

SCoDnews

Issue Twenty

 Scottish Council on Deafness Registered charity: SC016957



The Great Outdoors!

Climb Ben Nevis with SCoD
Trek through the Great Glen

Become an Associate

Join SCoD as an Associate Member

Amble through the Archives

Accompany Alison on a journey through
SCoD's fascinating history



The Director's Welcome

Welcome to this bumper issue packed with news of our activities so far this year. As you will see we have all been very busy over the past six months with core services, projects, supervising volunteers and the new and exciting challenge of producing a DVD in-house. Happy reading!

We continue our work raising awareness at national level of the issues affecting deaf people. At the Cross Party Group on Deafness (CPGD), which meets every three months in the Scottish Parliament, we continue to provide the secretariate. In April, the CPGD enjoyed an excellent presentation given by Bill Chassels on behalf of three organisations: Association of Teachers of Lipreading to Adults (ATLA), Scottish Course to Train Tutors of Lipreading (SCTTL) and HearingConcernLINK Scotland. The lack of funding for recruiting and training lipreading tutors was emphasised as was the lack of promotion of lipreading classes to deaf people (especially for those who are newly deafened). We believe that lipreading classes should be funded and provided by the NHS as part of an integral part of the rehabilitation process for anyone with an acquired hearing loss, and this view was presented at the meeting. Do you agree with it? If so, please let us know so that we can forward your views to Bill Chassels.

In June, the CPGD discussed a draft consultation document on the proposal for a BSL (British Sign Language) Bill, which basically seeks legal recognition of BSL. Cathie Craigie MSP, Convenor of the CPGD, is sponsoring this Bill. Before we actually draft the BSL Bill we need to find out from deaf and deafblind people, from families, from

deaf and deafblind organisations, schools, units, colleges, universities and professionals working with deaf children and adults - whether they support this principle. We will soon be holding a consultation exercise. If you want to respond, please visit our website.

Continuing the political theme, our Access to Democracy project has recruited twelve Deaf and two Deafblind trainers to deliver democracy workshops around the country. To date, they have delivered workshops in Moray, Ayrshire, Dumfries & Galloway, Fife and the Shetland Islands. Participants received their copy of the "Result!" DVD. A microsite featuring the DVD contents can be found on our website.

Did you vote at the recent European Parliamentary Elections? Whether positive or negative, why not share your experience with us?

In this financial climate, we are as ever closely monitoring our finances and working hard to raise extra funds to sustain our charity. We are so grateful to people who have already donated to SCoD and we will be even more so if you will donate to SCoD once again. Thank you so much!

Lilian Lawson OBE
SCoD Director

In this issue

	Page
The Great Outdoors!	7
Become a SCoD Associate	15
Amble through the Archives	8-9
Public information in BSL	3
Tracing your family tree	4
Deaf History Scotland	4
Deaf Sports Federation	5
Policy & Research	6
Scottish & English Governments	10
Scottish Deaf Youth Association	11
David Aitchison & work experience	12
Ramesh Meyyappan lights the way	14

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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Public Information in BSL

We were recently commissioned by the Scottish Government to arrange the production of a BSL DVD explaining Self-Directed Support.

We decided to try and make the DVD in-house. Having never tackled a job of this nature before, we were all understandably terrified - and none more so than the Information Officer whose task it was to film, edit and design the whole DVD!

However, soon some helpful website tutorials were discovered and, after digesting a couple of key textbooks she was ready to make a start. A few stressful weeks later the job was complete: a BSL DVD with optional voiceover and subtitles was ready for duplication!



We are happy to report that 5000 copies of the DVD were produced, the bulk of which were distributed to service providers and deaf organisations throughout Scotland.

If you would like a free copy, please contact your local Social Work office, Sensory Impairment unit or Deaf Club. We have a few copies in the SCoD office, so if you can pop in please do so to collect your copy - numbers are limited so you'd best be quick!

A microsite featuring the DVD content exclusively in BSL can be found: www.scod.org.uk/sds/sds.html

Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003

We have been in contact with the Scottish Government concerning access to information about the Mental Health (Care and Treatment) (Scotland) Act 2003. The Scottish Government produced a series of "purple booklets" with information for people who have mental health problems, their carers and their families. These booklets are now available in a number of community languages, but there is no information available in BSL!

The Scottish Government advised us that they were waiting for the results of the Mental Health Review before putting any information out in BSL.

Lifesaving Skills in BSL BritishRedCross

The Red Cross has produced a series of eight BSL interpreted video clips demonstrating how to react to emergency situations and treat a wide range of injuries. Clips can be viewed on their website: www.redcross.org.uk



Dealing with bleeding



Dealing with choking

Key Asthma Information

Asthma UK has prepared their FAQ (frequently asked questions) section on their website in BSL.

