Bi-lingual Deaf awareness training programme launched

A new bi-lingual interactive Deaf awareness training programme, created and led entirely by Deaf learners, has been launched in England

Ed Gould

The Learning and Skills Improvement Service (LSIS) announced that the programme is an authentic way for practitioners in the Further Education (FE) sector to gain an insight into good teaching and to understand the challenges and barriers faced by Deaf people in education. “This training has given me a good challenge to train professional people,” said John Stewart, one of the Deaf trainers involved, who is currently an undergraduate student at the University of Central Lancashire.

“I hope all professional people are aware of the issues as we want to make education accessible for all people,” he added.

LSIS claims that the unique training aims to help hearing professionals in the FE sector build a better awareness of Deaf culture and the legal rights of Deaf learners. An understanding of deafness as a hidden disability and demonstrating British Sign Language as a language in its own right, is also included within the programme.

“We have worked with eight Deaf learners who have designed, developed and lead the training,” said Kathryn James, LSIS’s Programme Development Manager for Quality and Equalities. “The power of the training is that it is bi-lingual, so participants have to communicate with the Deaf learners, and that it provides a learner perspective,” she told Hearing Times.

The training also supports individuals to become aware and recognise how the dominant hearing culture, often inadvertently, creates barriers to access and achievement for Deaf learners, and as such creates institutional discrimination, she continued.

Up to twenty staff within an organisation can be trained at a time at a cost of £1,000 per day, inclusive of interpreters. According to LSIS, individuals who undergo the awareness training help to support their organisation’s obligation to meet their public sector equality duty, under the Equality Act of 2010.

Six pilot sessions have been delivered so far, all to government departments and agencies including the Skills Funding Agency, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, Ofsted, DWP and the Office of Disability Issues.

“All participants have been 100 per cent satisfied with the training,” said James.

The programme is expected to be delivered to a further 15 organisations, within the FE sector over the coming year, with further expansion planned to follow.

“We are about to recruit another group of learners and, as involvement in the project provides great opportunities for our learners to develop employability skills, we are in discussions about whether this can be set up as a social enterprise offering employment opportunities,” James said. “Having attended training with the learners, it is lovely to see how they put participants at ease and enable them to ask any questions without worrying whether they sound silly or naive,” she added.

According to James, Deaf learners talking about their language and culture, of which they are proud, can be a revelation to the participants.

Individuals can apply to receive the training by contacting LSIS at kathryn.james@lsis.org.uk

Royal accolade for cochlear implant charity volunteer

Tricia Kemp, a Trustee of The Ear Foundation, a national charity which funds and supports cochlear implants, has received an MBE from HRH the Prince of Wales for her voluntary services to children with hearing disabilities

Tricia is the Southern Region Coordinator and founder of the Cochlear implanted Children’s Support Group (CICS). She first set up CICS, a support group for parents of deaf children with cochlear implants, shortly after her own son Alex, who is deaf, received an implant in 1991.

“Tricia has been a tireless supporter for nearly 20 years and we are delighted that her fantastic efforts... have been recognised in this way.”

Sue Archbold, Chief Executive of The Ear Foundation, which provides training and resources for families with deaf children and the professionals who work with them said: “Tricia has been a tireless supporter of The Ear Foundation for nearly 20 years and we are delighted that her fantastic efforts, helping us and all the families of children with cochlear implants, have been recognised in this way.”

The Oticon Foundation, jointly with LEGO’s parent KIRKBI, has invested a total of EUR 675 million in the erection of a large new wind farm 55 kilometers off the German coast in the North Sea.

By the end of 2015, the Foundation’s stake in the wind farm will produce over five times as much green power as Oticon, a manufacturer of hearing devices, consumes worldwide.

Søren Nielsen, President of Oticon said, “We have a long-standing tradition of using innovation and foresight to improve the quality of life for people with hearing impairment – and this is a vitally important job because there are over 500 million hearing-impaired people worldwide”.

“We are a global company and of course we wish to assume our share of responsibility for Deaf learners, and as such creates barriers to access and achievement for Deaf learners, and as such creates barriers to access and achievement for Deaf learners,” she continued.

According to James, Deaf learners talking about their language and culture, of which they are proud, can be a revelation to the participants.

Individuals can apply to receive the training by contacting LSIS at kathryn.james@lsis.org.uk
Bromley hearing centre celebrates 30 years of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

Sue Craney and her hearing dog celebrated Hearing Dogs’ 30th anniversary at Specsavers in Bromley

Sue Craney (in yellow) and hearing dog Victor, with Specsavers staff members (LtoR) Samantha Moore, Jay Howes, Keling Li and Scott Willis

Campaign to educate about sexual health launched

Deaf charity calls on schools and medical service providers to give deaf people E.A.R.S: Education & Advice on Relationships & Sex

Deafax recently launched a campaign to call on schools, teachers and medical service providers to supply adequate sex education and sexual health care for deaf people.

Research into deafness and sexual health is extremely rare and almost completely overlooked. Deafax are pioneers in this area, carrying out in-depth research within the deaf community and uncovering shocking results.

Out of a sample of profoundly and pre-lingually deaf mothers, 87% of which were British Sign Language users, only 17% received sex education in a ‘deaf-friendly’ way at school with 33% gaining information from friends and family and another 33% with no information at all. The remaining 17% received no deaf-friendly sex education at school.

A third of young women interviewed were under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of conception and many were unaware of walk-in clinics or heard of bad experiences when staff couldn’t understand the deaf person.

Medical service providers mistakenly assume that written material such as leaflets and booklets are suitable to relay health information to the deaf community.

On 1 October 2010, the Equality Act stated that it is a legal requirement for all service providers to make provision for the needs of deaf and hard of hearing people.

Medical service providers mistakenly assume that written material such as leaflets and booklets are suitable to relay health information to the deaf community.

Yet research reveals that deaf mothers-to-be are generally unable to access antenatal classes and their midwives are not ‘deaf aware’ or trained on the best ways to communicate with a deaf person.

Information on maternity leave and benefits entitled to them are not passed on and deaf mothers say they feel isolated and have no communication with health visitors.

Out of all the health trusts Deafax spoke to, just one had a midwife who could sign, she had funded her own training.

100% of those who took part in the study believed that the level of service is not the same for both deaf and hearing expectant mothers.

In response, Deafax are launching a Sexual Health Package, tailored for deaf students and teachers to deliver invaluable information on safe sex and STIs to deaf students, using communication methods to suit individual needs.

Deafax have also developed training packages for teachers of the deaf in the field of sex education and deaf awareness workshops for mainstream organisations.

They are asking all those in the deaf community to contribute to this under-researched area by completing this survey so that service providers and schools can no longer overlook the needs of deaf people.

For further information visit www.deafax.org

Letter to the Editor

Caution needed on iPod ‘cure’ for tinnitus

Reports that researchers have come a step closer to treating the symptoms of tinnitus is good news. However, while welcoming the findings, national charity Deafness Research UK would like to sound a note of caution.

The device will not work for everyone and at £4,000 it is not a ‘cure’ for tinnitus. Further research will be undertaken at Nottingham University, where studies funded by Deafness Research UK are investigating hearing aids as a means to deliver similar relief from tinnitus symptoms.

Tinnitus sufferers may have to wait some time before they can get their hands on the new device. It will need approval from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and the NHS and such approvals can take time.

Even if approved, it will not help everyone and the need to find reliable treatments and a permanent cure for all will remain.

More research on all fronts is needed and Deafness Research UK is committed to finding a lasting cure. In the meantime, sufferers need our support. If your tinnitus symptoms are becoming unmanageable, contact your GP for advice. People can also contact us at Deafness Research UK directly for guidance, practical support and free literature on managing tinnitus.

Free information is available from our website at deafnessresearch.org.uk, by email to info@deafnessresearch.org.uk or by calling our freephone helpline on 0808 808 2222. Yours faithfully

Vivienne Michael, Chief Executive
Deafness Research UK
www.deafnessresearch.org.uk

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Last year the City’s City Bridge Trust made 228 grants to London charities, totalling £16.8 million and between 1995 and 2011 it granted over £250 million to London charities.

The Trust’s origins can be traced back to 1097 when William Rufus, second son of William the Conqueror, raised a special tax to help repair the wooden London Bridge. In 1176 the first stone bridge across the river Thames began and that bridge, with its 19 arches, was completed 33 years later in 1209.

For further information visit www.citybridgetrust.org.uk or www.avuk.org

Read the latest issue online for FREE

www.hearingtimes.co.uk
Deaf children speak for themselves
City of London’s City Bridge Trust – which uses surpluses from the City bridges to help London good causes – has awarded Auditory Verbal UK £30,000 to develop a new site in London to deliver specialist services to deaf children.

Auditory Verbal UK was set up in 2002 to help deaf children to increase listening and speech to enable them to enter mainstream education with the language skills appropriate for their age. It uses Auditory Verbal Therapy which, pioneered in Australasia and North America, works with families with children under 5 born either deaf or having lost their hearing in early years.

Families are given one- to- one therapy sessions and parents are taught the skills and techniques needed to develop their child’s listening and spoken language skills.

Billy Dove MBE JP, Chairman of the City of London Corporation’s City Bridge Trust Committee said, “Auditory Verbal UK set up a satellite centre in London in December 2010 and has already achieved magnificent results.

