



## Welcome! 2009 sees many new exciting developments for the Deaf Centre

### Board of Trustees

Edward Webb Chair of the board of trustees sadly stepped down from his role at the beginning of the year. Teddy will be missed, his contribution to the board has proved invaluable over the years, giving the Deaf Centre, staff and service users a great deal of support. He has been very proactive in raising funds for the Centre. Robert Benson has taken over as Chair of the board of Trustees.

We welcome to the board two new members:

**Maria Beswick**, who will take the role of contributing and supporting services in relation to communication and interpreting issues. Maria comes from a deaf family herself, is a fully qualified interpreter and has experience of working both freelance and for an interpreting agency.

**Maz Mizra** will take the role of contributing to and supporting youth services, including issues faced by deaf children and their parents. Maz is the father of two deaf children and has supported the Deaf Centre's youth club over the years.

Sam Johnson has been appointed to the role of researching into residential homes. Sam is exploring the current situation and statistics of older deaf people isolated in mainstream homes. The aim of this research is to produce evidence of need which can be shown to the Council so they are able to support us in our goal to set up a residential home for the deaf. If anyone is aware of such evidence please contact our Operations Manager ([jude.nortier@manchesterdeafcentre.com](mailto:jude.nortier@manchesterdeafcentre.com)) to pass on this information.

### Service User Groups

The Deaf Centre supports a number of service user groups and we are striving to develop these groups further as well as bringing in new, additional groups that will ensure we are meeting the needs of deaf people of all ages.

Areas being explored for development include:

A partnership with Definitely Able to deliver training to deaf people seeking employment for the first time or looking to return to work.

The training needs of deaf people who wish to develop their IT skills

The launch of a new parent and toddler group

### BSL Charter

Brenda Hamlin recently attended the BSL Charter Conference in Bristol as a representative of Manchester Deaf Centre. The Charter aims for local authorities to improve overall access for deaf BSL users. Brenda, a participant of the Sensory Deaf Steering group will be working closely with myself and the Sensory team manager, Joe Kelly to look at how the BSL Charter can be incorporated into the Deaf Centre's and Manchester City Council's strategic plans.

### Other news....

Manchester Deaf Centre's President, Terry Riley, has recently been appointed Chief Executive of the BSL Broadcasting Trust. We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate him on this recent achievement. Congratulations are also to be given to Terry in being appointed the BDA Chair.

On that final note I would like to wish everyone a Happy Easter!

**Noel Traynor, CEO**

## Communication Services

We are pleased to have been chosen by the NWCPH (North West Collaborative Procurement Hub) as one of the organisations to provide interpreting services to the NHS in the North West . are 13 agencies on the list, some of which provide spoken language interpreters and some BSL interpreters.

Our 24 hour emergency service is available to all deaf people who need an interpreter to communicate with the police or hospital. We have cards with the emergency telephone number on them. If you need a card please let us know. You can then ask the hospital or police to phone us, do not call us yourself.

We will be printing new leaflets and posters to publicise our service soon. If you have any comments about our service please fill in a feedback form. You can get a form at reception.

## Building Improvements

The first part of the improvements to the Deaf Centre has now been finished. We now have two sets of automatic doors at the main entrance. The entrance lobby and reception counter have been modernised to make them fully accessible.

We are now making funding applications for the next stage of the work. We are hoping to modernise the whole building as soon as money is available. We need to raise at least £400,000 to pay for all the work. This includes replacing all the electrical wiring, modernising the TV room and main hall, creating a space for the youth group in the games room, new lavatories and more space for the Council's Sensory Team.

If you can help us with fundraising, please let us know.

## Tinnitus Group

Tinnitus in the UK has had a lot of publicity recently during National Tinnitus Week. Deaf Centre provided information all through the week. We had a guest speaker who spoke of his personal experience of Tinnitus and Karen Smith, a hearing therapist based at the MRI, came in to speak about managing Tinnitus and ways of relieving it through relaxation.

It can be a very debilitating condition and some find it difficult to manage. There is constant research into the causes of Tinnitus with the aim of finding cures for it. Although a cure may be some way off there are many resources for those affected. Sound maskers which can be worn, used in the room or under the pillow can help mask Tinnitus to provide some relief. Relaxation is definitely key as stress can worsen the condition. A visit to an ENT or Audiology Department can provide advice on how to manage it. Many find that a support group is beneficial in learning to cope with Tinnitus and managing the effects of it in their daily lives.