You can view this key information if you visit www.asthma.org.uk. If you do not have access to the internet or would like a copy of this information on DVD, call the Asthma UK Support and Information Team on 08456 03 81 43.

You can also email: info@asthma.org.uk.



Swine Flu Explained



A BSL DVD about swine flu has at last been produced. Order your copy now by any of the following means:
Telephone: 0300 123 1002
Textphone: 0300 123 1003
Email: dh@prolog.uk.com
The full DVD is available to watch online, as is a BSL interpreted version of the television advert.
Visit www.direct.gov.uk

Jennifer Teaches Her Class a Lesson ...in Genealogy

For fourteen years, Sign Language Interpreter Jennifer Ramsay has been fascinated by genealogy. Studying with the Open University, her very first research task focussed on her father's family.

"As an interpreter," said Jennifer "I realised that, in addition to the obvious reasons of tracing your family tree, the potential of following a link with genetic deafness would probably also be of genuine interest to Deaf people."



Entitled "Introduction to Genealogy using IT", the course itself is a double first for Dundee College. Not only had the college never offered such a course before, they had also never run a class made up entirely of Deaf people!

Jennifer is the class lecturer and the course is taught exclusively in BSL - therefore no need for a separate interpreter!

Classmates were interested in tracing their family history and also wanted to investigate the possibility of family genetic deafness in particular by studying census forms from 1841. As it turned out, some of these students were able to trace their family trees back to the 1700's.

Online resources available today certainly speed the research process along and there is even software which can help you construct your family tree. Jennifer's group used the Scotlands People website, which is the official government source of genealogical data for Scotland.

You would, however, be wrong in thinking these resources are free! The Scotlands People site applies a scale of charges which depends on the type of records you are accessing: www.scotlandspeople.gov.uk

Students who successfully completed the first stage of the course received their certificates at the college's awards ceremony in June.

In September, the class progresses to the next stage: "Intermediate Genealogy using IT" and classmates are looking forward to resuming their studies and perhaps welcoming some new members.

Enthusiastic student Elizabeth Adam loved the introductory course and said:

"My next project is to research my husband's family history; I can't wait!"



Census Facts

The UK census takes place every 10 years. The next census is 2011.

Public viewing of census data is only allowed for those records that are 100 years old.

This means the earliest census you can view is 1901 ... but in 2011 you will be able to access the census from 1911.

More than just a head count!

The first genealogically useful census (where names were recorded) took place in 1841.



Since its inaugural conference last October, Deaf History Scotland's

Executive Committee has met twice.

The following are now elected office bearers:

Margaret Aitken - Convenor

Dr Ronnie Scott - Secretary

Lilian Lawson - Treasurer

Arrangements are underway to register DHS as a charity. The first AGM will be held in Donaldson's in Linlithgow on Saturday 31st October.

The Executive Committee agreed to explore establishing an archive where the records of Deaf organisations in Scotland can be preserved and seen and a museum where records and objects relating to the Deaf community in Scotland can be stored and displayed.

SCoD has applied for funding to record older Deaf people's memories and if successful, DHS will be involved in this project.

You may not be aware, but Secretary of DHS, Dr Ronnie Scott is a historian who has been running a series of courses at the University of Glasgow. Some DHS members attended these courses, one of which focussed on using the internet to carry out research – very useful for budding historians!

Find out more about DHS by visiting the website:

www.deafhistoryscotland.org.uk

Scottish Deaf Sports Federation: The Future of Deaf Sports in Scotland

In our last issue we told you about the concerns relating to deaf sports which were raised at our AGM.

Following this, SCoD Director Lilian Lawson had an informal meeting with Chris Ratcliffe from NDCS Scotland to discuss how best to tackle the deaf sports issues. They both thought setting up a Scottish Deaf Sports Federation would offer one possible solution: bringing a number of existing national deaf sports organisations together thus providing a link between these organisations, statutory bodies and funders such as SportsScotland and Disability Sports Scotland. Through this link, deaf sports organisations could develop plans for deaf sports in Scotland.

Chris and Lilian have been in regular contact with Paul McCusker, Glasgow Deaf Active Futures Project Co-ordinator, based at Deaf Connections. In April,

Paul organised a seminar "A Fresh Start for Deaf Sport in Scotland" in conjunction with Iain Cameron from the Sports Council for Glasgow. The subsequent presentation suggesting the formation of a Scottish Deaf Sports Federation was duly accepted.

At this seminar, which was attended by 25 people representing a wide range of deaf sports organisations, it was agreed to set up a steering group to draft a constitution, agree on membership categories and development plans. Eight deaf people immediately volunteered to join. Key objectives include establishing a national forum for Scottish deaf sports organisations, training, information dissemination and lobbying of national sports bodies. A workplan will be considered when the steering group next meets in August.

