfully drafted further letters citing the breach of the DDA Part 3. When this did not bring a satisfactory solution, I contacted the Disability Conciliation Service (part of the DRC) – this resulted in a conciliation meeting.

I am happy to say that at that meeting, the bank was apologetic for the difficulties I had experienced, produced a plan with the aim of making their services more accessible to deaf people in future, the refund of the transfer fee plus compensation.

This took six months to achieve but I am pleased with the outcome. To date, access to services via the textphone does seem to have improved.

The moral of this tale is - fight for your beliefs. It may be a struggle but you are not doing this just to help yourself, but also other deaf and hard of hearing people all over the country. It may be a struggle, particularly when dealing with a large organisation, but it is well worth it!



2007 milestone as we celebrate SCoD's 80th Birthday!

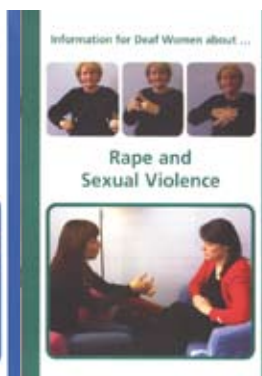
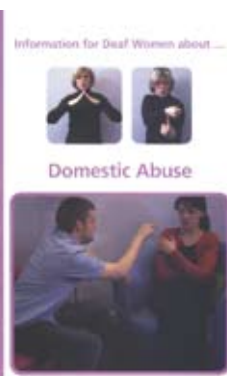
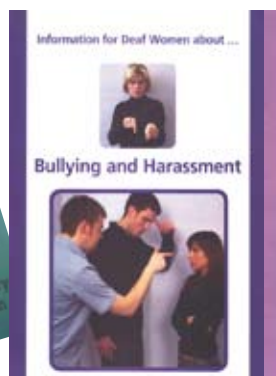
Next year, SCoD will proudly celebrate eighty years of campaigning for equal rights for all deaf people in Scotland. We hope to hold a series of awareness and fundraising events during 2007 to mark this very special occasion. How do you think we should celebrate this milestone? Share your ideas with our fundraiser, Linda Ogston. Linda works part time at SCoD and can be contacted by:
email: linda@scod.org.uk,
tele/textphone: 0141 248 1854,
fax: 0141 248 2479 and in person in the SCoD office in Glasgow on either a Monday or a Thursday.



Making an Impact at Our Dynamic Earth

SCoD had a very popular stand at the recent 'Making an Impact' conference at Our Dynamic Earth in Edinburgh. Organised by the RNID, this event included workshops on Audiology in Scotland, access to GP services, Community Care and Community Equipment. Our stall proved popular with visitors and staff - so much so that by the afternoon we had very little material left over! It was a worthwhile event which gave us the opportunity to meet lots of different people.

Deaf Women Wise-up to Violence



For women who experience violence, it is often at the hands of someone they know and can even take place in their own home. Some women are more vulnerable to discrimination, harassment and violence in the street than others. Women who are black, disabled, older or have learning difficulties often talk about street crime in addition to abuse at home.

Working with discriminated groups has shaped Wise Women's 12-year involvement with Deaf Women. They provide Personal Safety Courses that teach Deaf Women skills for identifying, avoiding and escaping potentially dangerous situations in a variety of settings. Through support, awareness raising and challenging women-blaming attitudes, they build confidence and increase women's options for making informed choices about their safety. Deaf women have welcomed the courses. A common complaint, however, is the lack of information written in a format Sign Language Users find clear and helpful. In addition, few services are Deaf Aware and even fewer have communication aids to allow Deaf Women to contact them.

For this reason, the Deaf Women Against Violence Group & Wise Women have produced a pack of informative leaflets focussing on six key areas of violence and abuse.

- Bullying and Harassment
- Child Sexual Abuse
- Domestic Abuse
- Personal Safety
- Prostitution
- Rape and Sexual Violence

The pack raises awareness, blasts myths, challenges attitudes and lists services throughout Glasgow that have Deaf Aware staff, textphones and budgets for interpreters.

