

Welcome 2007, deaf stars, summer schools, fund-raising ideas, free cinema pass...

Happy New 2007! Welcome to the first issue of 2007.

WAFFLES FROM THE CHAIR

Fellow YDAGger's

I hope that you are all well! I certainly am and should be starting to get ready for the annual bike ride event that takes place in the sunny south. Details are on the web site and I encourage as many of you as possible to take part in this event, if not as a rider then perhaps in some of the other activities. And please help the riders get as much money as possible, all this money will go towards the Summer School Appeal 2007! So if you want to be at Summer School 2007, then you better get raising money! Breenie, I expect to see you swimming in that pool doing lengths! HEHE!

The charity is still continuing to struggle in finding funds, but this is a difficult area to work in. I am not going to go in too much detail but to encourage you to think about how you could help DELTA find the money it needs to keep working with the parents and deaf children. Wendy Adderley shared some good ideas a short while ago, and would welcome any further ideas or offer of help. Even better would be a group of you willing to do run fund raising event, we would support you in any way you need! All we ask is that you talk to Wendy Adderley or me and we will assist where possible.

Facebook! An exciting area to be, so much gossip to be found here and lot's of photos to see! Ed Rex has been working on this website and I encourage Ed to perhaps write an introduction to all for the newsletter, maybe some of you could set up a group to talk about fundraising and see what you would like to do. I had been thinking about doing something either shortly before Summer Schools or straight after, since that is a time when most of you are together!

On a final note, thank you to all who responded to Wendy Adderley's email regarding the Daily Mail give a way, we got a £10k check through!

I look forwards to seeing some of you over the coming months, and hearing of your antics both for DELTA and your own!

Steve Matthews
Chair of DELTA

P.S. www.facebook.com – have a look and see if you can find people that you know!



DEAF STARS!

We have new deaf celebrities in the fellowship!

Jennifer Ryan and her friends starred in a DVD "Deafness Matters" to raise awareness about deafness. Eleven students from Oxfordshire participated in the film and it took seven days to make the film, starting with a weekend away in a youth hostel. The 37-minute movie shows a week in the life of young deaf people.

There was a film premiere held at the Oxford Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre on Saturday 13 January. Over 40 copies of the DVD were sold on the night.



Top left: Charlotte Pringle, Helen Miller, Callum Richards, Beth Simmons and Jennifer Ryan
Bottom left: Adam Webster, Amy Miller, Philip Webster, Alex Simmons, Chris Tolson, Mayor and Mayoress of Oxford

Since the premiere Jennifer and her friends has received lots of media interest. An article was published in the Oxford Mail and Jennifer gave a radio interview on BBC Radio Oxford – wow!

Here are comments from those who participated in the film. Jennifer is the first to lead:

Hi Ian,

During the summer of 2006, 11 Oxfordshire deaf students (ranging from the age of 15-20) took part in acting, producing and editing a film 'Deafness Matters'. The film was created in order for us hearing impaired people to share and talk about our experiences of communicating with the public in different situations – ranging from learning to drive and asking for tickets at the train station. This film hopes to raise deaf awareness as well as providing advice for young deaf children and their families.

This film would not have happened if it hasn't been for the tremendous support of Fran Simmons and Erika Stevenson (producer and director). Many other people also have had a huge influence on the production of the film.

On the 13th of January – after many months of editing – the film was finally premiered. It was a huge success with the Mayor and his wife of Oxford attending. After the premier there was many media attention, in which an article of the premier was featured in the Oxford Mail, Fran Simmons gave an interview on BBC Oxford News and also Erika Stevenson and myself gave an interview on BBC Radio Oxford – where Ian got his name mentioned!!!

Jennifer Ryan

The filming and acting was great fun; I learned a lot about filming, and made lots of new friends. Amy Miller

My view felt this film we experience what it is like to be deaf in mainly hearing world... Callum Richards

Using the camera whilst making the film was one of my favourite bits other than acting! I really hope many people find the film as useful as I did, its do fun to watch and also it teaches everyone a lot of new things.

Charlotte Pringle



Amy, Helen, Beth, Charlotte, Philip, Callum and Adam

Producing 'Deafness Matters' was an enjoyable experience. I had never done anything like it before so I was slightly apprehensive at first but having the weekend away at the hostel really helped to break the ice and get us all feeling at ease with one another; this was achieved through team building exercises and having plenty of time to get used to being in front of a camera.

Starting the filming week, having all seen each other at the hostel the previous day, we knew what to expect and were itching to get started... but first thing first, we had to run through all the do's and don'ts of operating the cameras and also all the types of the shots available to use whilst filming.