PE808

Petition for Specialist Mental Health Services for Deaf People in Scotland: an update

The Scottish Government has been working with key people in NHS Lanarkshire, NHS Lothian and NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde to put together the business case that supports the setting up of a specialist mental health service for deaf people in Scotland.

The business case paper was put to the Chief Executives of all the NHS Boards in Scotland at the end of February 2009 for consideration. They then report back to the Health Minister, Shona Robison MSP, and to the Scottish Government – Dr Denise Coia and Geoff Huggins. We are still waiting to hear what took place.

The business case is asking for an inpatient unit – the number of beds has not yet been decided, so there has been no decision taken as to which NHS Board will host the bedded unit; and for specialist community services, similar to that of NHS Lothian based in Deaf Action – one Community Psychiatric Nurse and a senior Occupational Therapist. This model of service provision is called "hub and spoke". NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde is in the process of considering setting up specialist community services – the "spoke" services.

Did you know?

Deaf people can give blood if:

- they can communicate directly with blood donor staff;
- they can clearly state that they understand the issues of consent, blood safety and the risks involved in giving blood;
- they can give the blood donor staff the information that the staff need about their own health and lifestyle; and
- they can answer any questions put to them by the blood donor staff.

For deaf people who can read and write in English, the Scottish Blood Transfusion Service staff can use written formats for donor selection and consent.

The expert advisers who have put together the Donor Selection and Consent process have interpreted the Blood Quality and Safety Regulations 2005 to mean that Deaf BSL users cannot access BSL/English interpreters to help them through the process.

There may be a number of other reasons why deaf people cannot give blood – but these are the same reasons that a hearing person cannot give blood.

The Scottish Blood Transfusion Service has produced a leaflet that gives more information about how to register to give blood. You can download the leaflet from:

www.scotblood.co.uk/docs/dilcallup.pdf
or contact the Scottish Blood Transfusion Service through their website:
www.scotblood.co.uk





Policy & Research

with Mandy Reid

It has been quite an exciting time in the policy world since the last SCoD News. We have seen a number of Scottish Government consultations, two from Holyrood and some from the UK Government. I have been working with the NHS on accessibility issues and also following up on the Freedom of Information requests I sent to the 32 local councils and 15 health boards.

Linda Sharkey (Hearing Concern LINK Scotland) and I worked on a comprehensive response to the proposed Patients Rights Bill put forward by the Scottish Government. If this Bill goes through in its present form it will put a lot of responsibility on patients without actually giving them many rights. I was able to use some of the stories that deaf people had shared with me at the SCoD Open Meetings to highlight points in the consultation.

Late last year, the UK Government published its consultation on "Improving Protection from Disability Discrimination". We submitted a short response to this consultation and I attended a consultation event to put forward our position. In general, we support the need to "base protection for disabled people on the concept of indirect discrimination" to "ensure an appropriate level of protection for disabled people in the Equality Bill". But in particular, we would like to see the practical guidance and any Codes of Practice for the proposed Equality Bill to contain specific examples to highlight areas of both direct and indirect discrimination for Deaf BSL users, Deafblind, Deafened and Hard of Hearing people as the needs of deaf people vary greatly. Disability is such a large area compared with the other Equality strands included in the Bill; it is important that guidance is provided for all areas of disability, so that a "hierarchy" is not allowed to develop in terms of equality good practice.

If you would like to know more about my work or get involved in our consultation responses, please contact mandy@scod.org.uk or tele/textphone 0141 248 1854.

We also responded to the Department of Transport's consultation on "Improving access to taxis". The main issues that we raised included are: Not all taxi companies can be contacted by SMS, email or textphone, therefore deaf people often have to ask others to book a taxi for them. Taxi drivers do not receive deaf awareness or communication skills training as part of the licensing process. In fact, taxi drivers should have to prove that they have been on disability awareness training that includes Deaf, Deafblind and Deafened awareness and communication skills, before they are given their licence.

As many taxi drivers do not have English as their first language, this makes it more difficult for deaf people who have to write down their destination and can lead not only to confusion and frustration but also wasted journeys when the taxi does not take the deaf person to their intended destination!

Charlie Gordon MSP has proposed a Bill on the Regulation of Bus Services. Again, I was able to use direct quotes from people who attended the SCoD Open Meetings highlighting the issues that deaf people have with the buses in Scotland.

For example,

"The driver would ask me where I was going but not understand me when I told him; then a big queue would form behind me and the driver would tell me I had pronounced it wrong. People would stare because I had held everyone up - it was really embarrassing."

Hopefully, this will help to improve services throughout the country.

Using the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 a further piece of research involves SASLI and SCoD. Jointly, we are working on the need for public services to use registered professional communication support. I wrote to all local councils and NHS boards asking for information on their interpreting and translation costs for the year 2006/2007. I included the cost of community languages so that a comparison could be made between the services that deaf people receive and that of other people whose first language is not English. The report will be available soon on the SCoD website.

