

Access Points

A newsletter from Deaf Access,
Bromley Resource Centre for the Hearing impaired

A REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL REPORT FROM MADAM CHAIR - PAT JACOBS



I should like to begin by reaffirming Deaf Access' Mission Statement: and commitment to all our clients;

'Deaf Access helps Deaf and Hard of Hearing people to improve and maintain their independence by providing information, support and services as well as promoting public awareness and understanding.'

During a typical week at Deaf access, people seek advice or help in many ways whether by phone, Minicom, fax, email or in person. Sometimes relatives will come in to talk to someone about an elderly parent who might be helped by some of the equipment on display in our equipment room. Many Deaf people come for our advocacy service or to access some of the many groups or services available now. The range of services offered by us has increased beyond our expectations.

Our equipment room continues to be very busy as people access our independent demonstrations service. People often write expressing their appreciation for the kindness shown, as well as the informative and humorous, sessions. It really emphasises the life changing impact equipment can have when coping with hearing loss - which affects the families too.

The Tinnitus and Hard of hearing group continue with their regular talks and social sessions, which attract a good core following. Future talks to look forward to include a special visit on 13th August from the Director of the British Tinnitus Association - Martin Wass. We thank the speakers who kindly travel here to talk to our group.

As we enter our final year of City Parochial funding for our advocacy service we are increasingly busy as more people hear of us. Our advocacy service also covers groups and activities designed to encourage and empower Deaf people so includes more that just the most obvious things.

We offer advice to deaf people on a wide range of issues including Welfare Benefits, Housing, consumer / disability rights and Debt. (However for Immigration advice we refer clients to specialist organisations). Our support enables Deaf BSL users to live independently at their own homes. We do basic tasks such as form filling, sorting out mail and bills, making telephone enquiries, translating documents into BSL and dealing with utilities. We now operate an appointment service on Tuesdays and Wednesdays with Fridays as drop in. To aid independence clients can personally book an appointment in advance or send a text message on the day requesting a slot. We aim to offer an appointment on the same day if possible.

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Access points is the newsletter of Deaf Access, The Bromley Resource Centre for the Hearing Impaired, available to: 'Friends of Deaf Access' - Contact centre for details.	

REVIEW OF THE ANNUAL REPORT - Continued

The weekly Job Club is held on Wednesdays. The informal club was run mainly by volunteers, providing support, local newspapers and relevant employment information. We also assisted with CV's and help with calling prospective employers. There were also some presentations given to the group including self employment and hearing awareness. For a period of 3 months a Disability Employment Advisor, from Bromley, visited the Job Centre. Following a review to improve our provision and client need, the decision was made, starting April 2007, to form a partnership with Dering Employment Ltd from Croydon, to run the Job Club.

The Over 55's BSL Social Club dwindled in number until the recent loss of another member made the remaining 4 consider folding the group altogether. Following an open meeting, the decision was made to advertise directly at the 55 - 70+ age groups. The club is now flourishing and we are seeing more new faces appear each session. Now there are plans to include trips and more activities.

In January 2007 as part of our aim to encourage Deaf people to live a more active lifestyle we set up a new Badminton Club in Forest Hill. Due to popularity we are currently looking at moving this club to a new venue, where we can use 4 courts for 2 hours to incorporate proper coaching as well as fun sessions.

Positive Deaf Lifestyle talks have included 'Understanding and Using a Videophone,' 'Your Local Police' and BSL Quiz Evenings. Plans are also afoot to arrange regular Talks and Workshops related to health, fitness and other key topics (as identified by our clients' questionnaires) in the autumn.

We are indebted to City Bridge Trust, for funding us for 3 years to work with children and families and for this purpose Matthew Powe has now joined our team. We will be working closely over the next few years with social services, schools and organisations including Children of Deaf Parents UK, Deaf Parenting UK, Bromley Deaf Families, Bromley Deaf children's society and Greenwich Deaf Play scheme, assisting with their events and building up strong partnerships together. We aim to set up family signing classes and work with local authorities and relevant groups to collate all the information becoming a central point of referral. We offer advice to parents on choice of schools, DLA and other issues they may have.