Chris Tolson

The premiere was amazing; everyone who watched the film that we've made really loved it. It is just a great achievement to have in our team. I'm so proud of it. The Major of Oxford was really impressed and he made a moving speech too.

We had lots of support from our families and friends plus our former teachers of the deaf people who came too, so it was a very special evening for all of us!

To make the film using the cameras and learning to use techniques was really interesting. We've looked at animation, shots of faces, also shots of filming from different angles to make sure that the audience is feeling that they're there at the situation. My favourite part of making film was doing the animation because there were lots of fun but it is quite simple to make animation too!

The weekend for team building with activities was successful because without it, it would have been awkward to work in such complicating team work through the week. I was so relieved that we've made it to finish the film in the end! I've made some friends of those

that I didn't know them before and it was really nice to work with them in the film because we had to find out ourselves in deafness world and how we can use those experiences into a film.

After we've made the film, it had make me realised so much about how some hearing people did not have the understanding what it was like to be misunderstood regularly. There was a significant difference in people's lives for those who did not have misunderstanding often and those who have lots of misunderstanding. It is frustrating sometimes in our lives but I hope that this film we've made will help people's understanding from many different places what it is like to be deaf with the people. However I think all of us are very fortunate to have huge support from Educational support, social services and Deaf awareness teaching organisations like DELTA etc. From their support, we have been included in almost everything that hearing people do in their lives, going to mainstream schools, involving in sports activities and other entertainments too. Subtitles and mobile phones are a big part of our lives and they have made our lives MUCH easier in communication.

The message behind the movie is to be heard by young deaf people and siblings of the deaf, about their views of experiencing with deafness and how they felt with that.

Beth Simmons

If you would like to order a copy of the DVD, please contact Erika Stevenson (director and producer) on erika.stevenson@tiscali.co.uk or Fran Simmons at 0186 524 3447.

The "Deafness Matters" DVD have been selected for the International Documentary Film Festival OXDOX taking place from 25 March and held in four venues in the UK. Congratulations!

Well done everyone!



REIGATE TO BRIGHTON BIKE RIDE 2007

The DELTA Reigate to Brighton Bike Ride event will take place on Sunday 24 June 2007 and DELTA is looking for cyclists to raise funding!

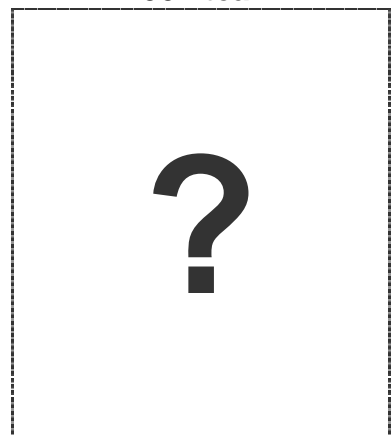
2005 team



2006 team



2007 team



I will be doing the bike ride once again this year. Are you coming? Come on – get the dust off your bike and join me to cycle down all the way from Reigate to Brighton. Think of

sun, sand and sea! At the end of the route there will a lovely dinner (sausages, beans and chips!) provided at the school – worth a ride I say.

DELTA is also looking for volunteers to help man the checkpoints along the bike ride route. You could help out whilst your friends are cycling. All you need to do is sit down (dozing under the sun) and help register all cyclists and hand out cool refreshments. Or you can help out at Ovingdean Hall School in Brighton where the children will be having fun.

For further information, please contact Julia Gomm on julia.gomm@deafeducation.org.uk.

If you want to cycle from Reigate to Brighton or if you have any questions to ask (i.e. about the bike ride event or the ydag bike ride team) then please email either Steve Matthews (DELTASteveM@btinternet.com) or myself.

ROTARY HOUSE, NORWICH

Sarah Allen wrote to me and asked if she could share this information:

I am from Norwich and live in a place called Rotary House for the Deaf.

It houses 15 flats and 7 one-bedroom cottages. All are fully equipped with flashing doorbells, vibrating fire alarms and also flashes when alarm goes off. A shared big TV Lounge with Sky TV and DVD player, pool table and Darts – which is all free to use. Also it houses a laundry room which is for all residents to use it has two washing machines and a tumble drier. We have a large shared garden which is for all residents to use. In summer we have BBQ's etc.

Rotary House is owned by the Rotary Club which raises money for different charities. The Deaf being one of them. It was first built in 1977. We have a Warden on site, who can sign and speak and can communicate in BSL, and also a deputy warden. Although a warden is on site the complex is fully made for Deaf and Hard of hearing people to be able to live independent lives. There is a web site for anybody who is interested in the place.