I am doing some work with NHS 24 concerning access for deaf people. During their annual review, a question was asked about increasing the accessibility of NHS 24. Many deaf people were not satisfied with the response and asked SCoD to follow this up.

Summit to be Proud of!

Hazel Galloway trekked up Ben Nevis, Britain's highest peak, in aid of SCoD in May this year, raising vital funds for our charity. We interviewed her shortly after her return to find out how she got on...

What was the weather like?

Hazel: Well, it definitely could have been better, though it was dry most of the way up. There was quite a lot of snow on the ground and it was very windy at the top.

In what way did the weather affect the Trek?

Hazel: The snow made it quite tricky but the guide was very helpful providing advice on how best to handle this. Although the views were obscured at the top by cloud, there are amazing views as you climb up – it is spectacular scenery.

Would you recommend the Trek?

Hazel: I would recommend the trek in particular for the great company and the experience. There is a real sense of achievement afterwards, knowing you have climbed Britain's highest peak.

What made you choose to do an organised trek rather than go on your own?

Hazel: Although there is a designated path there were parts of the trek, particularly the snow, which were fairly daunting and it was very reassuring to be accompanied by experienced guides who gave excellent advice and support. From a safety point of view it was good to know the guides were there. They knew all the best places to stop and go to the toilet (which was the worst part!).

The accommodation was good with lovely views from the hotel. I was thrilled to get a single room – I hadn't been expecting that.

Up for a challenge?

There's still time to book yourself on to one of our future treks.

In August the five day Great Glen Way takes you from Inverness to Fort William and in September you can follow in Hazel's footsteps and tackle Ben Nevis.

Accommodation is provided and you are accompanied throughout by experienced guides.

Contact Linda our Fundraiser for an information pack, or visit the SCoD website (click "Support us") to find out more and to download an application form.

All contact details are on the back page. We look forward to hearing from **you**!

In association
with Charitytrek - one of
Scotland's leading service providers in the
organisation and management of fully supported walks
and treks.



I wouldn't have been happy doing the trip on my own and the group were great company along the way – I met some interesting people.

Why did you choose to support SCoD?

Hazel: I have been doing an evening class in BSL level one and so was aware of the issues you are dealing with. I had a notion to climb the mountain and was happy to be able to support a charity at the same time.

You proved very successful with your fundraising, do you have any tips?

Hazel: Well, I think my age inspired a lot of people to give (Hazel is 69). Also, people liked the fact you are a smaller charity rather than one with a higher profile which regularly stages events. In the end, though, it was down to the spontaneous generosity of those who gave.

What advice would you give to anyone thinking of doing the Trek?

Hazel: Bring walking poles! I didn't have any but thankfully Charitytrek were able to provide me with some. I would definitely recommend the trek but would say that you do need to be fit!



Alison's Archives

Recently I came across some handwritten minutes from the earliest SCoD meetings. Being nose-y by nature, I had to have a closer look.

Over the next few months I got engrossed in old papers from 1927 up to the present day and was fascinated to read about what our organisation has achieved in the past 80-odd years. There was also a box of old photos. Who were they? Do you recognise anyone? Here are some of the highlights from SCoD's story...

How it all began

On 10 June 1927 delegates from all over Scotland attended a Conference at which it was decided to set up the Scottish Association for the Deaf (SAD) where delegates from the Missions of the Deaf, Schools for the Deaf, Education Authorities and other Bodies could regularly meet to work together. Eighty-one years later, we are still doing this work under our new name Scottish Council on Deafness (SCoD)
So what issues did we address in the early years?

Employment

In 1939 three work schemes were set up: Boot Repairing; Motor Car Cleaning & Market Gardening and Allied Occupations.

The boot repair scheme was particularly successful and the workshop at 50-54 Wilton Street, Glasgow ran until 1962 with regular contracts from Stead and Simpson.

Deafened People

Dreams can come true if you wait long enough!

At a SAD meeting in 1971 Mrs Nessie Smith expressed a wish for an organisation "like the one in Eastbourne". In 2004 LINK Scotland was established (with support from SCoD). In 2008 LINK merged with Hearing Concern to become Hearing Concern LINK.

Social and Welfare Workers

In 1971 SAD devised and administered the first training scheme for Welfare Workers for the Deaf at Moray House. We continue to work closely with Moray House and with Sensory Impairment Centres within Social Work Departments throughout Scotland, several of which are members.



Interpreting

A law was passed in 1930 making it illegal to use unqualified, unregistered interpreters in courts of law after a successful campaign by SAD.

In 1981, with financial backing from SAD, the Scottish Association of Interpreters for the Deaf was formed. They later changed their name to SASLI (Scottish Association for Sign Language Interpreters). We still work closely with them and they are members of SCoD.

