

the community  
hub**Summer 2010**  
**Issue 1**a community newsletter  
from the Deaf Cultural Centre...for  
young people  
aged 8 to 19.

## New Sports Project!

**BID Services is working with StreetGames to create new opportunities for young deaf people to take part in organised sport. StreetGames is a national agency that works to develop sporting opportunities for young people aged 8 to 19.**

We have already consulted with a range of youth groups to find out what sports are the most popular. We found that young deaf people are interested in a range of sports and some of their favourites included go-karting, dodgeball, trampoline, cycling, football,

gym and ice-skating.

We can't promise we will be able to establish groups for all of the interests but we are working hard to get the project underway and to offer an exciting range of physical activities that will get you moving, build your confidence and challenge you to achieve!

We can't do it without you though! We want as many young deaf people as possible to get involved. You can get involved in a number of ways – by joining in with the programmes offered, by

offering your services as a coach, by volunteering to help, or even by fundraising to raise money to extend the sports project.

To learn more about the Sports Project or to get in touch, please contact Tim Scannell or Jen Hodgkinson on the details below.

Telephone 0121 246 6100

Tim Scannell  
e: [tim.scannell@bid.org.uk](mailto:tim.scannell@bid.org.uk)

Jen Hodgkinson  
e: [jen.hodgkinson@bid.org.uk](mailto:jen.hodgkinson@bid.org.uk)

## Welcome to The Community Hub, the Deaf Cultural Centre's brand new newsletter.

### What's inside?

What's been happening at the Deaf Cultural Centre?

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

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

## What's been happening at the Deaf Cultural Centre?

### A busy time for the community groups!

After the busy festivities at Christmas and the party on New Year's Eve kicking off another brand new year with attendance from deaf people travelling from as far afield as London and Manchester, it was time to get event planning for 2010!

**Birmingham Deaf Community Group (BDCG)** continue to oversee a number of activities and events for the Deaf Cultural Centre including the 50+ Group who continue to meet monthly on a Saturday for afternoon tea. The older deaf people had a recent visit from another 50+ Group from Leicester and met up with old friends

and reminisced old times. Another exchange between Birmingham and Derby is being planned for later this year.

The BDCG recently supervised an event that came back this year for the 2nd time by popular demand, which was live wrestling. This proved very popular last year and was once again organised by Sean Noone with profits going towards the Birmingham Deaf Community Group to fund events for young deaf people.

**Birmingham Deaf Football** recently took part in a national football competition for the British Deaf Football Plate, an event which was organised by Deaf Sports UK. They

## Deaf Playscheme!

February half-term saw the attendance of approximately 15 children at the Deaf Cultural Centre's first playscheme.

They all came from different schools across the borough, with varying levels of hearing loss and their communication needs provided the new playscheme staff with a challenge. Activities during the week, both on-site and in the neighbouring Chamberlain Park, included games, an arts and crafts workshop and drama and storytelling sessions. There were also day trips and visits to ten pin bowling and ThinkTank, a science museum in Birmingham City Centre.

As part of an endeavour to strengthen links with mainstream schools, the centre's Community Development Manager was invited to give a presentation to staff at Bordesley Green Girls School who will be opening a Deaf Resource Base for deaf children in September. They were introduced to the concept of Deaf Culture and learnt about the Deaf Cultural Centre.

A few weeks later, there was an interactive session with deaf pupils from Longwill School for the Deaf who came to the Deaf Cultural Centre to find out more about BID Services and the centre facilities.

BID Services and the Deaf Cultural Centre will be running another

Contact us to find out more!

reached as far as the final after beating Edinburgh in the semi-final. They had to play against Derby for the Final and although they lost the match, the deaf footballers can be proud of their achievements in the tournament.

Deaf Awareness Week (28 June - 2 July) was a big hit this year! BID Services organised a range of events, throughout the week which were held at the Deaf Cultural Centre and included a musical extravaganza with performances by talented deaf artists and musicians. There was also a Deaf Multi-cultural World Party where more than 150 people attended. They were dressed in international clothing and a buffet of international food was provided.

Back for the 3rd year running, Creative Hands a Deaf Arts Festival overseen by the Deaf Arts Network took place the following week. There were exhibitions, tours, private views and school workshops. Professional deaf artists led the creative and interactive sessions with local schools. The visits also provided an opportunity for the pupils to see the artists' works which were being exhibited in Simister Hall.

Events are being planned for the rest of the year - please see the diary list on the right and also on page 6.

**A number of community groups are based at the Deaf Cultural Centre so there is always an event for you.**

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

**Birmingham & District Deaf Children's Society** is a group for parents of Deaf children who live within Birmingham and are supported by the NDCS.

**The Deaf Diversity Group** was established in 2009 after an amalgamation between the Deaf Asian Group and the LGBT Group. The aim is to improve awareness of the diverse 'sub-cultures' and to value how much they enrich the Deaf Community.