The parent and toddler group is for deaf or hearing parents with deaf / hearing children. They meet Thursday mornings from 11.00am - 2.00pm. During the summer months they arrange visits to the park and a variety of other places. (Please see website for details) During the winter there will be periodic talks on topics of interest to families. Due to group request, it is now parent-led with back up from the advocates.

Finally, I would like to thank all the volunteers including the Trustees who give their time, skills and care to Deaf Access. Without their help only a fraction of what Deaf Access does could be achieved. Thank you all.

Madam Chair - Patricia Jacobs



The Trustees - Left to Right:

David Connolly, Alan Roberts, Councillor Carole Hubbard, Michael Pink, Diane Blackmore, Nadine Booth & Paul Gibbons

JULY'S 'PAGE 3 GIRL'

Frankie Farnan is often the first friendly face you may meet as you come through the doors at Deaf Access. She is our Receptionist / Admin.

Frankie, as many others have, first joined Deaf Access as a volunteer in August 2006 - helping out with many of the mundane jobs that need to be done. Her quiet, helpful and friendly manner soon got her noticed and this year she joined us all here at the centre as a permanent member of staff.

She has had several interesting jobs before arriving here, including working within the Salvation Army, receptionist at a Detective Agency and setting up a photography studio with a friend. In fact photography is her main hobby and would love to do more professionally.

Frankie has two sons aged 20 and 18 who live with her. Apart from photography she enjoys skating when she gets the time!

Personally, I think she should also have the job description of 'On Site IT Consultant' as she seems to be so good at trouble shooting our computer problems and is an absolute whiz with a Screwdriver!!



Frankie Farnan
Receptionist / Admin.

Ed.

WELSH BOY COMES TO LONDON



Matty Powe - Advocate

'Hi' my name is Matthew Powe, although some people call me Matty P'. I was born in Swansea in 1983 and became deaf when I was aged 3 years due to whooping cough. Both my parents are deaf, although my younger sister and brother are both hearing.

When I was 11 years old my parents decided to send me to Mary Hare Grammar School for the Deaf, as a boarder. They thought I would gain a better education there. I really didn't enjoy myself during that first year, I didn't know anyone and was very homesick. Gradually, my confidence grew and by the time I was 18, I never wanted to go back home!

Since leaving school I have done many different jobs, gaining many different skills from gardening to administration. Then one day I received a job offer in London working for a charity

organisation called 'SIGN' and this is when I moved to London. I have also been involved with a number of volunteering work, including Greenwich Deaf Play Scheme, football coaching and Deaf PLUS. I really enjoyed working with Deaf PLUS, which involved, amongst other things, helping motivate people to find work and their eligibility for benefits etc., that I apply for the job as an Advocate here at Deaf Access.

So on 17th April I began my new job in advocacy at Deaf Access. I'm working along side Jonny Nelson, and mainly focusing on deaf children with hearing parents and deaf parents with hearing children. I will also be involved with other advocacy services, such as organising different events and encouraging people who have difficulty maintain their own independency.

I live with my partner Caroline who suffers my love of football. I am a mad football fan; I sleep, drink, eat and even play football. I currently play for St. Johns Arsenal Deaf FC, and support Liverpool FC. When not involved with football or other sports I enjoy playing golf, and two years ago won the first Welsh Deaf Open Championship held in Porthcawl.

Matty Powe

Poise Your Pen For The Puzzle Poser Page



WORD CONNECT

WALL	PAPER	CLIP
BLACK		CREAM
ELECTRIC		WAY
NEST		CUP
SPEAK		LISTENING
WINDOW		BAG
FOOTBALL		BLACK
BUTTER		FINAL
QUICK		CASTLE
BUS		WATCH

Find the word that ends the first and begins the second word.