In 1982 we continued to support Moray House College to run interpreter courses in both an advisory and financial capacity. These courses were officially approved by the then Secretary of State for Scotland and the UK government subsequently gave a grant to start similar courses in England and Wales. There was no grant given in Scotland. This is how SAD felt about this:

"We consider this indefensible and unless some form of financial support is forthcoming the SAD which is, after all, a Voluntary Body will be unable to support these Courses any longer. Since it takes a few years to attain and maintain the necessary high standards required of officially qualified interpreters the implications are, to say the least, frightening. In a few years there will be no or very few interpreters for the deaf in Scotland. While we accept the apparent need for financial restraints we must protest against the injustice and illogicality of this apparent discrimination against deaf people in Scotland."

Education...

...is always a hotly debated topic at SCoD. Discussion continues but there can be no doubt that education for deaf people has not been all that it should and SCoD has continually sought to address this issue.



Mental Health

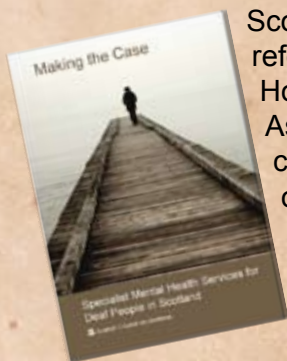
The lack of understanding of deafness by mental health professionals was highlighted by Executive Committee member, Mr Greig at a meeting in 1936. Mr Greig reported the case of a deaf woman who had been certified through a medical officer's ignorance of deaf people. Fortunately Mr Greig had been able to put the matter right in this instance.

The British Medical Association was approached and a recommendation made to them that a person competent to understand deaf people should always be present in such cases.

Back in 1971 SAD's Honorary Secretary arranged a meeting with Dr Bainbridge, Western Regional Hospital Board and Dr Raeburn, Eastern Regional Hospital Board to discuss the possibility of co-operating with Dr John Denmark to provide facilities for patients in Scotland who would normally be referred to him at Whittingham Hospital in England.

As you know this campaign continues and following the launch of our paper "Making the Case", progress is at last beginning to be made.

We never give up!



Lipreading

In 1929 we assisted the National College of Teachers to compile a list of qualified teachers of lipreading.

However by 1986 there was no official course in Scotland to train teachers of lipreading.

Following a SAD survey, a letter was sent to the Secretary of State for Scotland highlighting this lack. SCoD later awarded a grant of £3,000 to the core funding of the Scottish Course to Train Tutors of Lipreading (SCTTL).

We continue to work with our members with a view to lipreading classes being available to all who require them throughout Scotland.

Care of the Elderly

In their Executive report of 1929 SAD highlighted the need for a retirement home for deaf people.

As you know, following the closure of Craigholme in Bearsden, there is once again no retirement home for deaf people meaning that elderly deaf people might end up in a retirement home isolated through lack of communication. SCoD underlined their commitment to this group by organising an open meeting "Future Care for Deaf People" in May 2005.

Register for Deaf People

Scottish Association for the Deaf launched the first voluntary Register for deaf people in 1992 in a blaze of publicity. The aim was to encourage people to acknowledge their deafness; to raise deaf awareness and to provide information and support to deaf people. The SAD would then be more equipped to campaign for better services using statistics gained from the Register. Due to lack of funding, this Register had to be closed in 1999 and even today there is still a need for accurate statistics for Scotland.

Government in England



Government in Scotland



The UK Parliament, UK Government, Scottish Parliament and the Scottish Government all have control over what happens to the people in Scotland. Here is a hopefully helpful explanation of their different roles.

The **UK Parliament** meets in the Palace of Westminster and is responsible for approving new laws on reserved matters. There are two houses in Westminster - the House of Commons and the House of Lords.

Before 1999, Scotland was governed from London. Since then, the people of Scotland elect 72 MPs to the House of Commons. MPs debate the big political issues of the day and proposals for new laws. It is one of the key places where government ministers, like the Prime Minister, Gordon Brown, and the Chancellor, Alistair Darling, and the main figures of the political parties, work.

Members of the House of Lords are not elected by the voters of the UK, but appointed by the Queen, elected by Westminster or are one of a number of Church of England archbishops and bishops who are allowed to sit in the House. The House of Lords is the highest court in the land: the supreme court of appeal.

Civil servants are employed by the **UK Government** to carry out the work of the UK Parliament. Civil servants are not elected but apply for jobs with the government. The ruling political party appoints members to the Cabinet. These members each have responsibility for a different government department. The issues that the UK Government deals with are reserved matters.

Reserved Matters

These are the issues that affect everyone in the UK, and are dealt with by the UK Parliament:

Reserved matters are: constitutional matters, foreign policy, defence and national security, fiscal, economic and the monetary system, immigration and nationality, energy: electricity, coal, gas and nuclear energy, common markets, trade and industry, some aspects of transport, including railways, transport safety and regulation, employment law, social security, gambling and the National Lottery, data protection, abortion, human fertilisation and embryology, genetics, xenotransplantation, vivisection and equal opportunities.