“From the initial five families helped it has now risen to helping twenty-two families and City Bridge Trust are pleased we could help to enable the centre to expand further.”

Jacqueline Stokes, Director of Auditory Verbal UK said, “This grant will make a real difference in enabling us to expand our work in London and we are thrilled with the award. It means we can work with more families, as well as establish a peer support group for our 7-11 year old ‘graduates’.”

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Climbing Everest and overcoming personal obstacles
A deaf former serviceman will climb Mount Everest in May as a part of a charity expedition to the Himalayas.

Ed Gould
Walking With The Wounded (WWTW), the charity involved, plans to have five expedition members, reach the 8,848 metre peak, with two further teams following to Everest’s Base Camp.

Climbing Everest is one of the world’s great challenges and a symbol of overcoming insurmountable obstacles,” said charity founder, Ed Parker. “These servicemen physically embody those qualities, having overcome the very gravest of injuries already.”

WWTW aims to raise over £2 million from the challenge to re-train injured servicemen and women from the British Armed Forces.

Each team will endure a ten day trek from Lukla in Eastern Nepal to Everest Base Camp, which stands at 5,380 metres above sea level.

From there, only the selected team will undertake the process of acclimatisation needed to reach the summit. Rifleman Chris Gwilt, who has total deafness in both ears, got involved through his Territorial Army unit.

"An officer emailed asking me if I would like to climb Mount Everest,” Gwilt told Hearing Times.

I promptly replied yes, had an interview with WWTW and took things from there.”

Gwilt, who is in one of the Base Camp teams, said that before his involvement he had no prior experience with mountaineering. However, since then he has climbed profusely in the UK, the Alps and the Himalayas, including the eighth highest peak in the world, Mount Manalsu.

“From the initial five families helped it has now risen to helping twenty-two families and City Bridge Trust are pleased we could help to enable the centre to expand further.”

“The team will need to train extremely hard to stand any chance of success: being in peak physical condition, being able to do the technical skills without hesitation and having the mental strength to overcome the fatigue, cold and pain,” said Russell Brice, who will lead the summit attempt.

“Climbing Everest is one of the world’s greatest challenges,” he said. “I’ll work in software development and, of course, keep on mountaineering.”

Ear Foundation open day
The Lord Mayor of Nottingham, Councillor Michael Wildgust, was guest of honour at a recent Open Day at The Ear Foundation to celebrate the securing of planning permission for a £500,000, new, acoustically treated facility for deaf children and adults.

Known as Sound Space, the new building will accommodate the growing services for people using today’s hearing technologies as well as provide family-friendly facilities for the growing family and educational programmes at The Ear Foundation.

Sue Archbold, Chief Executive of The Ear Foundation, said, “We welcomed The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress and showed them our expanding work. They were able to see the achievements of Nottingham Rotaract, which has transformed the family garden over the past year, with bulbs from Nottingham in Bloom and gifts from various donors.”

“Our work reaches deaf children and adults locally, nationally, and internationally and we urgently need our new SoundSpace”

The Lord Mayor also met some of the deaf children and their families who use the garden and existing facilities on a regular basis. He saw how the current premises are insufficient for The Ear Foundation’s work with families with children under 5 born either deaf or having lost their hearing in early years.

“More and more people are aware of the devastating impact of deafness on families, and we are here to help them use today’s exciting hearing technologies which help communication at home, school and work.

“Our work, based here in Nottingham, reaches deaf children and adults locally, nationally, and internationally and we urgently need our new SoundSpace.”

What do you think?
email editorial@hearingtimes.co.uk
Charity is visited by Secretary of State for Health

Action for Deafness (AFD) was recently visited by Andrew Lansley, CBE, MP - the Secretary of State for Health

Mr Lansley visited the Charitable Organisation’s Resource Centre in Worthing to see how third sector organisations can work with the NHS to deliver exemplary patient care. Action for Deafness has delivered NHS funded services to the NHS West Sussex for the past five years.

Mr Lansley was visiting Action for Deafness to see a working example of how non-NHS funded services could be delivered when health and the Health and Social Care Bill, which is currently going through parliament, is ratified.

During his visit, Mr Lansley met service users who were given advice and support to help them to manage their hearing loss. Mr Lansley was also shown the extensive range of Assistive Listening Devices which AFD can offer.

Jeremy Paxman interviewed Mr Lansley, at the organisation’s premises for a feature for Newsnight, which was broadcast shortly after.

David Deane, chief executive of AFD, said: “We were delighted when Mr Lansley asked if he could come down to see the work that we do and bring the film crew of Newsnight to do a feature on our programme. Mr Lansley spent time with the patients and staff to gain a better understanding of the benefits that our contract with NHS West Sussex has brought to our service users.”

Karen Steel, joint winner of the 2012 Brain Prize

The Grete Lundbeck European Brain Research Foundation announced today that The Brain Prize 2012 is jointly awarded to Professor Karen Steel from the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute and Professor Christine Petit from College de France, “for their Chinese Wall experiments, which have revolutionised our understanding of the genetic regulation of the development and functioning of the ear, leading to elucidating the cause of the hundreds of inherited forms of deafness.”

Inherited conditions render one in a thousand children deaf at birth, and cause as many again to become deaf before maturity, leading to delay or failure in the acquisition of speech, and frequently to disadvantages in communication and learning. Genetic anomalies also contribute to many age-related and progressive forms of hearing loss. About one-tenth of the population in the developed world suffers from significant hearing impairment, which has an enormous impact on people and on society.

Professor Steel and Professor Petit are at the forefront of the expanding knowledge of the molecular mechanisms of the specialised hair cells in the inner ear, whose extraordinary sensitivity to mechanical stimulation underpins the human ability to hear.

“Together, the work of these two Europeans scientists illustrates the value and power of interdisciplinary approaches in neuroscience, and the way in which cutting-edge fundamental research is needed to understand complex clinical problems and to develop effective treatments for patients,” says Professor Colin Blakemore, Oxford University, Chairman of the Selection Committee.

“We are delighted that The Brain Prize for neuroscience in Europe encourage research beyond national boundaries, in its second year, to two women scientists.

“Are we sure that the award will be applauded by female researchers around the world, and by all those who are concerned that young women are given every encouragement to consider careers in science.”

Link between hearing loss and a risk of falling

Hearing loss has been linked with a variety of medical, social and cognitive ills, including dementia. However, a new study led by a Johns Hopkins researcher suggests that hearing loss may also be a risk factor for another huge public health problem: falls

The finding could help researchers develop new ways to prevent falls, especially in the elderly, and their resulting injuries that generate millions of dollars in health care costs in the United States each year, by some estimates.

To determine whether hearing loss and falling were linked, the researchers collected data at Johns Hopkins, and his colleague Luigi Ferrucci, M.D., Ph.D., of the National Institute on Aging, used data from the 2001 to 2004 cycles of the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey. This research program has periodically gathered health data from thousands of Americans since 1971.

Based on this finding, participants ages 40 to 69 had their hearing tested and answered questions about whether they had fallen over the past year.

Researchers also collected demographic information, including age, sex and race, and tested participants’ vestibular function, a measure of how well they keep their balance. Their findings are published in the Archives of Internal Medicine.

Lin, an assistant professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine and the university’s Bloomberg School of Public Health, and Ferrucci found that people with a 25-decibel hearing loss, classified as mild, were almost twice as likely to have a history of falling.

Even additional 10-decibels of hearing loss increased the chances of falling by 1.4 fold. This finding still held true, even when researchers accounted for other factors linked with falling, including age, sex, race, cardiovascular disease and vestibular function.

In which Heartbreak Hearing Loss Girl continues to find the dating game an impenetrable jungle.

It’s not going well, this dating lark, not well at all. Attempts to forget G, the Bloke who has been the obsession/make out between each other twice, once at a party, at which a live band played 80s covers so loudly that conversation was all but impossible, and at which we were both utterly miserable. I don’t know if it’s hearing loss and an associated lack of rhythm which makes me reluctant to get on the dance floor, or self-consciousness, but, whatever, I never dance, just badly wish I could.

I also see G over tea at Reading station, just before he leaves on a ski-ing holiday. I had been invited too, but a holiday with an ex-boyfriend just seemed too weird, and, anyway, I’m broke. His voice is faint against the hubbub of the station, and we have a strained farewell.

Given my hearing loss, I am never tempted to pretend I have heard the crashingly text saying he has been “busy”. Hmm.

He’s Irish, lovely and has that with “Well, hellooo,” but “Sorry, haven’t got a spare. I decided to use the encounter as my hearing aids in.”

That I wasn’t going to be asked a question, I could be perfectly certain. I fled in terror. (whose stoicism in the face of the pyjama-clad, nightmarish vision I present him daily is nothing if not heroic), I flee in terror.

Before, have been doomed. We’ve seen the Health and Social Care Bill, which is going to transform the Health and Social Care Bill, but maybe now is the time to delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts and delete him from my Skype contacts.

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Jane Shaw, CEO of AFD with Andrew Lansley, Secretary of State for Health

Charity welcomes new royal vice patron

Action on Hearing Loss recently announced that Her Royal Highness The Countess of Wessex is its new Vice Patron

The Countess has been a dedicated trustee of the charity, formerly RNID, since 2003 and has agreed to continue to support the charity by becoming its Vice Patron.

