

the community
the hubSpring 2011
Issue 2a community newsletter
from the Deaf Cultural Centre

Deaf talent dazzle at the Deaf Cultural Centre

To celebrate Deaf talent during the festive season, BID Services hosted a Variety show called "Razzle Dazzle", on Saturday, 11th December, at the Deaf Cultural Centre, Ladywood, Birmingham.

BID Services has been supporting the Deaf community for over 100 years and this event highlights the many ways in which deaf people celebrate and explore their creative talents. Being Deaf is not necessarily a barrier to experiencing and enjoying music and songs. The Deaf community have a very rich culture in interpreting music through sign language and visual

representation.

Both events - one in the afternoon for the younger audience and one in the evening for the older audience - showcased a range of very talented deaf artists and performers who each have their own extraordinary talents, which appealed to both deaf and hearing audiences. Those performed included Richard Carter, a gifted and well-known deaf poet with a natural talent for words, Rebecca Anne-Withey, an acclaimed sign-song performer who marries the sound of music with music to the eyes, John Smith, a hilarious profoundly deaf comedian, who engages

his audience in hours of laughter reflecting on growing up deaf in a hearing world, Riccardo, a dancer, who creates a truly visual experience through movement and song, and a Birmingham-based theatre company called InteGreat, who performed drama and singing.

Further shows are being planned this year and we look forward to welcoming both old and new audiences to these amazing events.

Welcome to The Community Hub, the Deaf Cultural Centre's community newsletter.

What's inside?

What's been happening at the Deaf Cultural Centre?

Deaf Arts

Deaf Sports Project

Our Cafe is changing

Party at the DCC

Group Profile: Birmingham
Deaf Football Club

Job Club

Dates for your Diary!

Each issue will include information about the Deaf Cultural Centre and other news happening in the community.

Please note this second issue is a one off print and future issues will be distributed via email. If you are not on our contact list and would like to receive a copy of future issues, then please send an email to communityhub@deafculturalcentre.com and mention 'subscribe' in the subject title. If you don't have an email address, a few printed copies will be available in the DCC. You can also read each issue on the Deaf Cultural Centre website which you can find under the 'newsletters' section of our website - www.deafculturalcentre.com

What's been happening at the Deaf Cultural Centre?

A brief review of the year that was 2010!

Where better to celebrate, create and participate than at the Deaf Cultural Centre? Centre visitors were able to do just that at different events throughout the last 12 months.

Arts

An active arts programme has kept Deaf artists busy but what an exciting time for them!

An Away Day was established for Deaf Artists and performers, to create a new plan/strategy for the [Deaf Arts Network](#)'s direction over the next few years. It was a brilliant day which re-energised their vision. The Network continue to meet regularly - a great opportunity for them to get together, share ideas and empower developing artists into moving forward with their dreams and plans.

Check out pages 4-5 to find out what else they got up to for the rest of the year!

Health

BID Services is working in partnership with a number of organisations including SignHealth, a national healthcare charity for a special project. They will be leading a major research programme to study the health of deaf people and provide the evidence needed to prove that deaf people's right to good health is not being met and also to carry out audits on health centres in Birmingham.

Alison Leach, deaf health ambassador, arranged a consultation event at the Deaf Cultural Centre where deaf visitors had the opportunity to share their experiences of accessing health provisions in Birmingham.

If you have experienced issues or problems when accessing your GP or the health service and would like to share your story, contact Alison Leach.

Sports

With funding and support from StreetGames and other funders, BID Services created a new opportunity for young deaf people to take part in organised sport. This follows a series of consultations BID undertook last year with educational establishments and youth clubs/groups to find out about the kind of sports they wanted to try.

The new [Deaf Sports Project](#) has been designed to engage with young deaf people and empower them to experience and learn different and new sports never before tried.

To kick off the new Sports Project, co-ordinator Alison Leach organised an evening event, which took place on Wednesday 10th November 2010. Young deaf people and their friends enjoyed many matches of Pole Jousting, which brought out their competitive

sides!