The First one has been done for you: -

'Paper'

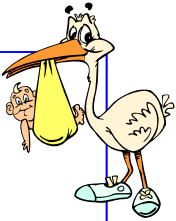
Wallpaper
Paperclip

SUDOKU

8	7		9		6	4			
1			3		4			7	
		3			5			9	
	1		2	8		5	6		
	2			6				3	
	8	6		5	9			2	
	9		5			6			
	6		7		8			5	
			1	6		2		8	7

THE BRAIN BAFFLER

Two girls are born to the same mother on the same day, at the same time, in the same year and yet they are not twins? How can this be?



Word Grid

I	Z	L
R	G	D
N	I	Z



Find the 9 lettered word within the grid, then see how many words you can make of 4 letters or more. Note: You can only use each letter once and each word must contain the central letter 'G'.

Place a number from 1 - 9 in each of the empty squares - so that each row, each column and each of the 3 x 3 squares contains all the numbers from 1 - 9.

What dance can you do in the Bathroom?

Answers to all puzzles on Page 8.

BATTERIES & RE-TUBING CLINIC OPENS AT CENTRE NEW FREE SERVICE FROM DEAF ACCESS & HI KENT



If you have a National Health Service hearing aid, you can now pop into Deaf Access during office hours to collect replacement batteries! We are delighted to be working in partnership with Audiology & Hi Kent to be able to offer you these new services in the centre of Bromley!

Deaf Access have been negotiating to provide this vital service for some years and are pleased to announce that the Audiology Department at Farnborough Hospital are working with us and colleagues at Hi Kent, to supply batteries so that local people do not have to travel to Farnborough hospital or pay for postage to obtain their NHS batteries.

Hi Kent have experience of providing Hearing aid clinics throughout Kent so we are pleased that they will be working with Deaf Access Volunteers to run a monthly clinic where you can have your NHS hearing aid re-tubed, free of charge.

Clinics will be on the second Monday of every month.
Commencing on:

Monday 13th August 2007
From 10.30am - 12.30am Only

IS IT JUST A VASE OF SUNFLOWERS ? BSL & BSL-INTERPRETED EVENTS AT THE NATIONAL GALLERY

Have you ever found yourself in an art gallery gazing at a painting and wondering what the artist actually wanted to convey in his brush strokes or the story behind its existence? Well now you can find out. The National Gallery, which houses the nation's collection of Western European paintings of famous masterpieces now has an integrated programme of British Sign Language interpreted lectures and talks.

Throughout the year, free talks are given in BSL by deaf lecturers or in spoken English with BSL interpretation. The talks are open to everyone, highlighting different paintings in the Gallery's collection and their special exhibitions. They then invite you to respond through discussion.

Many talks are often followed by practical workshops for which there is a charge. For these events advance booking is advisable.

Their next talk, spoken in English with a BSL Interpretation is entitled:

'Dangerous Liaisons: Van Gogh: Sunflowers',

It is scheduled for Saturday 7 July 2007, in Room 45 and will commence at 1.00pm followed by a discussion group at 1.30pm. Grant Rogers explores the explosive relationship between Van Gogh and Gauguin and the circumstances that led Van Gogh to paint his 'Sunflowers' series.



Van Gogh's Sunflowers

INVITATION



DEAF ACCESS 11TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

on behalf of Patricia Jacobs the Chair, and the Trustees of Deaf Access we are writing to invite you, as a Friend of Deaf Access, to be our guest at our eleventh Annual General Meeting on :

TUESDAY 24th JULY at 7.30pm at DEAF ACCESS

Our speaker will be the previous Mayor of Bromley, Councillor Charles Joel who kindly supported Deaf Access and Bromley Sparks as his charities for the year. It will be wonderful to hear about his experiences and the highlights of his year as the Mayor of Bromley.

It will be an informal meeting of the Trustees, Staff, special guests like yourselves and Friends of Deaf Access only, followed by cheese and wine.