The Tinnitus Group at the Manchester Deaf Centre provides such support encouraging those affected to share their experiences of it. We also have speakers who provide advice on equipment and therapies available. We are currently working to increase the awareness of Tinnitus. We are pleased that the recent addition of new members make this a thriving support group. We meet the first Wednesday of every month from 1 – 3 pm and welcome new and returning members.

## 50+ Group

On the 15th December 2008 the 50+ group went on a trip to the Opera House in Manchester to see Mary Poppins.

On the 1st July 2009 they are planning a trip to Chester Zoo. On 19th December 2009 they will be going to the Palace Theatre to see Aladdin.

The Deaf Centre would like to thank the 50+ group for their generous donation of £300 to the Centre. The group continues to support the Deaf Centre as they have done for many years and we are very grateful.



# Classes at Manchester Deaf Centre

Manchester Deaf Centre has been running BSL courses for several years. Recently the curriculum and structures have changed. This year we have new tutors who are teaching the new modules. We welcome Sadia Grabham to our teaching team. Sadia is currently teaching Level 1 with us. Due to their hard work and commitment, we are pleased to report that 97% of our students have been successful in passing their exams.

We have a waiting list of people who have shown an interest in joining BSL Level 1 and 2 courses which will begin in September. We are planning to run three Level 1 classes and two Level 2 classes. We will also be starting Deaf Awareness Courses and a Lip-reading Class for the hard of hearing.

The Deaf Awareness Course will be 10 hours teaching time and 20 minutes for the assessment. This will be held at Manchester Deaf Centre on Tuesdays from 11am-4pm and cost £60. We can also run this course in your place of work for more details please contact us.

The Level 1 courses run for 27 weeks. There are three modules with an assessment at the end of each module. The course fee is £236. The Level 2 courses run over 8 months, one weekend each month. This also has three modules and three assessments. The course fee is £358.

The awarding body for these courses is Signature, (previously CACDP). You need to be 16+ to join a course. Call 0161 273 3415 or email [info@manchesterdeafcentre.com](mailto:info@manchesterdeafcentre.com)

## I Remember – A poem by Steve Rainey

When I was about 8  
Enjoying the immense pleasure  
Of all the happy faces  
Stays in my memory as a treasure

The smiles went from ear to ear  
The eyes all shining and glistening  
Listening to their children  
Doing their lovely singing

Carol singing we were doing  
To enjoy and celebrate  
The birth of Jesus  
Who was born on this date

They sang with their chests held high  
Remembering the words we had to sing  
We knew if we sang them right  
The joy we brought would be a sight

To sing like they did  
To all the crowd  
Made all the difference  
To them being proud

To hear the parents  
Cheering in the room  
Made all of our hearts  
Go boom-boom

I played the piano  
The best I could  
As the sister  
Knew I would

I will not forget  
That cheery night  
Because my parents were told  
I'd played the music right

I was feeling very uplifted  
As I was playing the tune  
As I showed everyone  
I wasn't a goon

My parents couldn't hear  
But they could see  
The happiness that  
Was all over me

The memory in my head  
Will never go away  
Cos I worked so hard  
So that I could play

On the piano all that night  
When the heavenly stars  
Shone so bright  
And we were looked at  
In a different light

I remember that night so well  
That it rings in my head like a bell  
We was there to celebrate  
And don't forget I was only 8.

Written by Steve 15 February 2002

## Volunteer Project

Since the last Newsletter there have been several developments within the Volunteering Project at the Deaf Centre.

Firstly I would like to welcome the new volunteers (too many to name!) who have started at the Deaf Centre and will be supporting our groups and projects. I hope you enjoy your volunteering here.

In February we had a very first in house volunteer team building and training day which was a huge success. To find out how it went from a volunteer perspective see the article below from Julia who was one of the participants.

Coming up, the Volunteer Project has a number of important dates including a Volunteer Celebration Evening on Thursday 4 June. This links in with the National Volunteer Week which celebrates and recognises the hard work, dedication and effort of all our volunteers.

Thank you

Jonathan Swift  
Volunteer Co-coordinator

## Volunteer Training Day

The training day was a fantastic opportunity for volunteers to get together, filled with group activities focusing on team building and BSL / Deaf Awareness.

As we all volunteer in various areas we have not all had a chance to meet previously. The group activities were really enjoyable as we were all able to share and learn new ideas and experiences from them. Working together to complete team activities enabled us to learn more about each other and the volunteering roles we each do.