One of The Countess’s key concerns is the barriers to communication faced by people with hearing loss, which is a priority for the charity. Action on Hearing Loss works alongside businesses and organisations to ensure that the communication needs of people with a hearing loss are met, and services are accessible to all.

Action on Hearing Loss chief executive, Jackie Ballard, said, “The Countess of Wessex has been such a valuable supporter of our charity and we believe passionately that people with a hearing loss should have the same opportunities in life as everyone else.

“Throughout the years, The Countess has attended a wide range of high profile engagements such as the launch of our highly successful Hear to Help project, which provides vital support to NHS hearing aid users in local communities across the UK. We are certain that our support will benefit our organisation and the people we seek to help.”

The Countess has also helped to promote the Action on Hearing Loss hearing check which aims to encourage 4 million people in the UK who could benefit from wearing a hearing aid to take action on their hearing loss.

Action on Hearing Loss now has two Royals supporting the charity, as her father-in-law, His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh, is the charity’s patron.

For further information about getting your hearing checked visit www.actiononhearingloss.org.uk/check
Limping Chicken launched online
A website offering news, features and opinion on deaf life and culture in the UK has been launched
Called The Limping Chicken, it is deaf-produced and editorially independent. In the first ten days, the site posted articles by five deaf writers, gaining a remarkable 12,000 views.
One news story, about a deaf man being ejected from a Canadian courthouse, clocked up over 2500 views.
Charlie Swinbourne, Editor and creator of the site is a deaf journalist and scriptwriter. Charlie has written for The Guardian, BBC Online and Hearing Times about deaf culture. He has also written award-winning dramas featuring deaf characters.
“I’ve been writing about deaf culture as a journalist for four years, and I felt it was finally time there was a website for deaf news and lifestyle stories,” said Charlie.
“The Limping Chicken will offer not only news stories, but also real-life experiences, opinions, features, and reviews of deaf films and plays.
“I’ve been amazed at the response, with so many people offering to contribute to the site. To get 12,000 views so quickly was a big surprise – we were aiming to get 8000 views each month!
As well as producing its own content, The Limping Chicken aims to help deaf and hearing people reflect the variety behind the deaf experience, highlight the great work of talented deaf people across the country and focus and reflect on issues affecting deaf people.
Visit the site at www.limpingchicken.com

Suffolk leads the way in revolutionising social care
Social workers in Suffolk are the first in the country to trial a revolutionary approach to providing services for people with sight and hearing loss
Sensing Change, who have more than 100 years of experience collectively, hope to bypass council red tape and deliver improved support for people with sight and hearing loss in the county.
The pioneering approach to social care provision aims to offer joined-up support and better co-ordination of services for people with a range of sensory impairments.
It is estimated that there are over 114,000 people in Suffolk who are deaf or hard-of-hearing, and of these 50% have sight problems.
Sensing Change, which is one of just seven Social Work Practice pilots in the country set up by the Department of Health to trial a new approach to providing statutory services. The scheme will examine the viability of local authorities delegating their duties and functions to professionally led external organisations.
Sensing Change is run as a social enterprise which puts social workers in the driving seat and encourages team participation in decision making. The specialist social workers and other professionals will have the chance to run services as they see fit based on their professional experience.
The social enterprise will also allow potential for the service to generate income, for example by offering specialist training courses.

Don’t let diabetes steal your hearing
If you have been diagnosed with diabetes, you are probably aware that uncontrolled blood sugar levels may put you at higher risk for a variety of health complications including high blood pressure, heart disease, and vision problems. But you may not know that hearing loss is also on that list of possible side effects from diabetes
A national survey revealed that 21% of diabetics surveyed also have hearing loss, compared to just 9% of people without diabetes. The reverse statistic is also true – people with hearing loss are more likely to have diabetes.
Now, a new study conducted by researchers at Henry Ford Hospital in Detroit shows that having uncontrolled diabetes is a significant risk factor for hearing loss in women between the ages of 60 and 75.
Women in this age group who did not have their blood sugar (glucose) under control had significantly worse hearing than normal.
Regardless of whether their diabetes was controlled, women younger than age 60 who have diabetes were also found to have significantly more hearing loss than women without diabetes. Men did not fall into these same categories of risk because they are already more likely to have more hearing loss than women at any age.
The study emphasized the importance of controlling blood glucose levels in diabetic patients. Researcher Derek J. Handzo, D.O. said, “A certain degree of hearing loss is a normal part of the aging process for all of us, but is often accelerated in patients with diabetes, especially if blood glucose levels are not being controlled with medication and diet.”
Diabetes causes hearing loss because high levels of sugar in the blood damage the small blood vessels that feed the nerves and other structures in the ear that are necessary for hearing. This can lead to nerve damage that prevents the nerves from carrying sound impulses from the ear.
Diabetics can also lose keratin in the ear canal, which can contribute to hearing loss. And diabetes can damage inside the inner ear by destroying hair (cilia) cells or by thickening the walls of the cochlea.
Although the recent study focused on older Americans with diabetes, other studies also show that diabetes can cause hearing loss as early as age 30. If you have diabetes, you can help protect your hearing by keeping your blood sugar levels under control. People with diabetes can also benefit from regular exams to monitor their hearing. Treatments for hearing loss vary depending on the cause.
The most common type of hearing loss caused by diabetes often cannot be reversed but can be treated with hearing aids.

Hearing loss can be accelerated in patients with diabetes, so they should get regular tests.
Product reviews - the highs and lows of gadgets & gizmos

Audéo Perfect Fit Earphones (PFE)

Juliet England

I love a nice and straightforward piece of kit, me, as well as anything which helps me enjoy music or hear the radio better, and so I was especially pleased to have the Audéo Perfect Fit Earphones (PFE), fitting the bill on both counts.

The big deal with this piece of kit, the first foray into the earphone market for Phonak AG, the ergonomically designed tips, which shape themselves to your ear.

As a result, you get a securer, more comfortable fit and the tips can eliminate unwanted external sound by up to 23 decibels. The downside is that these earphones are not intended for use while doing anything else where not hearing outside noise could be dangerous.

These earbuds are designed to help wearers to enjoy music at a safer volume, reducing the risk of hearing damage.

These earbuds are designed to help wearers to enjoy music at a safer volume, reducing the risk of hearing damage. One prediction is that up to a tenth of 30-year-olds could become hearing aid users by 2020 as this generation becomes increasingly welded to their MP3 players.

However, even these earphones are not designed for listening to music at high volume for extended periods.

So the PFE has clearly been designed with the MP3 player wearer firmly in mind. There’s a built-in hands-free feature which can be used with all generations of the iPhone, and it’s compatible with all standard MP3 players with a 3.5mm stereo jack.

Using the optional silicone ear guides, you can route the wires of the device comfortably around the ears to get a perfect fit, especially good for exercising apparently (I wouldn’t know) and reducing cable noise.

These earbuds are designed to help wearers to enjoy music at a safer volume, reducing the risk of hearing damage.

Also allegedly better for exercise are the washable silicone tips, but foam tips are supplied too, and these are intended for noisy environments.

With the PFE, which is super light, weighing in at just 4g, you can also adjust tones to suit your vibe, using the included, specially designed audio filters. There’s a grey one to adjust mid-frequencies, a blue one to enhance bass and treble.

This certainly is a smart-looking product, and it seemed pretty indestructible. I was generally happy with both how comfortable they were to wear and the sound quality.

Although the music on my radio sounded a bit tinny, I have been spoilt with very high quality over-the-ear headphones, and the tinny sound only applied to the music, the speech was clear.

I also took a call on my mobile using this product, and, again, the speech sounded very clear. With the microphone on the PFE, you can take an incoming call without taking out the earphones, or decline it.

You can also pause and resume the music or video, skip a track, and end a call with the mic.

It did seem slightly fiddly getting used to these earphones initially and setting them up, as the PFE is not exactly cheap at £119.99, or an extra £10 to include the iPhone hands-free function, but I was broadly impressed.

You may well find these earphones enhance your listening experience, especially if you are looking for a better way to hear music while exercising, or speak a lot on your mobile while out and about in noisy environments.

Scientists translate sign language to text in pioneering phone software

Pioneering technology which translates sign language into text is being developed by Scottish scientists in a major boost for people suffering from speech and hearing difficulties.

The new software – the first of its kind in the world – has been developed for use on portable devices, such as smartphones, and will allow users to turn sign language into words. Users will even be able to customise the sign language to their own specific needs.

The Aberdeen University scientists behind the breakthrough claim the technology has the potential to transform how sign language users – from the profoundly deaf to those who have lost hearing in later life – will be able to communicate.

The Portable Sign Language Translator (PSLT) has been developed by computing scientists at Technablog, a spin-out from Aberdeen University. The PSLT recognises sign language using a front-facing camera which can be integrated in most mobile devices, such as smartphones, tablet PCs and computers, and then renders it as text displayed on the device’s main screen.

Dr Ernesto Compatangelo, a lecturer in computing science who is director of Technablog, said, “The aim of the technology is to empower sign language users by enabling them to overcome communication challenges they can experience, through portable technology.