For further information the e-mail address is: rotaryhouse4thedeaf@btinternet.com. It is a brilliant place to live and is in the city of Norwich. Right near the Norwich football ground. So handy for those football lovers.

Rotary House is always looking for new deaf and hard of hearing residents so if interested contact the place for more details. Hope this proves interesting and be of help maybe to any of you.

Sarah Allen

Sarah said that she hasn't been to Summer School for a few years (she used to go to Colchester Summer School) and she said she would try and make it to Winchester Summer School in summer 2007.



DELTA SUMMER SCHOOLS 2007

It may be early for some of you to start thinking about summer 2007 but DELTA Summer Schools need to know how many volunteers are able to help out.

Have you thought about attending both Summer Schools? If you wish to do this then please let me know and I will try and see if I can help with transportation. It is a good

opportunity for volunteers to meet other volunteers from the 'other side of the world'. I have helped at both Summer Schools and I can tell you that they are both fun. However you will need to have lots of energy to put up with noisy children for a whole week!

NORTH SUMMER SCHOOL **Tuesday 24 to Friday 27 July**

@ Lancaster University

- Pre-school and primary children
- Contact Wendy Adderley on wendy.adderley@deafeducation.org.uk for further details.

SOUTH SUMMER SCHOOL **Friday 27 to Tuesday 31 July**

@ University College, Winchester

- Pre-school children
- Contact Margaret Glasgow on margaret.glasgow@btopenworld.com for further details.

Please let us know about anyone who you think would like to help at one (or both) of the Summer Schools and DELTA will send them the information.

Most of you have helped at Summer Schools – please help to encourage those who haven't helped before to come and join the fun. What did you enjoy the most? Write your stories to me and I will publish them in the next issue.

FUNDRAISING IDEAS PLEASE...!

Last November Wendy Adderley sent an email to some of us saying that she came across an article in the national newspaper Daily Mail who teamed up with the Royal Bank of Scotland Group to give away £1 million to good causes through the country. The article stated that 90 recipients will get a £10,000 donation and one of the charities out of 90 will then receive an additional £100,000. Wendy asked us to collect 5 tokens from the Daily Mail and send them together with name of nominated charity plus a few words (maximum of 50 words) on why a chosen charity should receive the £100,000 prize and how this would make a difference.

Wendy is pleased to announce that DELTA's Head Officer received a lovely cheque for £10,000. Congratulations to Wendy for her hard work and well done to those who participated. We did it.

You see – it is not difficult to raise money for DELTA.



DEAF AWARENESS WEEK – MAY 2007

It is deaf awareness week in week of 7 – 13 May 2007.

Deaf awareness week is a good timing to 'show off' and show the world what you can do – and also to do some fundraising for DELTA. So what are you doing in that week?



FREE CINEMA PASS

Did you know that you can apply for a cinema pass which enable you to buy one ticket and get another free for your accompanied partner?

The cinema pass is "issued to the person who requires assistance to enjoy the cinema. In this way, there is no restriction on the accompanying person, whether parent, family member, friend, care worker and so on."

It costs £5 and is valid for three years. You can only apply for the cinema pass if you have a Disability Living Allowance. Visit the website <http://www.ceacard.co.uk> to download the application form.

A tip: when you are at the cinema with your friend you could share the cost of a ticket between the two of you.

WHISPER FROM DELTA

Hi All,

You've heard our good news regarding the £10,000 from The Daily Mail but we've still got a long way to go to raise enough money for Summer Schools this year so please help in anyway you can. Look out for our regional information and keep an eye on the website which will keep you up to date and don't forget to join in the Bike Ride!

Summer school volunteer forms will be going out later this week, so please keep an eye open in your email box for those of you keen to help this year.

Thanks again Ian and keep all your information coming in, remember we want to hear from you.

Wendy xx

... AND IT IS GOODNIGHT FROM ME



That's all for now folks. Please do keep in touch.

Regards,

Ian McDonald
ydag / dvg newsletter
ian_s_mcd@hotmail.com

Do you know anyone who may be interested to receive the ydag / dvg newsletter? If so, please tell them about the newsletter and ask them to contact me.

Your contributions will be most welcomed – we want to read a story or hear what you have been up to. Please send contributions to the above e-mail address.

Don't forget – this is YOUR newsletter and it is up to you to tell me what you want to see in future issues.

NEXT ISSUE: APRIL 2007

Please submit items for the next newsletter (issue 12) by mid-April 2007.

DELTA CONTACT DETAILS

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telephone / minicom: 0845 108 1437