The **Scottish Parliament** is the law-making body for devolved matters in Scotland. MSPs are elected representatives chosen by the people of Scotland to work on their behalf and make decisions on devolved matters.

The Scottish Parliament is made up of 129 MSPs.

At a Scottish Parliament election each voter has two votes. With one vote, voters choose their constituency MSPs. There are 73 constituencies for Scottish Parliament elections. The other vote is for a political party or an independent, within a larger electoral area known as a region. The candidates elected to these 56 additional seats are known as regional MSPs. There are eight Scottish Parliament regions and each region has seven additional seats in the Parliament. Every Scottish voter is therefore represented by eight MSPs: one constituency MSP and seven regional MSPs.

The **Scottish Government** is responsible for most of the issues of day-to-day concern to the people of Scotland. The Scottish Government is currently led by the First Minister, Alex Salmond, who is nominated by the Parliament and in turn appoints the other Scottish Ministers who make up the Cabinet. Civil servants in Scotland are responsible to Scottish Ministers, who are themselves answerable to the Scottish Parliament.

Devolved Matters

The Scottish Parliament can pass laws on: health, education and training, local government, social work, housing, planning, tourism, economic development and financial assistance to industry, some aspects of transport, including the Scottish road network, bus policy, ports and harbours, law and home affairs, including criminal and civil law, the prosecution system and the courts, the Police and Fire services, the environment, natural and built heritage, agriculture, forestry and fishing, sport and the arts; statistics, public registers and records.



Hip hip hooray for the SDYA!

The Scottish Deaf Youth Association is formally established

BDA Scotland Youth Development Officer Sally Milton has been working closely with a group of young Deaf people enabling them to organise themselves into a formally constituted campaigning group.

After several meetings and much discussion via Facebook and email, the first AGM of the SDYA took place at the end of April. The group was established and the constitution agreed and ratified; this process took some time because it was important that everyone fully understood the commitment and responsibilities they were undertaking.

Evening proceedings were assisted by the Youth Management team from the BDA in Wales: Cathie Talbot & Helen Robins as well as input from Roars Not Whispers support worker John-Paul McCabe.



With opportunities to meet other young Deaf people from all over Scotland, to raise the profile of the Deaf Community, to emphasise the importance of BSL and to continue campaigning for equal opportunities and access to all services - this is clearly a very exciting time for the SDYA.

The next step? To plan and prioritise the campaign strategy.

Young people, aged 16 - 30 are welcome to join, share their views and get involved.

The SDYA will attend the 10th anniversary celebrations of the Scottish Youth Parliament (SYP) at the Edinburgh sitting in June. This will be the first SYP event where the BDA: Scotland will be officially welcomed as members of the SYP.

Elected representatives for the SDYA are Jamie Dow and Beatrice Webster. Both are excited to be working with other Youth Parliament members while raising the profile of the young Scottish Deaf Community.



Deaf Awareness at the Glasgow Science Centre

As guests of the Scottish Youth Parliament, the SDYA attended the Dunfermline Sitting and participated in their 'Tea party' event within the local shopping centre. This involved encouraging shoppers to sit down and have a cup of tea with some young people and find out a bit more about what the SYP does.



Being Young is Not a Crime is one of the SYP's current campaigns. This campaign seeks to challenge negative

perceptions of young people as portrayed in the media and held within the wider general public. SDYA members were delighted to have the opportunity to challenge some of the stigma attached to youth.

The Edinburgh sitting will feature some serious debating on current issues and an organised march in the centre of Edinburgh to highlight awareness of climate change. There is also lots of fun to be had as 'Dynamic Earth' the amazing science exploration centre, is the venue for the new members ceremony.

During the recent Deaf Awareness week (4-10 March), members of the committee attended the Glasgow Science Centre to teach some basic British Sign Language (BSL) to visitors. Children on school trips particularly enjoyed learning how to fingerspell their names and the signs for their favourite animals.

Want to get involved or find out more?

Contact Sally: email sallym@bda.org.uk or fax on 0141 248 5565. If you are a Facebook user, try searching for Scottish Deaf Youth Association.

www.sdya.org.uk new website coming soon!

Even more work experience with SCoD!

by Alison Coyle



We were delighted once again to have a pupil from St Vincent's School join us for a week in February.

It was David Aitchison's first ever work experience and we wanted to make it a good one, so I had plenty of work ready for him. As it turned out David was an excellent worker who readily understood what was required of him and willingly carried out the tasks he was given.

As it was the beginning of the year there were plenty of engagements to be put in the Director's diary along with details of Communication Support we had booked.