“The user signs into a standard camera integrated into a laptop, netbook, Smartphone or other portable device such as a tablet. Their signs are immediately translated into text which can be read by the person they are conversing with. The intent is to develop an application – an “app” in Smartphone terms – that is easily accessible and could be used on different devices.”

He said the PSLT technology had the potential to be used with a range of sign languages including British Sign Language (BSL) and Makaton. More than 50,000 people in the UK use Makaton, while there are many similar systems in other countries.

The PSLT recognises more than 500 signs, and has been developed as a demonstration application for users to test out the system, which is still under development.

The research is being funded by the UK Department for Business, Innovation and Skills to enhance the lives of deaf people with hearing loss and enable people who are either in education or training.

A spokesman for Technablog said, “As a learning tool, the PSLT can be easily and effectively used by those who are learning to sign. So far, these learners needed a sign language expert in front of them to check that they were able to sign correctly. This is a problem, due to the scarce availability of sign language experts and to the consequent cost of communicating with them.

“The PSLT can replace the human expert in many occasions, allowing learners to practice sign language whenever and wherever they like – driving costs substantially down.”

A university spokeswoman said, “Scientists on the project are now encouraging sign language users from Aberdeen city and elsewhere to get in touch to become involved with its ongoing development. It is anticipated that the technology will be available as a product by next year.”

Smooth sailing for water sports instructor

AquaSonic, a Devon-based company, has launched the Audéo Aquaris 3000, which is designed to help people with hearing loss enjoy water sports.

The Aquarius kit, which includes a pair of hearing aids, a microphone and a waterproof case, will enable people to enjoy water sports such as kayaking and water-skiing.

The kit is made from durable, shock-resistant materials and is water-resistant up to 30m. It is designed to work with any smartphone or device with a 3.5mm jack.

The kit is built to withstand the rigours of water sports, such as kayaking and water-skiing, and is designed to be used with any device with a 3.5mm jack. It is built to withstand the rigours of water sports, such as kayaking and water-skiing, and is designed to be used with any device with a 3.5mm jack. It is built to withstand the rigours of water sports, such as kayaking and water-skiing, and is designed to be used with any device with a 3.5mm jack. It is built to withstand the rigours of water sports, such as kayaking and water-skiing, and is designed to be used with any device with a 3.5mm jack. It is built to withstand the rigours of water sports, such as kayaking and...
Product review
Amplicall 20 doorbell and phone amplifier

Juliet England

Although I never mind inadvertently ignoring pestering sales calls or neighbours needing favours, I’ve written before about the irritations of missing genuine phone calls or, say, the online groceries deliveries person. And it’s a common frustration that anyone with a hearing loss will share.

(Of course, actually being able to hear your caller once you are on the phone is another matter, but if you can’t hear the wretched thing in the first place you don’t stand a chance.)

The Amplicall 20 aims to provide one solution, with its amplified and flashing light door bell and telephone ringer system to alert you to an incoming call or make you aware there is someone at the door.

Although I didn’t try this feature, there is also a shaker pad which plugs in to this product. It will vibrate when the phone goes or the door bell is rung, ideal if, like me, you are a heavy sleeper, prone to ignoring alarm clocks, doorbells and telephones and slumbering on of a morning, blissfully unaware of the outside world.

The ringer really is very loud, up to 95dB, although you can adjust the volume, unaware of the outside world.

At the same time, you can have a flashing strobe light along with the alarm, set the light and shaker with no alarm, or use just the alarm and shaker.

There’s also the option to mount this device on a wall or table, involving a spot of DIY with screws, drills and the like, or you can just click it into place on the base cradle unit supplied.

It’s also possible to pair up to a further two remote bell pushes to the Amplicall 20 if you want to.

This product uses mains power or the optional four A4 batteries, allowing you to take the unit into the garden or upstairs.

It easy enough to get up and running, although the diagrams making up the online user manual did make it look slightly more complicated than necessary. And the instructions manual which came with the thing did not seem that clear in places, reading as though it may have been translated.

This product certainly does what it says it does, and I definitely found my attention was plenty loud enough. The light was also useful as I often work with headphones on with my back to the phone. And, once you get your head round the instructions, the Amplicall 20 is a reasonably user-friendly and versatile piece of kit, with some good features. (It may look slightly clunky, but, then again, it’s not designed to look beautiful.)

While I probably don’t miss quite enough calls and door knocks to justify buying one of these devices myself, I reckoned the price of £39.99 per unit to be entirely reasonable. And it could be particularly handy for those who either live alone or spend extended periods on their own.

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Want your product reviewed here?
email info@hearingtimes.co.uk

Assistive Listening Devices

Do you struggle to hear in certain situations?
Even when wearing your hearing aid?

Converor Pro
This versatile communications device reduces background sound and emphasizes the selected sound
Converor Pro provides optimal sound quality in a variety of environments

Converor TV Pro
A simple to use TV Listener which works with the Converor Pro receiver
The Converor Pro receiver can also be used as a personal listener

Speaking on the Aquaris trial from Siemens Hearing Instruments, he explains, “Aquaris tips all of that on its head. It allows you to start to focus on all the things you can do and knocks over the obstacles hearing loss creates.

Aquaris allows you to do that as you can take instructions from a tutor on the water, something not usually possible with hearing loss. In a dinghy or on a yacht you can head out on the water, knowing you can communicate with your crew, speak and be alert to danger, knowing your hearing instrument will handle what gets thrown at it. Aquaris can give you the confidence to enjoy the lifestyle you want to have.”

With a special watertight housing, sealed battery compartment and watertight but air-permeable microphone membrane, Aquaris offers complete protection from the elements, without compromising sound quality. It also includes a dedicated swimming program inside the hearing instrument which deals with the special acoustic conditions encountered during swimming.

When combined with a custom-made soft ear mould, it is waterproof to a depth of one metre for 30 minutes. A scratchproof, rubber-like surface holds the device securely behind the ear and an optional attachable sports clip adds extra security to prevent it from slipping during exercise or high winds. It is also compatible with miniTek, a wireless remote streamer for hearing instruments, which uses Bluetooth® technology to automatically stream sound between a hearing device and television, mobile phone or MP3 player.

For further information visit www.siemens.co.uk/hearing
An interview with... Brian Venner, TV producer & Chairman of V Squared independent production company

William BR Jeremy

Brian Venner has enjoyed a career in broadcast production which has mirrored the history of British television from the Rethian to the digital age. It has spanned the early days of live television and outside broadcasting to the invention of video and into the age of laptops, digital cameras and the internet.

Beginning his career as graduate apprentice at the BBC after studying engineering at Oxford, he went on to become a producer, working on programmes as diverse as theatre production and general election coverage before becoming producer in charge of legendary sports show Grandstand.

He worked with titanic figures such as Huw Wheldon, Robin Day, Paul Fox and Bill Cotton, when a producer’s word was law. One of his contemporaries was Jeremy Isaacs who went on to set up Channel 4.

Brian left the BBC to set up his own company and was a pioneer of independent TV production in the 1980s. He has been involved with both Olympics and Para-Olympics in Sydney and Athens and was instrumental in bringing cycling to British television screens, particularly the Tour de France. We met at his home in Berkshire and he began by recounting some stories of his early days in television:

Brian Venner (BV): During the post-war time there was no pool of people to develop things so the BBC brought a lot of people in from the services as producers and then young graduates came along and slowly started to change things and develop new ideas, new techniques and technologies.

Hearing Times (HT): Was your hearing loss connected with your television work?

BV: Yes. Although my deafness came upon me when I stopped at the coalface, it was connected. We had headphones and moulded ear pieces which were fitted by hearing aid people. When directing a programme in the studio gallery you sit with an editor alongside you and an engineer at the other end and it is important to hear the engineer at specific points but not all the time.

Your ears become selective and you have to develop the ability to listen to more than one thing at a time, concentrating on the important sounds and then switching ears to accommodate incoming new information. I used to experiment with loudspeakers and variable volumes but essentially there are always two different voices saying different things inside your head and over a period of time your ears are being assaulted with very loud noises.

HT: how did the loss first manifest itself?

BV: I remember being in a helicopter in the Philippines with a walkie-talkie and tearing it away from my left ear – my worst ear - which probably made me go and get tested. With hearing aids I find my engineering background extremely useful because I know what they can and can’t do and I keep them in tip-top condition.

The current state of play is that I find I don’t need to use the loop system but I have a higher/lower amplification for meetings and at night-time I have a vibrating pad beneath the pillow to wake me – if I have my right ear in the pillow and my left out I can’t hear at all and many a hotel door has been banged trying to wake me up. The mobile phone is fine and often better than a fixed line. What is important for me is that I rely on pronunciation and the order of words.

HT – what do you make of the Olympic Velodrome?

BV: It is a fine-looking building outside and inside, with a fast track. We shall see the usual procession of cars bearing Olympic officials and their wives from hotel to stadium via the hospitality tent. The thing about Olympic broadcasting is that the Olympic broadcast organisation tends to give coverage rights to countries which have nothing to do with the sport itself. So one year track cycling was covered by the Colombians! But that is another story....

For further information visit www.vsquared.tv

Read the latest issue online for FREE
www.hearingtimes.co.uk

From Pen to Print

This month Lauren Metcalfe looks forward to London Book Fair 2012...