For information about the pack or Deaf Women's Group, contact Wise Women
Tel (v) 0141 550 7557
Text: 0141 550 7558
SMS: 07969 835 966
Email : info@wisewomen.org.uk

Father Cyril Axelrod Gets His 'Massage' Across

The world's only deafblind priest, Father Cyril Axelrod, urged deafblind and hearing people in Scotland to work together to improve services. Speaking at Deafblind Scotland's 15th Annual Forum on Deafblindness in Glasgow on June 12th, he said integration was crucial. He also encouraged deafblind people to believe in themselves and in the contribution they can make to society. He said: "I am inspired by developments brought about by Deafblind Scotland. It's important that deafblind people know that they can have a voice." Nearly 100 people turned out to hear the charismatic South African, who campaigns internationally for the rights of deaf and deafblind people. Father Cyril, who is also a qualified aromatherapy masseur, demonstrated this skill during a workshop as a means of promoting deafblind people's health and well-being. Entitled 'The Usher Journey' this year's meeting focused on Usher Syndrome, a genetic condition that causes hearing loss from birth and a later, progressive loss of sight. A range of people gave a unique insight into the disorder, including Alison Nelson, who spoke



insightfully and movingly of the challenges she faces as a mother with Usher. John Whitfield, Deafblind Scotland's Training Officer, told of his journey from horticulture to schools work after a ten year gap as a result of his deafblindness. Deafblind Scotland Director, Michael Anderson shared the difficulties of caring for his late wife and Deafblind Scotland Chairman, Bob Nolan spoke of his experience of informing colleagues of his dual sensory impairment. From social workers to councillors to deafblind people themselves, all remarked that the day had been an informative and inspirational one. As Father Cyril stressed, we all have a part to play in making people aware of deafblindness and in pushing for better services. In his words, "Our journey continues and evolves through new experiences."

Deafblind Scotland is based in Lenzie, just outside Glasgow. Contact details:
Tel (voice/text): 0141 777 6111 | Fax: 0141 775 3311 | Email: info@deafblindscotland.org.uk
Visit their website: www.deafblindscotland.org.uk
Or write: 21 Alexandra Avenue, Lenzie, Glasgow, G66 5BG

Louder Than Words...

The Deaf Actions choir, directed by Natalie Garrity, take their motto "actions speak louder than words" very seriously! As a result, they are always happy to use their talents in support of a worthy cause.

SCoDnews readers might remember reading about the choir's spectacular Christmas show in 2004, which raised money for the Kisoro School for Deaf Children in Uganda.

In June this year they held a concert on behalf of the Mission to Homeless Children in Tanzania. The concert raised a whopping £1048 that will go wholly to benefit the children who have been orphaned due to AIDS and are currently living in unsuitable rented accommodation. Watching a brief presentation of the project and the children on the night, Natalie struggled to hold back her emotions. She and the choir promptly agreed not to take any expenses for the evening and to give all proceeds from the sale of their own videos and DVDs on the night to the building of the orphanage for the children.

Project Leader Marion Andrews was thrilled with Deaf Actions' involvement and delighted at the response on the night. The plight of these children touched the hearts of all as deaf and hearing people united to help raise funds.

Later this year, Marion and a small team will be going to Tanzania to look for land. Once secured, work to build the orphanage will begin.

The (mostly) hearing audience was also wowed as they saw (many for the first time!) music and song dramatised in BSL. Well done to Deaf Actions, and we'll keep you all posted of any future concerts via the SCoD website and monthly bulletins.



Homeless Children in Tanzania



The Choir in Action

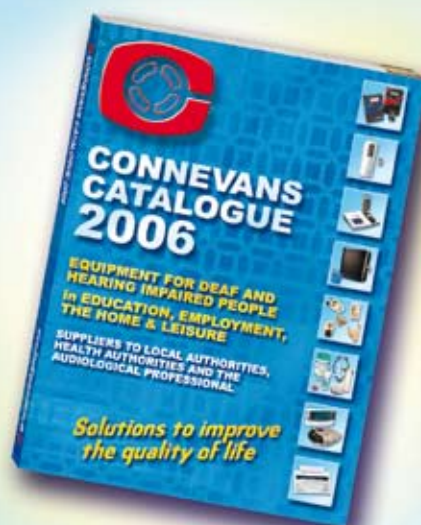
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Taking Note