David completed both the electronic diary and the paper one (well, at our age, me and my boss still like the old ways!)

David also added the details of the cheque payments and bank lodgements to the correct spreadsheets and filed the printouts in the appropriate folders.

I was beginning to get worried on two counts –

- a) Had I prepared enough work for him?
- b) I'd better look out for my job!

On the first count – to let you into a wee secret; I always have back up work ready as you never know the abilities of your work placement students.

Also, everything had been prepared before David's arrival including his induction pack, Health and Safety and Fire regulations for him to read, understand and sign, his job description and detailed instructions for each task as well as various information about SCoD and the weird assortment of people who work here.

On the second count – David is more than capable of undertaking admin tasks, particularly relating to the financial recording part of it. It is my hope and also that of his teachers that he will be able to find a suitable position when he leaves school. (But I'm not leaving SCoD yet!)



As is our tradition at SCoD we had a presentation ceremony on David's last day with Lilian giving him his certificate. You can see from the picture how pleased he was.

We all went home with a wee glow of happiness that Friday afternoon.

Counselling Awareness Project Update

by Barbra Wylie



The project is progressing and has been well received by those working with deaf and deafblind people and those in the counselling world.

Increase the knowledge of counselling among deaf and deafblind people.

I organised eight workshops; two in Edinburgh, and one each in Glasgow, Paisley, Dumfries, Aberdeen, Inverness and Falkirk. I was very pleased to be supported in these workshops by counsellors working with deaf and deafblind people. Those attending were therefore getting the information first hand and were also able to ask questions directly to someone experienced in the field. Another session in the Borders is planned as well as other locations. Please keep checking our website for updates.

Responses from those attending have been positive - all attendees felt the workshops were useful.

I have started contacting colleges with a high deaf and deafblind student population, universities and schools for deaf children, to arrange to hold workshops for their students, and the response has been very positive.

I will also be contacting hard of hearing groups, lipreading classes and other such groups.

As well as these I will be holding workshops in Deafblind Scotland and Hayfield specifically for their service users and also the Asian Deaf Club at Deaf Connections.

Making services more accessible through work with GPs, Counsellors and other Health Professionals

I sent questionnaires to GPs and mainstream counselling services. Response was positive. Around half of the GPs who responded expressed an interest in receiving deaf and deafblind awareness training.

On the topic of ensuring accessibility when referring deaf patients to mainstream counsellors, comments included

'Inform counsellor that this is an issue'
'Referral would be marked with problem'

Clearly there is still a way to go!

For more information please contact Barbra Wylie, Tel/Text 0141 221 2991, email barbra@scod.org.uk



What is a Credit Union?

A Credit Union is a financial cooperative owned and run by its members on a "not for profit" basis. The aim of a credit union is to encourage its members to save money and to give them access to borrowing at reasonable rates of interest. As the Credit Union is run for and by its members there are no third-party shareholders or bosses to take money away from savers.

All Credit Unions must have a "common bond". The bond might be that the Credit Union is open to everyone living or working in a particular postcode area; or working in the same service, for example the police force; or members of the same trade union.

Every Credit Union has a volunteer board with a maximum of 15 members. It is their role to set policy and ensure the Credit Union is operating within the law.

Credit Unions also provide a way to save or borrow money for people who cannot get access to a bank account due to their circumstances or where they live.

If you would like to know more about Credit Unions and whether or not there is one where you live or work, go to the Scottish League of Credit Unions website: www.scottishcu.org.



Actual Signs

Signing Away Communication Barriers

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0141 534 7912 (Glasgow)
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Deaf Awareness Training Customised for Your Organisation

In-house Workshops on the Topics You Need

We work with you to design your tailor-made training event. Actual Signs also deliver BSL Training, Interpreter Training, Consultation and Media Translation services in the UK.

www.actualsigns.com

The Visual Text: Theatre Becomes Total

Ramesh Meyyappan

Ramesh is Deaf and originally from Singapore. He moved to the UK some time ago and has finally settled in Glasgow's south side.

He came to the UK to study at the Liverpool Institute of Performing Arts (LIPA), where he followed and passed with first class honours their three-year degree course. Ramesh was also the first Deaf student at LIPA. He chose a "hearing" course because as he would be competing and performing alongside mainstream performers professionally, he thought it crucial to study alongside them, gaining the same insights and experiences.

Ramesh's skill is in presenting a story entirely visually. He can adapt a written text in a highly creative way, so that the result isn't exactly mime, but nor is it signed theatre - it's somewhere in between. It is this unique ability to exploit visual and physical styles which ensures that his performances are fully accessible to deaf and hearing audiences.