I love London Book Fair (LBF). With over 400 seminars and events, 1,500 international exhibiting companies and 24,500 publishing professionals, LBF should have something for everyone, right?

LBF reflects the broad spectrum of the publishing industry but, like the publishing industry, LBF has its gaps. Disability has been gradually edging its way onto the agenda more and more but the mainstream publishing industry is still very much behind the times when it comes to the needs of deaf people. So needless to say, I was delighted to be asked to attend this year’s book fair and sit on a seminar panel to discuss the need for children’s books and stories to be more accessible to deaf children.

What’s the Story? Listening to Deaf and Disabled Children will be an hour-long panel discussion featuring acclaimed author and Children’s Laureate Julia Donaldson. Joining myself and Julia on the panel will be author Joyce Dunbar, freelance writer and journalist Rachel Asquith and illustrator Ros Asquith – all of whom have a specialist interest in deafness and/or disability.

I will be discussing the gaps Action Deafness Books has recognised within the publishing industry with regards to deaf children; the requirements that not only I feel should be met by authors and publishers, but the needs that both our authors and customers are highlighting to us every day.

What’s the Story? Listening to Deaf and Disabled Children takes place on 17th April from 4pm-5pm.

For further information visit www.londonbookfair.co.uk

@actiondeafbooks

Facilitated by Alexandra Strick, consultant for Book Trust, the discussion will start with deafness before broadening to look at some of the wider issues around the representation of disability in books, looking at best practice and citing examples from the industry.

So this is where you come in HT readers... What do you think are the key issues surrounding the needs of deaf children when it comes to books? What do you feel the mainstream publishing industry could be doing to address this? Do you have any favourite examples of books that are accessible to deaf children or that feature deaf people?

I would love to put some of your views forward so please do get in touch with me. Don’t worry if you’re reading this after the seminar date. Action Deafness Books will be continuing this important work with organisations such as Book Trust and I would love to hear your thoughts.

London Book Fair runs at Earls Court from 16th-18th April 2012.

Twitter @actiondeafbooks
Genevieve Barr’s performance in the BBC drama The Silence introduced us to a talented young actor, who wants to inspire young deaf people with her on- and off-screen. She is currently working with Phonak on their Hear the World campaign. To find out more visit www.hearthe mundo.com

Lizzie Ward

What has it been like working on television as a deaf person?

Interesting, particularly with regards to the reactions of actors and crew I’m working with. They normally get over it quickly though! I’ve been playing hearing characters, which is a testament to the hard work of my vocal coach – it has opened up more opportunities for me than if I was only playing deaf characters. It has required more acting skills than I expected – resisting the temptation to read lips.

What were your experiences of University?

Growing up in a close-knit village, attending a tiny boarding school, it was disconcerting going to Edinburgh and being exposed to thousands of people housed together in halls of residence. Whilst I had many good friends, the close relationship to my great uncle was the most precious experience for me.

What inspired you when you were working as a teacher?

Teaching in a deprived school opened my eyes in ways I couldn’t have envisioned! It was a tough experience – I was inspired by the unexpected moments, where kids who truly hated English found something to enjoy in the subject. I believe you can change your circumstances in life: other people’s expectations should never dictate your ambitions and aspirations.

Who are your role models?

Actors such as Leonardo Di Caprio and Meryl Streep. They inspire me with their ability to transform themselves and their zest for tackling difficult roles. It was fantastic working with musician Bryan Adams when he took my photograph for the Hear the World campaign – I’m always impressed when people are multi-talented, the way he is.

What prepares you for stepping into the shoes of a character?

Intense concentration and watching other actors and actresses perform. I like to go on a cathartic journey – it has to feel real for me and therefore I have to connect it to my experiences and feelings.

Was there anything challenging about working on The Silence?

Everything. There were times when Amelia was struggling with her identity. Sometimes I didn’t want to withdraw into myself and achieve the state of concentration necessary for playing her – she wasn’t always a happy person!

Charity reaches out to support Olympics

At the official launch of the Team London Ambassadors for the Olympics national charity Deafness Research UK was proud to be represented by its own Outreach Advisor Andrew Goodwin.

Andrew was officially welcomed by Mayor of London Boris Johnson, along with 29 other selected Team London Ambassadors at the Wimbledon event where the 30 the met each other and showed off their new uniforms.

Team London Ambassadors are to ensure that everyone visiting the capital for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games gets the most out of the experience. Team London is the Mayor of London’s programme to focus volunteering effort where it is needed most: to cut crime and make life better for Londoners. Keen volunteer Andrew aims to ensure that the needs of those with disabilities like deafness are represented, recognised and supported.

“My so proud to have been chosen as a Team London Ambassador and I’m really looking forward to getting on with the job now it feels like it’s days away,” said Andrew. Being a Team London Ambassador has seen Andrew take part in the team training, role play and learning more practical skills such as first aid.

Not alone in his London 2012 passion, Andrew’s joined by Deafness Research UK’s Vice President Sir George Martin, who’s one of Team London’s celebrity supporters. “Older people can be discouraged from getting involved during the Games and tend to assume that only younger volunteers are needed,” said Sir George. “This couldn’t be further from the truth; it’s important that London Ambassadors come from all walks of life, so it is good to see people like Deafness Research UK’s Andrew Goodwin taking part. A key part of the London Ambassador role is to bring some warmth, personality and colour to the visitor’s experience and who better to do this than people like Andrew and older people like myself who have seen London change through the decades and have a few tales to tell!”

“The Olympics represents a big opportunity for all of us to show London and indeed our country at is very best,” said Deafness Research UK’s Chief Executive, Vivienne Michael.

“They are perfect Ambassadors for our charity and I’m sure will prove outstanding ambassadors for London and the deaf community too.”

Andrew adds: “It’s vital that people from all walks of life volunteer to help with such an amazing event. Clearly there will be people with disabilities visiting London, many for the first time. While helping people, I will also be showing that those with disabilities can play a full role during our country’s time in the world spotlight.”

Andrew has hearing disabilities of his own, having been profoundly deaf in the past. “He now wears two hearing aids and despite also suffering from tinnitus, continues to work tirelessly with Deafness Research UK’s award-winning Bionic Ear Show, conducting hearing screenings and offering support and advice to people about hearing health.”

Andrew and his fellow Team London Ambassadors will start to ‘hit the streets’ from mid-July as the build up to the games begins in earnest.

Who or what has helped you achieve where you are today?

My parents. They refused to let anyone dictate who I was going to be and become. They gave me the freedom to be whoever I wanted even though they didn’t always enjoy my decisions! My sister Antonia and I used to argue endlessly but she definitely helped instill my fighting streak and determination.

What are your passions?

Family, friends, creativity and sport. I always need to have a book in my bag, be in the midst of writing a play or novel and be acting. It fulfils me and keeps me on my toes. I love playing sport, particularly team sport. My friends and family keep me grounded and entertained. I feel very lucky to have the support I have.

What are your personal philosophies?

One of my favourite poets, Robert Frost, wrote “I took the road less travelled by, and it has made all the difference”. I think that being deaf has enabled me to celebrate being different and take risks and chances I perhaps wouldn’t have done otherwise.

What advice would you give to young deaf people?

You can have many dreams. Hold onto all of them, chase them – when you get them, don’t let go. Stay open-minded because opportunities come when you least expect them but don’t sit at home waiting for them. Try new things, take different chances – get a good education first to have a safety blanket.

What is your next step?

I’m excited about the work coming up this year – I’ve recently co-written and performed my first ever play in London. I’m looking forward to directing my first film. I’m doing a lot of work in disability – exciting things will be happening in 2013.

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What is your next step?

I’m excited about the work coming up this year – I’ve recently co-written and performed my first ever play in London. I’m looking forward to directing my first film. I’m doing a lot of work in disability – exciting things will be happening in 2013.
This morning I had the joy of getting onto a packed bus and having to ask a moody 20-something to move her bag off the seat next to her so I could sit down. She scowled and huffed at me and acted like I had asked her to put a one-eyed, one-legged puppy through a meat mincer before moving her bag.

And the worst thing about the above sentence is that I used the expression 20-something.

It occurred to me as I assessed her skinny jeans, platform wedges and carefully tousled hair that she was indeed in a completely different generation to me… a perkny one.

*sign

Anyway one of the highlights of this month was that I went to see Absent Friends by Alan Ayckbourn at the Harold Pinter Theatre with Girl Who Can’t Help Knit.

The actual theatre is wonderful. Quaint and quirky with posters lining the staircase like a teenage boy’s bedroom.

And the play? Well, it was captained by the wonderful Stagetect. And it had David Armand in it. What’s not to love about that combination?

My first experience of an Alan Ayckbourn play was in Hamburg where London Uncle was working. There, I had to read along with a script, a tiny torch illuminating the pages, so this time it was brilliant being able to read along with captions and I loved every minute… or at least I thought I did.

So why did I doze off two minutes before the end, eh?

My theory is this. Lovely as captions are, I find them exhausting to read for long periods of time. And when you have the body language to take in as well, it’s like an eye marathon and the eyes get tired.

I asked some hearing peeps if they find the same thing when watching foreign movies with subtitles and quite a few said they did.

As a child, I used to think I must be thick because I used to love reading along with captions and I loved every minute… or at least I thought I did.