We do hope that you will be able to attend -
and if so, may we request your **RSVP's by 13th July** please?

We look forward to meeting you again.

Kind regards

Sue Craney - Centre Director

OPPORTUNITIES FOR VOLUNTEERING - 25th ANNIVERSARY EVENT

Deaf Access is entering their 2nd year of their 3 year '**Positive Lifestyles**' project. There have been 2 successful 'understanding your deafness' courses for deafened and hard of hearing people to date as well as BSL talks covering life skills and other topics. Friday 22nd June an open day to try different sports activities was held in Bromley's Leisure centre the Pavilion. In the autumn there will be a new program of further talks, topics and workshops. See the next newsletter for the details!



Sue Craney



Alan Martin

On the 1st June Deaf Access attended a special 25th anniversary event for OFV in Manchester. This was both in celebration of the anniversary and the launch of the 2007 Annual Report. The Lord Mayor of Manchester, Glynn Evans welcomed all the people involved with the scheme, representatives from old and new projects, but most important of all - the volunteers.

The Parliamentary Under-secretary for the Department of Health, Ivan Lewis, then gave a speech outlining his early days as a Volunteer and about the benefits of getting funding. He spoke at length about the satisfaction he got from volunteering and its value. He also relayed his experience of worrying about getting funding to continue and the relief when they got funding just 6 weeks before they would have had to close down! Many present understood those pressures well!

Everyone appreciated hearing the personal experiences of Volunteers from 4 current OFV projects covering all ages which was emphasized by Liz Tilly, who spoke about the impact of OFV on the development of their organisation 'Options for Life'.

Then we had a dramatic performance by Alan Martin who danced in his wheelchair to music he had composed. Alan himself was first supported by the Drake Music OFV project and is now self employed. Another OFV success story!



Cutting The Cut

This positive event then concluded with cutting the 25th anniversary cake and networking!

" HAPPY BIRTHDAY "



The Hearing Dogs For the Deaf Charity proudly celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, and where more appropriate to launch their birthday celebrations? The world stage of Crufts of course! In fact it was at Crufts in 1982 that the charity was first launched, with a demonstration of Hearing Dog 'Favour' - the very first mongrel to ever enter in the ring of the most famous dog show in the world. Within the last 25 years Hearing Dogs For the Deaf have transformed the lives of more than 1,300 hearing impaired people.

To commemorate their quarter of a century Hearing Dogs For the Deaf in partnership with the National Trust, have organised many events to raise awareness and funds, at selected properties across England and Wales. Please see www.hearingdogs.org.uk for details.

Hearing Dogs For the Deaf have also played their part in daily life here at Deaf Access too. First there was Terry Warren's beautiful Golden Retriever 'Barney' and then Cindy Dancer's loveable dog 'Rocky'.

Anyone who's a regular visitor at Deaf Access, would have undoubtedly come across Cindy Dancer's Hearing Dog 'Rocky'.



'Rocky'

Rocky is a 4 yr old Cocker Spaniel and was originally the family dog but at 2½ yrs was assessed by Hearing Dogs and found to be a suitable candidate.

Cindy says, "It's amazing how he can generalise his training from home to work without any further training, although she thinks food is his great motivation together with the fuss people make of him!"

Cindy has now gone to work as a manager for the National Register of Access Consultants, taking Rocky along with her. I must say, during his time at the centre Rocky certainly became a firm favourite with everyone here and was the envy of all the girls - he had eyelashes to die for !!

Do you remember 'Barney' the Golden Retriever that belongs to Terry Warren? Barney was the first Hearing Dog that Deaf Access had working here. Although no longer at the centre, Terry has kindly written a piece about him for us:

"Barney was originally a rescue dog but after being trained by the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf he was matched up with me and has been my hearing assistance dog for the last 6 years. Having an assistance dog has increased my confidence in facing the world. Whether it is out shopping, going to a restaurant or walking in a park, having Barney there to constantly be aware of the sounds around makes me confident. He is well trained to be alert for a wide range of sounds, many of which, hearing people take for granted, but Barney knows when to communicate when anything might be of a danger or risk to me.