Volunteers from left to right: Christine, Fernanda, Sarah and John. Photo by Noel Traynor

As I'm new to BSL one of my favourite parts was the Introduction to BSL. It was a good starting block on the way to learning BSL and fun practising with one another.

Volunteering within the D/deaf community it's important to be deaf aware and it's good to have the experience of learning first hand from someone their experiences of being deaf. Having Esmail and John speak about their personal experiences really gave an important understanding into what this is like.

I think we're all definitely looking forward to the next training event!

## Parent and Toddler Group

Launch Day Thursday 23 April 10 - 12noon

An opportunity for parents and young children in the deaf community to meet and help choose a name and direction for this exciting new group

Light refreshments will be provided

# Triangle Group



The Triangle Club is the only organisation in Manchester specifically for Deaf lesbians, gay men and bisexual people. It has a really exciting year ahead as members make plans to celebrate their 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary on May 29 2010. The celebration will be an opportunity for everyone to dress in their best and enjoy a fantastic four course meal at the Britannia Hotel in central Manchester. Watch this space for more information!.

Over the last few months there have been quite a number of changes as several long-standing members of the committee stand down to take a break and others take over. Some have previous experience of running the club and others, including the new chair, Darren O'Neil, are looking forward to taking on this role for the first time. At the moment, the club is in a handover period and is also adjusting to its new office with more room. It is still based within the Deaf Centre and members are grateful for the support they get from the Centre and from Noel. However, the club would still like to encourage more existing members (and other Deaf LGB people who might want to join) to get more involved in running the club and planning future events. In the past, it has been a very small group of people who have kept things running. For more information about the Triangle Club, email [triangle@manchesterdeafcentre.com](mailto:triangle@manchesterdeafcentre.com).

An emergency general meeting is also being held on Saturday 25 April from 1 - 4pm in the Centre to discuss 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary plans - all are welcome, including anyone who would like to join the Triangle Club.

## Youth Group Trip to Wales

My name is Michelle. On the 27<sup>th</sup> March the Youth Group went to Wales for the Weekend. We had a great time!!!!. It was nice meeting new people. My best bit was going to the disco. I had a fantastic time. I met loads of new deaf people from Liverpool, it was really nice to get to know them. We are now having an Easter Playscheme for 2 weeks and we will be doing lots of activities



## Fellwalking Dates 2009

**Easter Ross, Scotland** 9 - 14 April 5 nights at Inchbae Lodge

**Isle of Skye** 21 -26 May 5 nights

**Swiss Alps** 14 - 20 June 6 nights

**Southern Ireland** 28 August - 1 September 4 nights



For more information on the Fellwalking activities please email Ian Funnell at [iani40@hotmail.com](mailto:iani40@hotmail.com)

## Social Events

**Grand Bingo** Saturday 18 April From 5pm until late

**NWDA Citizen Senior Rally** Saturday 19 May 2 - 10pm

Contact Shirley Whiteside, 7 Hazel Close, Bamber Bridge, Preston PR5 6PL for more details



## Deaf Blind Club

2008:

**Haydock Races Day out:** Karen put the bet on for Ona and Ona won!

**The Isle of Man Day out:** Members went out to sea on the trip, which took them around the island. However, on the second trip round, they decided to stand up in the boat. It then became 'stuck' in the sand and they had to wait for the tide to come back in.

**Devon 2 Day visit.** There were 32 Pubs to visit and some members, decided to visit them all! Hic!

**January 2009: A Day at the Dogs.** On one of the days out with the volunteers, Ona, one of the Members and Ian's mum who is a volunteer, won at the Dogs! Ona also seems to win on a regular basis after Karen picks the winner. Karen is the Treasurer and puts the bets on for her!

### Groups at the Deaf Centre

**50+ Group** Meets every Monday, except Bank Holidays, from 1-6pm  
Activities include Bingo, Outings to places of interest and other Deaf Clubs.

**Tinnitus Support Group** Meets first Wednesday of the month 1-3pm  
Guest speakers and general discussion.

**Deafblind Group** Meets every Friday 12-3pm  
Variety of activities and speakers attending the group and general socialising.

**Triangle Group** 2nd Saturday of the Month at the Rembrandt Pub in Canal Street.

**Youth Group** Every Friday 7-9pm

**Social Club** every Monday 7-11.30pm General social night

**Church Services** second Monday of the month 1.10pm

**Easter and Summer Playschemes** organised every year.  
Easter 2 weeks. Summer 4 weeks last week of July through August.

For more information look on our website [www.manchesterdeafcentre.com](http://www.manchesterdeafcentre.com)