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Frank Barnes British Sign Language Recognition Day

Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children recently held a day of talks and games in celebration of the ninth anniversary of British Sign Language (BSL) being recognised as a discrete language.

Frank Barnes is an outstanding school for Deaf children, which has a bilingual teaching philosophy, with its students learning both BSL and English. Every year the school holds a Recognition Day, which aims to raise awareness of BSL. This year, the day had two main focal points: ‘Life before BSL’ and ‘Life after (the introduction of) BSL’.

Deaf adults were invited to come and talk to the pupils about what school was like in their day and Deaf members of staff also presented slideshow images of themselves when they were younger, wearing their old fashioned hearing aids and radio aids. The day ended with BSL games, BSL games and a BSL birthday cake!

The school is also currently fundraising for the British Deaf Association (BDA) by collecting £1.00 from children and staff to wear the new BDA turquoise campaign ribbons.

For further information visit the BDA website www.bda.org.uk

Ground breaking Deaf politician visits DCAL

Dr Ádám Kósa MEP recently visited DCAL’s ESRC funded research centre

Dr Ádám Kósa holds a unique position in the European Parliament, having been elected as its first-ever Deaf Member on 7th June, 2009. Dr Ádám Kósa was born in Budapest of Deaf parents and Magyar Jelnyelv and Hungarian Sign Language is his first language. He is also fluent in Hungarian and English.

Before entering the European parliament Dr Kósa trained as a lawyer and was president of SINOSZ, the national Hungarian organisation representing Deaf and Hard of Hearing people.

Bencie Woll Director, DCAL Research Centre said, “We are delighted to welcome Dr Kósa to DCAL. As a MEP he has focused a great deal of attention on the status of sign languages in Europe.

“In 2010 Dr Kósa hosted a conference at the European Parliament which resulted in the Brussels Declaration on Sign Languages in the European Union.

“The declaration set out principles through which sign language legislation can be brought forward right across the EU.”

Dr Ádám Kósa met with representatives of Deaf organisations and spoke about his work as a Deaf MEP and the status of sign languages in Europe.

First text to BSL translation qualification

The first training and assessment course in the UK specifically for English written text to British Sign Language (BSL) translation has now been completed with 14 Deaf candidates obtaining the Level 6 Diploma in Sign Language Translation qualification.

The qualification is essential in the push to establishing quality standards for translation. Professionals who completed the course are able to register with the National Registers for Communication Professionals working with Deaf and Deafblind People (NRCPD) as Registered Sign Language Translators.

This was the first programme in the UK running the new Signature qualification. It was delivered by Action on Hearing Loss, supported by funding from the Nominet Trust and in partnership with Signamic. It is designed for students who are fluent in BSL and have a high level of written English.

The qualification professionally recognises people translating the written word and preparing and presenting information in BSL to camera, media or translating within the workplace.

The new qualification perfectly complements the new buyer’s guide to British Sign Language translation for the internet. This guide sets out the standards that purchasers of BSL material should expect in areas such as translation, technical quality, and security of content.

This guidance will help buyers to identify quality suppliers of BSL translation and give confidence to deaf people that information available in BSL accurately reflects the English content.

Advertising

Centre for Deaf Education

Three outstanding days in Covent Garden

Thursday 12 April
Watch Your Language 2012 Training Day
CPD for BSL/English interpreters and CSWs. Top quality trainers
£50 half day / £100 full day
Book early
watchyourlanguage@citylit.ac.uk

Friday 13 April
Connect 2012 Conference
A one day conference for Deaf professionals. Top quality presenters
£80 including buffet lunch
Book early
connect2012@citylit.ac.uk

Saturday 14 April
Deaf Day 2012
A great day out for everyone
Exhibitions / information / workshops / entertainment … and so much more
It’s FREE, it’s HUGE and it’s FUN!
No need to book
For information: deafday@citylit.ac.uk

All events take place in Keeley Street | Covent Garden | London WC2B 4BA
New funding to make Self-Directed Support (SDS) accessible

As the SDS Bill is laid before the Scottish Parliament; a consortium of specialist agencies plan to lead the way in making Self Directed Support accessible to all people who have sensory needs.

The consortia comprise of Deaf Action, Fife Society for the Blind, Deafblind Scotland, Scottish Deafness and Deafax, all working together to ensure maximum impact.

Funding has been awarded by the Scottish Government to ensure people in Scotland with sensory needs, that is people who experience a hearing, sight loss or both, increase their knowledge and understanding of self-directed support in order to maximise its many opportunities and benefits.

In order to support the implementation of the National Strategy for Self-Directed Support, it is proposed to put in place a range of measures to enable people with a sensory loss to direct their own support.

This includes: creating accessible resources, training advocates to provide peer support and developing an information helpline, staffed by trained people with sensory needs to provide support and deal with queries, creating awareness among communication professionals and delivering specialist support to organisations.

The funding will also allow the organisations to promote a wider awareness of SDS for those with sensory needs by providing training and information to the providers and other relevant organisations.

“The Scottish Government has rightly recognised the importance of linguistic access for deaf and deafblind people, and the part that communication plays in their equalities agenda”

Liz Scott Gibson, Chief Executive of Deaf Action Scotland, commented on the funding award, “We are delighted to be working in partnership to lead awareness and knowledge of the very important Self-Directed Support Bill. It means that deaf, blind and deafblind communities are given full access to the range of materials already available on SDS.”

Drena O’Malley, Resources Manager for Deafblind Scotland, added, “With this award The Scottish Government has rightly recognised the importance of linguistic access for deaf and deafblind people, and the part that communication plays in their equalities agenda.”

In 2010 the Scottish Government published a National Strategy with CoSLA to develop self-directed support as the future approach to the design and delivery of social care services in Scotland. Self-directed support offers people the opportunity to have increased choice and control over the social care services they receive.

This may take the form of holding a direct payment or directing the type of service received. The opportunity to have increased choice and control will be open to everyone eligible to receive social care support in Scotland.

The consortium partners believe that it is crucial to bring the deafblind community, including those with hearing and sight loss, are fully aware of the opportunities offered by self-directed support. “With this funding we look forward to increasing knowledge of SDS so people with sensory needs throughout Scotland can confidently select and choose support that works best for them”, commented Alan Suttle, Chief Executive of Fife Society for the Blind.

Deaf Direct certified by The Information Standard

Deaf Direct has been certified as a provider of high quality health and social care information by The Information Standard scheme. Deaf Direct met the scheme criteria of producing safe and reliable health and social care information.

The organisation has consequently been awarded The Information Standard quality mark, which it can display on its literature and website to inform the public that its information can be trusted.

According to a survey carried out by The Information Standard, the majority of the general public (72%) believe that they would be better able to manage their own and their family’s health if they had quick and easy access to health information they could trust. The Information Standard, which is supported by the Department of Health, was launched to provide this kind of assurance.

Felix Coulter PhD, Hon FFPH, Hon FRCPG, an independent healthcare advocate who advises on the scheme, commented: ‘Organisations that become certified members of the scheme, and therefore display The Information Standard quality mark on their health information or social care materials, have proven that they adhere to the very highest standards of information production. The public can feel confident that if they see The Information Standard quality mark on health and social care websites or literature, the information can be trusted and relied upon.’

Philip Gerrard, CEO, Deaf Direct, said of its certification: “I’m delighted that Deaf Direct have achieved this recognition of our quality and accuracy of our information. With growing numbers of people with a hearing loss in our communities, it is vital that they and their families know where to go for expertise relating to deafness. Hearing loss is the biggest disability group, and yet it is often ignored; we are here to make sure that they can get the information that they need.”

Any organisation that produces health and social care information can apply to become a certified member of the scheme.

For further information visit www.theinformationstandard.org

National award searches for stars in deaf communications

The hunt for the UK’s finest deaf communicators has begun as leading awarding body Signature launches its fourth annual awards.

Regional nominations for the 2012 Signature Annual Awards, which celebrates those who are making a positive contribution to the lives of the deaf community, are now open.

Forming part of Signature’s celebrations to mark its 30th anniversary the 2012 Deaf Awards, which will be held later this year, is searching for the brightest stars in deaf communications.

Signature is looking to uncover the inspirational stories behind the UK’s teachers and learners who are helping to break down the barriers to communication that deaf and deafblind people often face.

Alongside honouring the talents of the country’s regional Teacher of the Year and Learner of the Year, Signature is also looking for individuals and organisations working to advance the cause of deaf communications over the past three decades.

In 2011 the Signature Annual Awards celebrated the exceptional achievements of 22 regional and eight national winners. Clark Denmark, who is leading the way in British Sign Language teaching and research, was honoured with the Joseph Maitland Robinson Award for Outstanding Contribution.

Chief Executive of Signature, the leading provider of accredited sign language qualifications, Jim Edwards, said, “Since the launch of the Signature Annual Awards in 2009 we have uncovered so many truly inspirational individuals and organisations that have shown a real passion for creating a society in which deaf and deafblind people have equalities.

“Given the fantastic work that has been carried out across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland over the past 12 months in improving deaf awareness I am certain there is still a wealth of talent waiting to be discovered.”

2012 awards will be an extra special event for Signature as we celebrate our 30th year, so as well as honouring the outstanding work of today we will also be commemorating the progress we have made over the last three decades.