'Barney' & Terence

Many people still think that the only assistance dogs, are the guide dogs for the blind, I find I often have to educate people in shops and cafes. We often get challenged, but the law is there to support them and people are gradually being made aware of the role that dogs can play in improving the lives of people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

At home Barney reacts differently in letting me know when someone is at the door, the fire alarm, the cooker timer and even when the fax starts running. This enables me to totally relax and feel safe and comfortable in my own home.

As for Barney - He is one very happy dog, he is loved, groomed and cared for. He has a purpose, and anyone who meets him adores him. He revels in his role and is devoted to me. He is a great example of a working dog and hopefully will inspire many more deaf people to get themselves, not only a wonderful companion, but also a good friend and invaluable helper."

Terence Warren



DEAF LINK COMES TO BROMLEY

Bromley DeafLink is due to launch in September with a Graduation ceremony for 5 Bromley Police Officers who will have recently successfully passed their BSL Level 1 exam. They will join three Bromley officers and staff who already hold this qualification. The eight officers and staff will form the DeafLink Scheme who will provide a more professional service to the Deaf, Deafened and Hard of Hearing community who live, work and socialize in Bromley. They will also enable the community to report crime and allow access to crime prevention advice and any other crime related information.

The DeafLink Scheme will allow officers and staff who have received Deaf Awareness training and BSL to support borough officers with communication issues. DeafLink Officers will attend, by prior appointment where possible, **non-urgent crime** scenes and other incidents where there is a need for communication support. Non-urgent incidents may include taking a crime report or giving advice.

The DeafLink Officers are **NOT** Interpreters but will offer assistance to police colleagues where communication support is required, for example, at the front counter of the police station, or assisting in the custody suite if a deaf person has been arrested to inform them that an interpreter has been contacted, or at a scene of a crime where a forensic officer may have communication difficulties. The DeafLink Scheme is **NOT** an emergency response unit, the officers are not on a call out system and unfortunately do not offer 24 hour coverage.

The DeafLink Officers will have a drop-in session that will be held once a month* at the Deaf Access Centre whereby members of the Deaf, Deafened and Hard of Hearing community can attend and sign with police officers. We are in the process of obtaining funding for a dedicated Minicom, telephone, SMS text, and email address which we will then be promoting shortly within the Deaf Community.

Iain Bowyer
Metropolitan Police



* Please contact centre for details.

Answers to the puzzles on Page 4.

WORD CONNECT

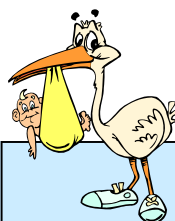
WALL	PAPER	CLIP
BLACK	ICE	CREAM
ELECTRIC	MOTOR	WAY
NEST	EGG	CUP
SPEAK	EASY	LISTENING
WINDOW	SHOPPING	BAG
FOOTBALL	PITCH	BLACK
BUTTER	CUP	FINAL
QUICK	SAND	CASTLE
BUS	STOP	WATCH

Word Grid

The nine letter word is
DRIZZLING

SUDOKU

8	7	2	9	1	6	4	5	3
1	5	9	3	2	4	8	7	6
6	4	3	8	7	5	2	9	1
4	1	7	2	8	3	5	6	9
9	2	5	4	6	7	1	3	8
3	8	6	1	5	9	7	2	4
7	9	8	5	3	1	6	4	2
2	6	4	7	9	8	3	1	5
5	3	1	6	4	2	9	8	7



THE BRAIN BAFFLER :

She had triplets !!!

What dance can you do in the Bathroom? A Tap Dance of Course !

PAT SAYS FAREWELL

It is with regret we will be saying 'Goodbye' to Patricia Jacobs who will be standing down as Madam Chair in September. Pat has been of tremendous support to many people in the deaf community throughout the years, where she has worked in many fields.