An action packed programme of sporting activities, for all age groups (from 8 to 25 years old) have been planned for February 2011 to June 2011 - dates for events in February are on page 5 - they will take place at either one of two venues, Deaf Cultural Centre and the National Indoor Arena (NIA) in the Community Hall. The programme will be changed every month to reflect dates and activities until the project finishes in July 2011. To learn more about the Sports Project or to get in touch, please contact Alison Leach: 0121 246 6100 (voice), 0121 246 6101 (textphone) or email alison.leach@bid.org.uk

Birmingham Deaf Football Club has had an active year with many of their young deaf footballers playing in 2 national competitions and in both of them, managed to reach the final! Although they did not lift the cup on both occasions, reaching the final was an achievement considering it had been some years since they got to the final in a football tournament on a national level. The Club will be celebrating their 90th anniversary this year - find out more about them on page 7!

Community

Although it's been a quiet Summer and Winter for the **Birmingham Deaf Community**



Group, they continue to look after the 50+ Group every Wednesday at the Deaf Cultural Centre and the Afternoon Tea sessions on a Saturday once every month. Both days attract up to 50 visitors and bingo is included. The Afternoon Tea sessions include buffet and raffle.

Wednesday 27th October saw nearly 50 deaf visitors from Derby's 50+ Group at the Deaf Cultural Centre and many reminisced the old times. There are already plans for the Birmingham 50+ Group to visit Derby next year – if you would like to join them for their visit, please contact Teresa Allcock.

After applications for funding to some organizations and trusts, they have achieved funding for an exciting new project with young Deaf people. The committee is liaising with BID Services and the young people to develop the

project and hopes to announce details on this very soon!

Although the BDCG will continue to run 4 Grand Bingo sessions next year to coincide with the holiday seasons – 16th April (Easter Grand Bingo), 21st May (May Grand Bingo), 29th October (Halloween Grand Bingo) and Christmas Grand Bingo (18th December) – the committee are looking into arranging different events for 2011. If you have an idea and would like to share it with us, then please get into touch with Teresa.

Teresa Allcock can be contacted at the Deaf Cultural Centre on Wednesdays or via email: teresa.allcock5@hotmail.co.uk

Birmingham Deaf Community Group was established in 2008 to encourage opportunities for deaf people to meet up socially and arrange events throughout the year.





Creative Extravaganza Deaf Arts an exciting time!

The Deaf Arts Network UK (DANUK for short) was established in 2007, shortly before the Deaf Cultural Centre opened its doors to the community but after 3 years, they needed more support.

With funding from the Arts Council injected into a new 3 year arts programme, Alison Breadon was appointed the Arts Officer and within months, developed an active programme which has kept artists very busy! The arts programme has supported up to 50 artists and continue to do so.

The Away Day, was an excellent opportunity for artists to get together. Facilitated by Deaf artist and writer Melissa Mostyn-Thomas, the artists and the Network are now re-energised, and ready to face

challenges for the next 3 years!

Alison also arranged two 'Jam Tomorrow' Days, which enabled Deaf and disabled artists from across the country to find out more about some of the most groundbreaking projects happening right now - art exhibitions, digital work and new plays - challenging mainstream art to recognise and value the creative vision of Deaf and disabled artists.

Not to be deterred from all this, the Network continued their Annual Creative Hands Deaf Arts Festival, which took place in July. Learning and professional Deaf artists exhibited examples of their work round Simister Hall. Some of the artists also gave BSL talks on the background of DANUK, the exhibition and what they were planning for the festival week and

the rest of the year.

There were also day workshops for deaf pupils from local and regional deaf and mainstream schools, where craft skills were demonstrated and learnt with professional Deaf artists, Louise Buglass and Iva Hay.

BSL events at external venues such as Ikon took place throughout the festival week, where organisers led BSL talks for deaf visitors.

Working in partnership with Ladywood Arts Trail and Words, Signs and Vibes (WSV), deaf and hearing children created a Halloween Spooktacular Show, which took place on Saturday 30th October. Deaf children spent three days transforming the hall with spiderwebs, skeletons and cauldrons followed with a scary

performance full of ghosts, vampires, witches and zombies, which in turn freaked out their unsuspecting audience! Following this success, WSV will be running 2 drama schools during the summer for the next 2 years - so keep an eye out for further information if you would like your children to come along!