A hearing man was fascinated with a Deaf woman who was sitting in a bar. He decided to strike up a conversation with her by writing notes on a piece of paper. To his delight, she was friendly enough to write back and they wrote back and forth for some time. Another man jumped into the conversation and began to write too. All three continued their conversation by writing. After a while, the woman realised she was late for an appointment and told her new friends that she needed to leave. The two men waved goodbye and continued to write, not realising that neither of them was deaf.

Just a bit of fun!

Jokes from the Deaf World



A man at the table next to you asks if he can borrow your sugar, but you ignore him since you didn't hear. He scowls at you as if you are very rude.



You are watching the evening news on TV. The top story was about a murder. You start laughing when the captions get behind the actual dialogue and a picture of an ape appears when the name of the suspect is finally given.

Know some good Deaf jokes? Don't keep them to yourself! Email them to nicola@scod.org.uk. More jokes in our next issue.



Lipreading a person with a foreign accent can make you think your eyes are out of focus.

Jokes/observations taken from "Deaf Culture Our Way", a book of anecdotes from the Deaf Community by Roy, Samuel K and Thomas K Holcomb



Support the work we do: donate to SCoD

SCoD works tirelessly to improve the lives of all deaf people in Scotland, to help promote their rights as individuals and to reduce their sense of exclusion. We need your help to continue this work. Please give generously.

I wish to make a donation of

£

My Name:

My

Address:

Please make cheques/postal orders payable to **Scottish Council on Deafness.**

Beat the tax man and make your gift to SCoD go further. If you are a tax payer, for every pound you donate we can claim an extra 28p from the Inland Revenue - all you need to do is tick the box on the right.

We'll do the rest!

thinking of supporting our work?

giftaid it



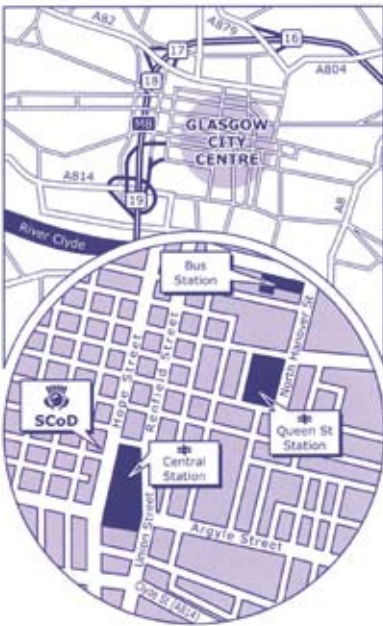
Please Note: all money donated stays in Scotland



The Scottish Council on Deafness (SCoD)

Representing the interests of Deaf Sign Language users, Deafblind, Deafened and Hard of Hearing people throughout Scotland for over 75 years

SCoD is a registered charity SC016957



Why not ...

- Make a donation
- Join us
- Ask your employer about Payroll Giving
- Leave a Legacy in your Will
- Volunteer with SCoD - we're always looking for enthusiastic people to help us

SCoD is a membership charity. At the moment, only organisations can join. Membership offers excellent benefits, including giving you the opportunity to shape government policy and improve the lives of all deaf people in Scotland. Membership is renewable annually and runs from April 1st to 31st March of the following year.

Contact SCoD



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Become a SCoD Member

- | | |
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| 1 Local and small deaf groups | £20 |
| 2 Organisations linked to existing members; annual income < £10k | £30 |
| 3 Local and national deaf organisations, professional organisations and statutory authorities | £75 |

There are three types of membership, which depend on the nature and size of your organisation; each type has a different annual membership fee

Join SCoD: Membership Application

Organisation

I wish to become a Type 1 ☐ 2 ☐ 3 ☐ Member

Key contact Voice

Address Text

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Please invoice me at the address shown ☐ SMS

Email

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

Once completed, please post or fax this page to SCoD at the address/number above