'This wonderful lady started out teaching literacy, drama and laterly worked tirelessly as a Volunteer to support and promote Deaf Access in Bromley. As well as giving positive deaf awareness talks to groups she became a Trustee. She trained as a Tinnitus counsellor and dedicated many hours to offering an empathic but practical and informative ear to some distressed people.

Her enthusiasm and enery have been a driving force for the centre where she has attended many exhibitions, and presented talks promoting the work we do. She has always been quick to come forward and unstiniting in giving her time.

On behalf of myself and the Staff of Deaf Access we wish her every success for the future. Her retirement to Spain, is well deserved, but she will leave a very BIG gap locally!

Sue Craney - Centre Director



David Connolly had this to say:

'I was pleased and priviledge to have her as my secretary when I was invited to be the first Chairman of Bromley Chain some 26 years ago. It is strange therefore to have

had our roles reversed 25 years later when Pat became the chairperson of Deaf Access and I, the company secretary!

Pat has been such a hard worker over the years for individuals as well as for the deaf and hearing impaired community and speaks out, when needed, to support and campaign for the hearing impaired of Bromley. We all therefore will miss her - but wish her well in her retirement.'

**David Connolly -
Deaf Access
Treasurer**



'Even though Pat has a very active involvement

here at the centre she still finds time to volunteer twice a week (sometimes more!!) to run the Tinnitus and Hard of Hearing Group. In fact we all agree her enthusiasm and zeal have made the group what it is today. She will definitely be missed and we all wish her well in her new adventure.'

Penny - Administrator



Pat was recently awarded a well deserved 'RNID Community Award' in recognition of all her voluntary and supportive work within the Deaf Community.

Everyone involved with Deaf Access would like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you for all your hard work and time given to us at the centre. We will all certainly miss your guiding hand here Pat and wish you 'Bon Voyage' to your new life over in Sunny Spain. **Ed.**



Access Points

SPOTLIGHT ON MICHAEL PINK



Michael Pink

Unfortunately we also have to say goodbye to Michael Pink. Michael is standing down from being Treasurer and trustee of Deaf Access this year.

Michael very generously agreed to stand-in temporarily as our Treasurer when David Masters retired, three years ago, and this temporary position has become somewhat extended.

He has been a rock and a guiding hand to the Trustees as Treasurer and has been a great support to us all. We thank him

for his diligence and responsibility in performing his tasks and leaving us with records that should be easy to understand for our incoming Treasurer.

I have only known Michael for a few years but I have become aware of his hard work in so many other spheres as well as with Deaf Access and we are grateful for the time that he has spent assisting us amongst his other varied jobs, all of which are in the community and supporting people in the locality. We wish you well Michael and thank you for all your help.

David Connelly

SUMMER SALE REMINDER



Don't Forget

Deaf Access Summer Sale

Date: Saturday 14 July 2007

Place: The United Reformed Church, Widmore Road, Bromley, (next to Boots).

Time: 11am - 3pm

Do try to come along - even if it's just to have a cup of tea, eat a sticky bun and say 'Hello'.

Deaf Access Would Like To Say Thank You To:

Our fund raisers & donors; London Borough of Bromley, Dept of Health OFV (UKCoD), City Parochial, Rotary Clubs West Wickham & Bromley, The City Bridge Trust, The Mayor of Bromley - Councillor Joel, Masonic - Ivy Lodge, Emmanuel Church, Unicorn Primary School, clients, friends and family members who have made donations to enable us to continue to provide our vital services.

Bromley Chain, Churchill Theatre, Hi Kent and the many different organisations & individuals who work with us or support us, past and present.

Special thanks go to our team of Volunteers and Trustees. Without them we could not achieve as much as we do.

Thank you

Deaf Access

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Susan Craney

Patricia Jacobs

And Finally -
Something to think about:

Laugh often, long and loud.

Laugh until you gasp for breath !