Finally, a huge part of the arts programme this year, has been on an exciting and innovative project. Deafinitely Theatre, based in London, have been up in Birmingham and the Black Country for most of the year - meeting deaf people at local clubs across the 2 regions and they have had a great time! Deafinitely Theatre are a professional Deaf lead theatre company, and we commissioned them to create a script inspired by the lives and stories of Deaf people here in the West Midlands. Through drama workshops that included a lot of fun, games and some very

expressive storytelling, Andrew Muir and Paula Garfield collected ideas and inspiration, and are busy putting together, a fantastic show to take place. If funding is successful, it is hoped auditions and rehearsals will begin in the Spring and the show will take place in the Summer. It will be a big celebration of our local Deaf heritage, not to be missed!

If you'd like to get involved in the arts programme, please contact Alison.breadon@deafculturalcentre.com.



Deaf Sports Project

The Deaf Sports Project has been designed to promote sports and allow deaf children and young people to try different and new sports.

Football for 8 - 11 yr olds
Wed 2nd March 2011, 4:30pm - 7pm
NIA Community Hall

Rowing for 16 - 25 yr olds
Wed 9th March 2011, 8pm - 10pm
Deaf Cultural Centre

Boxercise for 14 - 25 yr olds
Wed 16th March 2011, 8pm - 10pm
Deaf Cultural Centre

Basketball (Part 1) for 8 - 16 yr olds
Wed 23rd March, 4:30pm - 7pm
NIA Community Hall

Basketball (Part 2) for 8 - 16 yr olds
Wed 30th March, 4:30pm - 7pm
NIA Community Hall

Above activities cost £1 and are subject to change so please call beforehand to check.

All children and young people must complete a registration form before they can participate in any activity.

Please contact Alison Leach for details and/or to obtain a registration form: 0121 246 6100 (voice), 0121 246 6101 (textphone) or email: Alison.leach@bid.org.uk



Are you looking for a special venue to hold your party?

The Deaf Cultural Centre (DCC) is a very modern and unique centre located close to Birmingham City Centre. It offers a flexible venue to host events and parties, in an accessible, inspiring and modern space. With three rooms accommodating between 5-150 people, the facilities are ideal for your next event or party. All of our events are catered through our in-house café, which is also open to the public.

If you are looking for a special venue to host a birthday party, retirement or even your wedding, then why not consider the Deaf Cultural Centre? We can work with you to create a memorable event, that is tailored to your needs.

If you would like to discuss your requirements or have a look round the Deaf Cultural Centre, please contact us on 0121 450 5121 or email bookings@deafculturalcentre.com, or you can visit our website at www.deafculturalcentre.com.

Our Cafe is changing...

The Cafe is not moving and remains at the Deaf Cultural Centre. However, the cafe has a new name, which is the Signing Tree Cafe.



signingtree

We have given the cafe a new name because we are looking into improving the service for our visitors. We are going to do this by making the cafe more comfortable, introduce better menus and attract more passing traffic.

The cafe opens from 8am on

weekdays for the breakfast club where breakfast is served until 10am. Afternoon Tea is also being served on weekdays from 1pm - 3pm, where you can indulge in a variety of cakes and desserts and take your pick from specialty coffees.

We are also improving the daily menu and would like to know what you would like to see at the cafe. If ever there was an opportunity to let us know what you really think of our cafe and the food we should be serving, then now is the right time!

Send us your comments and views to:

Signing Tree Cafe
Deaf Cultural Centre
Ladywood Road,
Birmingham
B16 8SZ

or send an email to Lisa Davies:
lisa.davies@bid.org.



Group Profile

Birmingham Deaf Football Club

Sammi Purchase
is the club's Secretary
and can be contacted via email:
richsammi2010@live.co.uk



In 1921, a group of Deaf men set up Birmingham Deaf Football Club and 90 years later, the club is still going strong - with as many as 30-40 men turning up at football training every Wednesday evening.

The men are split into 2 teams and they play a friendly match, some of whom have been involved in deaf led professional leagues with the British Deaf Football Cup and England Deaf Football. In fact, their most recent achievement took place last year when they reached the final for both competitions and ended as runner-ups. Not to be deterred, they are as determined as ever to lift both cups and will they be lucky this year? The anniversary celebrations may help them to do that.