Nominations for the regional Teacher of the Year and Learner of the Year awards can be submitted at www.signature.org.uk/ awards until Wednesday, 2 May 2012.

Shortlisted nominees will be announced on 16 May 2012, with the regional winners being unveiled on 13th June. Each regional winner will then progress to the national final later this year when the UK’s Teacher of the Year and Learner of the Year will be chosen.
Blackburn business up for education award

Blackburn based business Seen to be Heard (UK) Ltd, have been shortlisted for The Education Resource Awards (ERAs) 2012, Best Special Education Resource or Equipment - involving IT

Organised by the British Educational Suppliers Association (BESA) and Brilliant Marketing Solutions Ltd, the ERAs highlight the quality and diversity of educational products and resources, excellent educational establishments and the most inspiring members of the teaching profession.

Ray Barker, director of BESA, comments: “The awards aim to test and identify the best resources available to today's schools and classrooms. At a time when schools are being given more freedom to use their professional judgement to organise learning as they see fit, the awards play an increasingly important role in helping to identify products that make a real difference to education”

Primary Sign is delivered using a series of classes taught by animated characters that makes the learning experience fun and interactive

Seen to be Heard (UK) Ltd, has developed an innovative new online learning resource Primary Sign. The inspiration to create Primary Sign was to enable all 24,000 primary schools in the UK to provide and deliver their own sign language classes, through a unique teaching resource for use on the interactive whiteboard or on individual computers both in schools and at home.

Primary Sign is a sign teaching package which provides sign languages and is delivered using a series of classes taught by animated characters that makes the learning experience fun and interactive.

Primary Sign can be used to promote inclusion for deaf children who attend mainstream schools as well as for a fantastic communication skill for hearing children which can be used to support learning across the curriculum. The learning resource will include 10 topics, 10 animated lessons, with 27 games and over 100 handouts linked to the topics.

Schools can customise their home page by adding the school logos and monitor children’s progress and achievement, set homework and activities using the Learning Management System (LMS) utilising groups of children with independent module access.

Primary Sign also provides clear Teacher’s Guides and printable handouts linked to all the topics, providing additional, diverse resources which make the package complete. Children and teachers will love the whole experience of Primary Sign, its fun, educational and effortless.

Cath Monaghan, St Pauls, Feniscowles Blackburn stated, “Primary Sign is highly interactive and fully inclusive for children with special needs or even gifted and able children from Reception to year 6. Not only is it engaging them with their learning of a language, but in addition it is having an impact on their learning across the curriculum, particularly in literacy – speaking and listening”

For further information about Primary Sign please call Debra Reynolds 07989447429 Emma Bury 07785233074 or visit www.primarysign.com

Hearing loss law expert speaks at national event

More than one hundred eminent surgeons were given a lesson in law recently when a Birmingham-based hearing loss specialist was invited to be a guest speaker at the British Society of Otology’s (BSO) annual meeting.

The prestigious event held at the Royal Society of Medicine’s headquarters in London attracted some of the country’s most distinguished ear, nose and throat specialists who had gathered to discuss issues relating to Noise Induced Hearing Loss (NIHL).

Louise Scott, an industrial hearing loss expert from the Birmingham office of Irwin Mitchell Solicitors and her colleague, David Mitchell from the national firm’s Birmingham office will be invited to speak on the subject of Medico Legal reporting and Case Law at the ‘Noise and the Ear’ event, held in conjunction with the Technology in Medicine Section of the RSM and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers.

David was able to update the audience on ‘Important New Case Law in the Diagnosis of NIHL’. Other guest speakers at the event included the renowned audiologist, Robin Yeoh, who discussed ‘Clinical Diagnosis of NIHL’ and consultant ENT surgeon, Maurice Hawthorne, who gave an insight into ‘Courtroom Skills for the Otologist’.

Louise, who has specialised in noise induced hearing loss case work for more than ten years, also volunteers with many support groups including the Birmingham Tinnitus Group and Birmingham Institute of the Deaf and Action on Hearing Loss.

She received royal recognition for her work with victims of hearing loss when she was invited to Buckingham Palace to celebrate the RNID’s 100th birthday as a guest of the national charity’s patron, HRH the Duke of Edinburgh.

For further information visit www.irwinmitchell.com

Best of Britain & Ireland exhibition

Ruthy Fletcher

This year’s Best of Britain and Ireland was held at the Birmingham NEC and saw around 300 companies exhibiting at this year’s show, visitors will spolit for choice and certain to find the ideal package tour from amongst the UK and Ireland’s leading venue, attraction and destination suppliers.

In addition to a show floor packed with exciting new products and services, best of Britain offered a dazzling array of networking and education opportunities including an information rich seminar programme, fun packed Gala Dinner and a down to business meeting management system.

For the last twelve months, I have been working closely with Tourism for All, Accessible for Disabilities, I am trying to make things easier for hearing impaired people by providing Deaf Awareness Training.

At the Best of Britain and Ireland exhibition I spoke to many travel agents and travel agencies about how to make things easier for deaf and hard of hearing people in the UK. They were surprised to learn about some of my bad experiences, such as being unaware of a fire alarm and evacuation that occurred during one hotel stay, and made a note to in future be aware of the importance of hearing impaired friendly fire procedures.

I am currently researching for a guide book I hope to publish called ‘Tourism for the Hearing Impaired’. Where to stay and would be pleased to learn of any experiences, good or bad, you may have had.

Email ruthy@supporttheDeafpeople.co.uk
Wordsearch

Find the words in the grid below. They are chosen from throughout the newspaper so have a flick though and challenge yourself to find them all!

N O I T A R B E L E C G N I R E E N O I P
R O D A S S A B M A H A N D P R I N T O S
S G I I D O L F R H A D R I A N I H R A Q
G R N T T E H S E A E N N A M T Q S O N U
N A I C I T I L O P I A E B P E E E P E A
I D L G I B E F E E C N I E L E V R P K S
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F E D O N I N S G E N E V I E V E R C C I
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Sudoku

Medium

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

Hard

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

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Solution

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

Theatre

April

Tue 3
7:30pm Farewell to the Theatre
Theatre Royal, Winchester
8:00 PM Reasons to be Cheerful
Nottingham Playhouse, Nottingham

Wed 4
7:30pm How’s the World Treating You?
Union Theatre, London

Thu 5
7:45pm Anne Boleyn
Theatre Royal Brighton

Fri 6
7:30pm Travelling Light
Theatre Royal, Newcastle-upon-Tyne

Sat 7
2:15 PM Gypsy
The Curve, Leicester
2:30 PM Yes, Prime Minister
The Hawth, Crawley

Today
7:30pm Oliver!
Birmingham Hippodrome, Birmingham
7:45 PM The Marriage of Figaro
Lyceum Theatre, London

Wed 11
7:30pm Wonderful Town
The Lowry, Salford

Thu 12
7:30pm Anne Boleyn
Lyceum Theatre, Truro
7:30pm Madita the Musical
Cambridge Theatre, London
7:30pm Grease
Royal Concert Hall, Nottingham
7:30pm The Steamin Edinburgh Festival Theatre, Edinburgh

Fri 13
7:30pm I Dreamed a Dream
Bradford Theatres, Bradford
8:30pm Vera, Vera, Vera
Royal Court Theatre, London

Sat 14
2:30pm War Horse
New London Theatre
2:30pm Yes, Prime Minister
Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury
3:00pm The American Clock
Finsborough Theatre, London
7:30pm The King and I
Theatre Royal Plymouth

Photo of the Month

Sarah Ward

Events

April

Icy Cool Adventure Storytelling
Sat 7 at 3:30PM – 3:50PM
Science Museum, London
FREE

Explore the wondrous wintry world of Iceland in this fun, interactive storytelling session with erupting volcanoes, giant glaciers and a little bit of imagination! This is a great family event with voice over interpreters. Suitable for Deaf and hearing families.

For further information visit www.sciencemuseum.org.uk

Deaf Day event
Wed 9 at 10AM - 3PM
Grosvenor House Hotel, London
FREE

Sign Language interpreted

To register your place on this course email training.services@hearingloss.org.uk or telephone: 0161 276 2312 or textphone 0161 276 2316

Space in your face
Fri 19 at 10AM - 4PM
Letchworth Railway Station
FREE

Captioning gives access to live performances for deaf, deafened and hard of hearing people

Performances highlighted in red are British Sign Language interpreted

7:30pm The Steamin Edinburgh Festival Theatre, Edinburgh
7:30pm She Stoops to Conquer
National Theatre (Olivier), London
2:00pm The History Boys
Theatre by the Lake, Keswick, Cumbria
7:30pm Anne Boleyn
Darlington Civic Theatre, Darlington
7:30pm Flumena
Almeida Theatre, London
7:30pm An Inspector Calls
Theatre Royal Newcastle
7:30pm Steel Magnolias
Bradford Theatres, Bradford
7:30pm Murder on the Nile
New Theatre, Cardiff
7:30pm On Golden Pond
Theatre Royal Plymouth

Mon 23
7:30pm Dirty Dancing
Mayflower Theatre, Southampton
7:30pm Our Brother David
Watford Palace, Watford
7:15pm Gross and klein (Big and Small)
Barbican Theatre, London
7:30pm Chalet Lines
Bush Theatre, London
7:30pm Calender Girls
Edinburgh Festival Theatre

Fri 27
7:30 PM The Hound of the Baskervilles
Harrogate Theatre
Sat 28
2:30 PM War Horse
New London Theatre, London
3:00pm An Inspector Calls
Lyceum Theatre, Sheffield
7:30pm South Pacific
Wales Millennium Centre, Cardiff
Sun 29
2:30pm The Lion King
Lyceum Theatre, London

City Lit Connect 2012
Sat 14 at 9AM
City Lit, 16 City Road, London
FREE

City Lit, Keeley Street Covent Garden WC2B 4BA £50 including buffet lunch

A one-day conference for Deaf professionals, including presentations and a choice of workshops and time to network – time to connect. All presentations and workshops will be delivered in BSL.