**There are many other groups including Cancer Support Group, Dance Health Group, DANUK (Deaf Arts Network UK), deafoto (Deaf Photography Group) and Birmingham Deaf Football Club all of whom arrange events throughout the year.**

**Contact us to find out more!**

## Dates for your diary

**Deaf Playscheme**  
Mon 16th - Fri 27th August  
Contact Tim Scannell for information

**Deaf Sports for Young People**  
8 - 19 years old  
Wed evenings 5:30pm - 7:30pm

**Deaf Artists Away Day**  
Sat 16th Oct 10am - 4:40pm  
Custard Factory, Birmingham

**Jam Tomorrow 2**  
A networking opportunity  
for Deaf and disabled artists  
November 2010

**Children's Christmas Party -  
Ladywood**  
Sat 11 December

**Annual Christmas Meal  
for Deaf Older People -**  
arranged by BID Services  
Wednesday 15th December

playscheme during August (Monday 16th to Friday 27th August) for deaf children living in the Birmingham area aged 8 to 13 years old.

There will be various activities every day with a daily theme.

Contact Tim Scannell for further information

voice: 0121 246 6100  
textphone: 0121 246 6101  
fax: 0121 246 6125  
e: [tim.scannell@bid.org.uk](mailto:tim.scannell@bid.org.uk)

Further information can be found on the BID Services website and the Deaf Cultural Centre website.

[www.bid.org.uk](http://www.bid.org.uk)  
[www.deafculturalcentre.com](http://www.deafculturalcentre.com)





## Deaf Awareness Week 2010

Every year, one week is dedicated throughout the nation to raise awareness of deafness and the barriers faced by deaf people every day.

BID Services arranged a number of key events to mark Deaf Awareness Week, which took place from Monday 28th June to Sunday 4th July 2010.

On Monday 28th June from 12pm - 2pm, Birmingham's Lord Mayor and Lady Mayoress helped us launch Deaf Awareness Week. Deaf and hearing children from schools all over Birmingham released balloons from the Council House. Tuesday 29th June saw Deaf staff from BID Services visit local schools in Ladywood to share signed stories with children.



There was an Open Day at the Deaf Cultural Centre on Friday 2nd July. This was a great opportunity for businesses to find out about BID Services and the range of services offered to deaf and hard of hearing people and also to find out how they can support them in the workplace. Visitors learned about Access to Work, how to book an interpreter and even how to finger-spell their own names.



## Musical Extravaganza

Friday, 2nd July, 2010 - To celebrate Deaf Awareness Week, an event that is celebrated annually by over 100 deaf charities and organisations across the UK, BID Services hosted a Variety show called "In Tune", on Friday, 2nd July, at 7.30pm at the Deaf Cultural Centre, Ladywood, Birmingham.

BID Services has been supporting the Deaf community for over 100 years and wanted to put on an event at their Deaf Cultural Centre that explored the many ways in which deaf people celebrate and explore their musicality. Being Deaf is not necessarily a barrier to experiencing and enjoying music and the Deaf community have a very rich culture in interpreting music through sign language and visual representation.

The event was supported by the new Mayor of Birmingham, Len Gregory and the Lady Mayoress, Gillian Gregory, who have chosen BID Services as one of the charities they will fundraise for, during their year in office.

There were a number of talented deaf artists and musicians who each have their own extraordinary talents. All of the artists work can be enjoyed by both deaf and hearing audiences. For instance, one of the performers was a profoundly deaf flute player Ruth Montgomery and her work was enjoyed by the audience through



sound, and as a visual experience for deaf people, where graphics techniques and colour play an important part.

The artists who performed included a deaf poet, Richard Carter, who has a natural gift for poetry, a sign-song performer Jayne Fletcher, who marries the sound of music with music to the eyes, transforming the music into a truly visual experience, Ricky Ricardo Hoyte, who dances and signs to songs, and InteGreat, a theatre company, who perform using sign songs and drama.

This was a spectacular event which played to a packed audience of both hearing and deaf people. It was such a successful event and we plan to do this again next year!

*“What a first for the DCC! It was an excellent evening entertainment by members of the deaf community co-ordinated by BID Services and DCC staff! Well done! So much hidden talent is there, showing deafness need not be a barrier, and needs to be tapped into. May there be many more such events in the near future?”*

**Gail Conway**, Sensory Support Services, Birmingham City Council

# Community Group Profile

## Birmingham Deaf Community Group

Teresa Allcock  
is the group's Secretary  
and can be contacted via the  
Deaf Cultural Centre  
or alternatively by email:  
teresa.allcock5@hotmail.co.uk

The Group's secretary, Teresa Allcock, was happy to tell us about the BDCG!