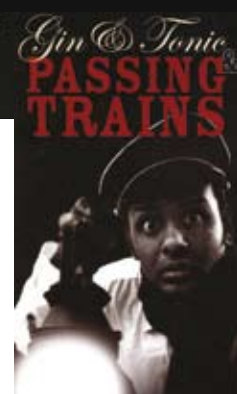
My first experience of Ramesh's theatrical style was *Gin and Tonic and Passing Trains*, based on the Charles Dickens story, *The Signalman*. I was amazed at how easily the narrative flowed without any dialogue and just how much more powerful this familiar story was when interpreted visually.

At the start of this year Ramesh became the founding artistic director of **little beacon** – a Scotland based theatre company developing visual performances as well as delivering workshops as part of its outreach work.

little beacon develops theatre projects through the exploration of a range of visual techniques. The resulting performance is a feast for the eyes!

Visit Ramesh online and contact him via his website

www.rameshmeyyappan.com
The site provides more information about his past, present and future performances.



little beacon



CAPTIONED & BSL INTERPRETED PERFORMANCES at the King's and Theatre Royal Glasgow Summer/Autumn 2009

THEATRE ROYAL GLASGOW



THE SILVER DARLINGS

Neil Gunn's classic Scottish novel comes to the stage in this epic adventure story.

Sign Language Interpreted Performance

Wed 9 Sep 7.30pm

Captioned Performance

Thu 10 Sep 7.30pm



CHITTY CHITTY BANG BANG

Starring **Barbara Rafferty**

The most fantasmagorical stage musical in the history of everything!

Sign Language Interpreted Performance

Thu 29 Oct 7.30pm



ALADDIN

Starring **Karen Dunbar, Gerard Kelly, Keith Jack and Gavin Mitchell.**

Sign Language Interpreted Performance

Wed 9 Dec 1pm & Sun 20 Dec 5pm

Captioned Performance

Fri 18 Dec 7pm & Wed 30 Dec 2pm



PEER GYNT

Don't miss this raucous and radical interpretation of Ibsen's classic play.

Sign Language Interpreted Performance

Fri 26 Jun 7.30pm

Captioned Performance

Thu 25 Jun 7.30pm



ANNIE

Starring **Su Pollard**

This heart-warming story of Annie's adventures has become one of the best-loved family musicals of all time.

Sign Language Interpreted Performance

Fri 7 Aug 7.30pm



SINGIN' IN THE RAIN

A brand new production of *Singin' in the Rain*, that is guaranteed to lift your spirits and send you out singing and dancing whatever the weather.

Sign Language Interpreted Performance

Thu 3 Sep 7.30pm

To book tickets either visit the King's Theatre Box Office on Bath Street, Glasgow (open 10am - 6pm Mon - Sat) or phone 0844 871 7677 (audio phone). Alternatively, textphone users can call Tynetalk on 18001 0844 871 7677, hearing persons can call 18002 0844 871 7677. Email: specialistsales@theambassadors.com

Annual General Meeting



Ramesh (see over) is one of the guest presenters at our AGM later this year. Taking place at The Gateway in Perth, the AGM is on Wednesday 28th October and starts at 2pm.

Attendance is free but you must book your place by contacting Alison:
by email: alison@scod.org.uk,
by telephone: **0141 248 2474**,
by fax: **0141 248 2479** or in person by visiting the SCoD office.

The Gateway is on North Methven Street, Perth PH1 5PP.

Supporting SCoD

Associate Membership



Associate Membership with SCoD was launched in April 2008. Since that time we have seen a steady growth. Members are enjoying many benefits; including the monthly bulletin, reports on business at parliament and invitations to our meetings: all for only £20 each year! Visit our website, download an application form, become an Associate Member today and carry your card with pride!

Full SCoD Membership Application Form

Organisation

I wish to become a Band Member (see back page 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 at the address/number on the back page

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!

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supporting
our work?

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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 an Associate Member
- Become a Full Member
- Make a donation
- Ask your employer about Payroll Giving
- Leave a Legacy in your Will
- Volunteer with SCoD

Contact us

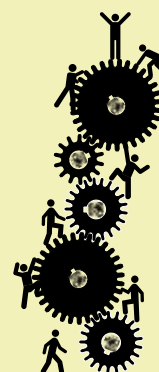
Voice: 0141 248 2474
 Text/Voice: 0141 248 2477 and 1854
 Fax: 0141 248 2479
 Email: admin@scod.org.uk
 Web: www.scod.org.uk
 Visit/Write: Central Chambers
 Suite 62
 93 Hope Street
 Glasgow
 G2 6LD

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

Associate Membership

You can become a SCoD Associate at any time and it only costs £20 each year. Contact us for an application form, by phone, email or download a form as a pdf from our website.



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.

You are invited to the SCoD Annual Open Day

Tuesday 8th September between 1pm - 6pm

Meet SCoD staff and project workers

Find out more about the work we do

Become a SCoD Associate Member

Everyone welcome

Refreshments available all day