For more information contact Nathalie
Koenig or James Fitzgerald at
cconnect2012@citylit.ac.uk

A new strategy for NHS procurement
Tues 17
Manchester Conference Centre
The Department of Health has been working closely with the NHS to draw up a new strategy for NHS procurement which will be published on 31 March 2012.

A New Strategy for NHS Procurement will help launch proactive and engage with all parts of the NHS, both to brief delegates on the day and to promote discussion about how it can be implemented - the implications and in particular how the savings can be achieved.

This event is CPD Certified

For further information contact Mike
Agnew, Divisional Events Manager, email
magnew@ps-events.org.uk or call 0161 831 7111

Windsor Castle: The Queen: 60 Photographs for 60 Years
Celebrate The Queen’s birthday at Windsor Castle
21 April 2012, 13:30

Taken by leading press photographers over the course of The Queen’s reign, the 60 photographs selected present a colourful portrait of Her Majesty’s 60 years on the throne. This powerful and illustrated talk will be given with lip-speaking support and interpreted into BSL. The talk will last approximately 45 minutes before visitors see the exhibition independently.

The ticket price includes the talk and exhibition entry and entry into the Castle’s State Apartments, Queen Mary’s Doll’s House and St George’s Chapel.

Admission prices:
Adults £17.00
Over 60/Student (with valid ID) £15.50

Book online at www.rcetickets.com or call 020 7766 7323

The Listening Bus!
Tues 17 at 10:00AM – 3:00PM
Benton Park Primary School, Corchester Walk, Newcalle, Lenton, NGE 7TS
Age range: 4-16
FREE

The hugely popular Listening Bus is NDCS’ information centre that tours the UK bringing NDCS services and information to deaf children, their families and the professionals who work with them. Onboard families can try out the new technology designed to help deaf children at home improve their independence.

If you’d like to come along please email the bus organiser Gabrielle.nagle@ndcs.org.uk or for further information visit www.ndcs.org.uk/listeningbus

Ear Foundation AGM
Thurs 26 at 5:30PM
83 Shrew Road, Lenton, Nottingham, NG7 2FB
Please confirm your attendance by emailing rachel@earfoundation.org.uk

For further information visit www.earfoundation.org.uk

CODA UK and Ireland Conference 2012
Sat 28 at 9AM
Manchester Conference Centre

This weekend-long event will give deaf, hard of hearing, deafened and Deafblind people living in Staffordshire services to deaf, hard of hearing, deafened and Deafblind people living in Staffordshire, and Deafblind people living in Staffordshire.

For more information contact Nathalie, Halsey@ndcs.org.uk or call 020 7514 1117

CodaUK Organisation / Charities:
Cost: Profit-making / Statutory
Tickets: £80 including buffet lunch
Places: 45

Non-profit making organisation / Charities:
Cost: FREE
Tickets: 120
Places: Not currently available

Organisations:
Cost: £50+VAT per person
Places: 20

Barriers faced by people who are deaf or hard of hearing?
You can help make the world a more friendly and accessible place for them by becoming a Deaf Awareness Champion.

This Deaf Awareness training course will improve your communication skills and confidence to help you break down the barriers faced by people who are deaf or hard of hearing.

To register your place on this course email training.services@hearingloss.org.uk or telephone: 0161 276 2312 or textphone 0161 276 2316

Space in your face
Sat 14 at 3:30PM – 4:00PM
Science Museum, London
FREE

To access new research and information about CODA UK and Ireland Conference 2012

For further information visit www.codauk Ireland.co.uk

Photo of the Month

Sarah Ward

Want to list your event here?
editorial@hearingtimes.co.uk
Hadrian runs wall for charity

Businessman Hadrian Harris will take part in a Hadrian’s Wall marathon challenge in aid of Hearing Dogs for Deaf People

Mr Harris, hearing director of the Specsavers hearing centre, at 7 Rose Lane in Canterbury is hoping to raise more than £1,500 for the charity, which turned 30 on 8 March.

Mr Harris says, “Last year I ran three marathons in aid of Hearing Dogs and this year I wanted a new challenge - running a marathon with the same name as me seems like the perfect thing to do!”

“I’m going to train for about 10 to 15 hours a week in preparation. The course is 70 miles in total and I will be completing it over two days, running 33 miles on the first day and 37 miles on the second day. That’s the equivalent of running from the store to Heathrow Airport.”

Mr Harris will be running the marathon on Saturday 23 and Sunday 24 June 2012 and is asking local residents to support him generously, as they did last year.

“I would like to beat the amount of money I raised for the charity last year, which was an incredible £1,500, and say thank you in advance for any support and sponsorship people are able to give. Literally every penny counts in helping me reach my target.

“Hearing loss and deafness are spoken about so little and yet one in seven people suffer from some form of hearing difficulty. I hope that by supporting Hearing Dogs for Deaf People we can raise awareness of the charity and the vital role it plays.”

Leon cycles USA for Great Ormond Street

When audiologist and regional manager for hearing aid manufacturer Unitron Leon Cox gets on his bike this month, it will be to tackle a gruelling, 3,000-mile coast to coast ride from Los Angeles to New York, in aid of the audiology department at London’s Great Ormond Street Hospital

Juliet England

Aiming to pedal some 150 miles a day during the month-long trip, with just a couple of rest days, Leon will travel through diverse terrain and a number of different states, taking in California, Arizona, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, Indiana, Ohio, Pennsylvania and New Jersey before arriving in New York City at the end of the epic journey.

He will combine camping with some motel accommodation, do much of his own cooking, and complete the ride without a support vehicle, riding a Specialized Alley Eite road bike.

He will also do all the navigation and journey planning unaided.

The 29-year-old admits to feeling “massively daunted” by the challenge, which he plans to start in Santa Monica on April 30th. But he has been in training near his home in Thame, Oxfordshire, for the last five or six months, with regular rides of up to 50 miles.

Leon’s employer, Unitron, have sponsored him, paying for his flights and a majority of the kit he’ll need.

So far he has raised around £400, but hopes to be able to donate around £5000 to Great Ormond Street.

He explained: “When many people give to this wonderful hospital, it is usually to help with life-saving equipment, and that is understandable.

“But I wanted to make sure the important work of the audiology department is acknowledged and rewarded as well.

“The reality is beginning to settle in, and the nerves are beginning to build. But I’m looking forward to the ride, as it will be such a huge personal challenge.”

Sponsor Leon by going to justgiving.com/leoncox-lax2ny.

We’ll be catching up with how the ride went in the June/July issue of Hearing Times.

Deaf club host London 2012 celebration

Harrow Asian Deaf Club (HADC) celebrated their first ever London Olympic 2012 Celebration by hosting the event at Bentley Day Centre last month to support London Olympic 2012 in Harrow

Saying “Welcome to Harrow’s London Olympic 2012” in BSL are (L to R): Asif Iqbal MBE – President of Harrow Asian Deaf Club; Cllr David Perry - Portfolio Holder for Community & Cultural Services (Harrow Council); Mayoress Mrs Rama Choudhury; Cllr Richard Sumray MBE – Chair of London Forum 2012; Charlotte Henry – Local Lib Dem Candidate for London Assembly Member; Mayor Cllr Minrat Choudhury; Navin Shah London Assembly Member; Renuka Ruparelia – Chair of Harrow Asian Deaf Club.

The venue was festooned with British flags, and the deaf club welcome over 200 people to the event including speaker Cllr. Minrat Choudhury, the Mayor of Harrow who opened the event and explained the importance of celebrating the London Olympic 2012.

Of the opening on the event he said, “I had a very enjoyable evening visiting the Harrow Asian Deaf Club’s Olympic celebration. It was great to see a thriving community socialising together and it was a pleasure to meet so many wonderful people”.

Richard Sumray MBE, Chair, London 2012 Forum spoke about the London Olympic, and how it was started from the bid for the actual Olympic London 2012.

Councillor David Perry Portfolio Holder for Community & Cultural Services, Harrow Council began his speech by signing in British Sign Language, saying “My name is David Perry. Welcome to London Olympic Celebration”. He then spoke about opportunities for people to get involved with London Olympic 2012 in Harrow area and the development work locally.

Event host Asif Iqbal, President of Harrow Asian Deaf Club and Local Leader 2012, said, “This was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate the London Olympic 2012.

“It’s an exciting time to witness such momentum in history of recognising Harrow Asian Deaf Club supporting London Olympic 2012 and as well as encourage a growth of people keen to get involved and make difference in our lives too.”

www.hearingtimes.co.uk

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