An anniversary event is being planned to celebrate the club's 90th year of existence. The celebrations will start with a football 5-a-side tournament on Saturday 23rd April at Perry Bar Goal, Tameside Park, Aldridge Road, Perry Bar, B42 2UB. The club is encouraging deaf football

teams from across the UK and Europe to participate in this exciting tournament, and they will accept men, ladies and mixed teams. A party will follow on the same day at the Deaf Cultural Centre, from 7pm until 1am. Details of event on the right. To include your 5-a-side team in the tournament and also attend the evening party, you will need to pay £85 (per team). That's £12 per person. The deadline to enter your team for the football tournament is Monday 28th February 2011.

For the first time last year, Birmingham Deaf Football Club have set up a Ladies Team! At the moment, there are only 6 ladies training and they are looking for more ladies to join them. If you're interested, please contact Sammi.

The evening training sessions - for all players - take place every Wednesday from 6pm to 8pm at Ladywood Leisure Centre, about 10 minutes walk from the Deaf Cultural Centre. It costs £3 per training session and although young people under 16 are welcomed, they play/train at their own risk.



BDFC 90th Anniversary Party Sat 23rd April 7pm - 1am Deaf Cultural Centre

**Ladywood Road,
Birmingham
B16 8SZ**

**Bar open until late
Disco and DJ included**

**Age: 16+ ONLY
Smart/Casual Wear - no
caps, jeans or trainers.**

**Party only ticket without
food: £6, with food: £10**

**On door
Without food: £8,
with food: £12**

**If you want to book
your football team for the
tournament and also attend
the party, entry price per
team is £85**



BID Services works in partnership with deaf people and other communities

Our Services:

- Advocacy
- British Sign Language Classes
- Deaf Awareness Training
- Education, Training & Employment
- Independent/Supported Living
- Interpreting/Translation
- Residential Service
- Home Care
- Social Work/Care Management
- Specialist Equipment
- Tinnitus Support
- Volunteers

Are you deaf and looking for a job/work?

BID Services is now offering drop in sessions for deaf people seeking employment.

The Employment Services Team will work with each individual to ensure they learn how to create their CVs, develop confidence building skills and practise interview techniques.

The Job Club commences on Thursday 27th January from 1pm – 4:30pm at the Deaf Cultural Centre and will take place every 2 weeks.

For details or to learn more about the Job Club, contact Tim Scannell or Jen Hodgkinson on email: tim.scannell@bid.org.uk or jen.hodgkinson@bid.org.uk. Telephone: 0121 246 6100, textphone: 0121 246 6101 or fax: 0121 246 6125



Good news!

BID Services and the Deaf Cultural Centre are now on Facebook and Twitter. You can follow our progress. The official pages will be regularly updated.

Dates for your diary

Deaf Social

18 years old and upwards
Wed evenings - bar open
5pm - 11:30pm

50+ Afternoon Tea

Saturday 19th March
Saturday 25th June
Saturday 23rd July
Saturday 20th August
Saturday 17th September
Saturday 12th November

Saturday 3rd December
Annual Christmas Meal
organised by the BDCG

Bingo Sessions

Saturday 16 April
Easter Grand Bingo

Saturday 21st May
May Grand Bingo

Saturday 29th October
Halloween Grand Bingo

Saturday 17th December
Christmas Grand Bingo

Royal Celebration

Friday 29th April
10:30am - late

Watch Prince William's wedding at the Deaf Cultural Centre. Buffet, entertainment, games and quiz included!

Ticket: £10. Buy from Teresa Allcock at the Deaf Cultural Centre.

Don't forget to add your email address if you want to receive the next issue!

This second issue is a one off print and future issues will be distributed via email so if you are not on our contact list and would like to receive a copy of future issues, then please send an email to communityhub@deafculturalcentre.com and mention 'subscribe' in the subject title. If you don't have an email address, you can read each issue on the Deaf Cultural Centre website which you can find under the 'newsletters' section of the Deaf Cultural Centre website - www.deafculturalcentre.com