**Hi Teresa! Thank you for meeting us. Can you tell us a bit about the BDCG and why it was set up?**

In 2007, when the Deaf Cultural Centre was first opened to the public, there was a need for the deaf community to have a central place where they could meet and socialise with other people. The centre's Community Development Manager encouraged a number of deaf volunteers to form a new partnership with the Deaf Cultural Centre and in 2008, the Birmingham Deaf Community Group was born!

We grew up in the deaf community and without them, we would not be here today or attending events at the Deaf Cultural Centre. Without the community, deaf people would not know about the diverse range of people who come to the events, learn about their culture, their identity and be proud of who they are. Because of the community's existence, deaf people will always meet up somewhere and what better place for them than the Deaf Cultural Centre? After all, it is a Deaf-friendly place!

By coming here, they have

access because there are no barriers in regards to communication, language and technology which is usually the case in a lot of other places. For example, the centre staff here can communicate with deaf people with varying levels of hearing loss so there are no communication problems.

**Can you tell us a bit more about the BDCG and what do they actually do?**

The group has a committee of which we have a Chair, Secretary and Treasurer and other members. Many of us do this in our free time as volunteers as we are aware of the importance for the community to continue for many years to come. We have administration and organisation responsibilities where we look after the financial side of things and arrange activities for the community members to enjoy, including afternoon tea for the 50+ Group, the brilliant Valentine's Party for young Deaf people, the fantastic Prom Night and School Reunion - all of which were held last year. We also oversee, with our support, DCC's own events such as christmas parties and New Year's Eve. We have also supported external organisations with their events such as the American Live Wrestling which was held quite recently.

**It sounds like it's been a very busy time for your group! Can you tell us of any future events in the pipeline?**

Our usual events such as the Afternoon Tea and bingo sessions will carry on as normal but we are also planning other events for later in the year, of which details will be revealed in the next issue!

## More dates for your diary!

### Deaf Social

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

### Afternoon Tea

Saturday 21 August  
Saturday 18 September  
Saturday 13 November

Saturday 4 December  
Annual Christmas Meal  
organised by the BDCG

### Bingo Sessions

Saturday 30 October  
Halloween Style!

Sunday 19 December  
Christmas Grand Bingo!

## emergencySMS

emergencySMS services allows you to contact the 999 emergency service by SMS text from your mobile phone if you have an emergency - for free.

### How do I use emergencySMS?

Before you can make an emergency call, you have to register with the service.

Text 'register' from your mobile phone, send it to 999 and follow the instructions OR follow the instructions at [www.emergencysms.co.uk](http://www.emergencysms.co.uk)

## Leave a Legacy

Do you want to leave something lasting to contribute to the future of the Deaf community?

We understand you need to provide for your family and friends, but after you have taken care of your loved ones, you might consider leaving a legacy gift to BID Services. Your legacy will help us continue our work and could support thousands of people with a hearing loss improve their quality of life.

We will use your legacy wisely to provide a range of vital services needed by deaf people. This includes offering communications support, running lip-reading classes, supporting people and their families to cope with their hearing loss and much, much more.

If you would like further information then please contact our Legacy officer, Terry Yarnall on 0121 246 6100 or drop an email to [legacy@bid.org.uk](mailto:legacy@bid.org.uk)

## Personal Budgets



The Government has an initiative to implement personalised care and support that meets the needs of the individual.

What this means is that many service users and their carers will be able to receive and manage their own budget and use it to obtain a package of care that meets their unique requirements. By working in partnership with the individual, the family and the local authority, service users will be able to exercise greater control over their lives and to access a package of care that is personal to their own needs.

BID Services is on board with this new way of working and can support your needs with a range of services specially designed to suit your lifestyle. We support over 3000 people every year and understand the unique needs of the Deaf community. If you

are receiving your own personal budget and need help to plan your support, we can help you.

Our flexible and responsive approach, as well as our understanding of the types of services needed by Deaf people, means we can offer you the right package of support that will help you live the life you want.

If you would like to learn more about personal budgets and how we can support you, then please contact us.

Telephone: 0121 246 6100  
Textphone: 0121 246 6101  
Fax: 0121 246 6125  
Email: [info@bid.org.uk](mailto:info@bid.org.uk)  
[www.bid.org.uk](http://www.bid.org.uk)

BID Services  
Deaf Cultural Centre  
Ladywood Road  
Birmingham  
B16 8SZ



BID Services works in partnership with deaf people and other communities

#### Our Services:

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

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



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

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

If you would like to discuss your requirements or have a look round the Deaf Cultural Centre, please contact Kate Clifford on 0121 450 5121 or email [kateclifford@deafculturalcentre.com](mailto:kateclifford@deafculturalcentre.com), or you can visit our website at [www.deafculturalcentre.com](http://www.deafculturalcentre.com).

The Facebook logo, consisting of the word 'facebook' in white lowercase letters on a dark blue rectangular background.

#### Good news!

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

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

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