

## **Organisation & websites about deafness and the Deaf community. Compiled by SINTO**

### **Action deafness**

<http://www.actiondeafness.org.uk/index.html>

Action Deafness works with Deaf, Hard of Hearing, Deafened and Deafblind children, young people and adults across Leicester, Leicestershire and the East Midlands.

### **British Deaf Association**

<http://bda.org.uk/>

The BDA is the largest Deaf organisation in the UK that is run by Deaf people. We represent the Sign Language community, which is united by shared experiences, history and, most importantly, by British Sign Language (BSL). The BDA wants to see a society where Sign Language users have the same rights, responsibilities, opportunities and quality of life as everyone else. BSL was recognised as an official British language on 18th March 2003, but it still does not have any legal protection. This means that Deaf Sign Language users do not have full access to vital information and services, including education, health and employment. We want to see an end to this.

### **British Deaf Association North West (No Yorkshire Branch)**

Bushell Street Mill

Bushell Street

Preston

Lancashire PR1 2SP

Email: [dionneh@bda.org.uk](mailto:dionneh@bda.org.uk)

Textphone: 05603 115295

Telephone: 01772 259725

### **British Deaf History Society**

<http://www.bdhs.org.uk/>

[info.bdhs@btconnect.com](mailto:info.bdhs@btconnect.com)

The BDHS was established in 1993 to promote and advance the interest in the discovery, research, conservation and preservation of the histories of Deaf people, their communities, culture and language.

Its activities include publishing the Deaf History Journal three times a year and organising workshops, seminars and conferences at least three times a year. It has a Research and Publications department which undertakes various projects. Books published under this department are listed in our shop pages.

### **British Sign Language.com**

<http://www.britishsignlanguage.com/>

This site uses moving pictures to show the basic signs for British Sign Language.

### **Deafblind UK**

<http://www.deafblind.org.uk/>  
[info@deafblind.org.uk](mailto:info@deafblind.org.uk)

Deafblind UK is a national charity offering specialist services and human support to deafblind people and those who have progressive sight and hearing loss acquired throughout their lives.

### **Deafness Research UK**

<http://www.deafnessresearch.org.uk/>  
[contact@deafnessresearch.org.uk](mailto:contact@deafnessresearch.org.uk)

Deafness Research UK is the medical charity for deaf and hard of hearing people. We exist to secure radical improvements in the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of all forms of hearing impairment. Ultimately, our aim is to find cures for these distressing and neglected disabilities.

### **deafPLUS**

<http://www.deafplus.org/>  
[info@deafplus.org](mailto:info@deafplus.org)

We are a registered medium-sized charity and company limited by guarantee working to encourage integration and equality between deaf and hearing people in all areas of life.

### **Deafresource**

<http://www.deafresource.com/>

Deafresource is an information portal about the Deaf community, sign language and Deaf Studies. Inside the pages of Deafresource you will find examples of some of the best online resources available and links to the appropriate websites or organisations for more information. Deafresource is supported by University of Bristol [Centre for Deaf Studies](#).

### **DeafSign**

<http://www.deafsign.com/ds/>

**www.deafsign.com** is a new site, that offers a whole new approach to bringing the Deaf and hearing worlds closer together. The site has benefited from examples in other countries, such as the USA and provides information, contacts and discussion on issues related to deafness and sign language.

### **Deafway**

<http://www.deafway.org.uk/>  
[info@deafway.org.uk](mailto:info@deafway.org.uk)

Working to achieve equality of access and opportunity for D/deaf people in every area of life. See Signbytes project below.

### **Dorothy Miles Cultural Centre**

<http://www.dorothymilesc.org/>  
[dorothymiles@btconnect.com](mailto:dorothymiles@btconnect.com)

We are a non-profit making charitable organisation working with deaf and hearing people of all ages.



## **Equal Sign**

<http://www.equalsign.co.uk/>  
[info@equalsign.co.uk](mailto:info@equalsign.co.uk)

Equal Sign offers an affordable and professional translation service from English text to British Sign Language (BSL).

Here at Equal Sign we understand that it is not always easy for organisations to provide full accessibility to the Deaf community and that's why we are here. We aim to assist organisations in whatever way we can to ensure that the Deaf community have access to materials in BSL. In some cases this may amount to nothing more than some friendly advice or assistance and we are more than happy to do this. If you have definite ideas about what sort of BSL materials you want to produce then we can accommodate you. Equal Sign offers a streamlined translation service where the customer can choose exactly how they want to receive the video. We can deliver the video to you in a wide variety of formats and differing media:

## **Eyegaze**

<http://www.eyegaze.tv/cm/>  
[info@eyegaze.tv](mailto:info@eyegaze.tv)

EyeGaze is a multimedia company with a difference. Socially aware and yet commercially savvy, professional quality creative output but always with an eye on accessibility and standards. EyeGaze is here to prove that you don't have to be cutthroat to be canny and you don't need to be dull to be diligent. We are committed to the Deaf community and other disabled groups and we have the expertise to help you to communicate with an inclusive audience through the medium of the World Wide Web.

## **Forest Books**

<http://www.forestbooks.com/pages/index.html>

Forest books is unique. We have a worldwide reputation for an accessible, friendly, fast and helpful service. This year we celebrate 20 years as a Deafness and Deaf Issues Shop and 14 years of this Website.

As the trading subsidiary for the **UK Council On Deafness** our profits are reinvested back into the deaf community so we Thank you for supporting us with your orders.

## **Hearing Concern Link**

<http://www.hearingconcernlink.org/>  
[info@hearingconcernlink.org](mailto:info@hearingconcernlink.org)

The newly united charity providing support and information to people with a hearing loss and their families (formerly Hearing Concern and the LINK Centre for Deafened People).

### **National Association of Deafened People**

<http://www.nadp.org.uk/>  
[enquiries@nadp.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@nadp.org.uk)

The National Association of Deafened People was founded as a charity in 1984 by a group of deafened people who felt that their needs were only partly catered for by existing organisations. The NADP provides information and support for deafened people who have lost all or most of their useful hearing, and for their families and friends, to help enable them to regain their independence and enjoy the best quality of life.

### **RNID The Royal National Institute for Deaf People**

<http://www.rnid.org.uk/>  
[informationline@rnid.org.uk](mailto:informationline@rnid.org.uk)

RNID is the largest charity working to change the world for the UK's 9 million deaf and hard of hearing people.

RNID North, Aeroworks, 5 Adair Street, Manchester M1 2NQ

Tel: 0161 276 2301 Textphone: 0161 276 2302

Fax: 0161 274 3606

Email: [information.north@rnid.org.uk](mailto:information.north@rnid.org.uk)

### **Sense for deafblind people**

<http://www.sense.org.uk/>  
[info@sense.org.uk](mailto:info@sense.org.uk)

Sense is the leading national charity that supports and campaigns for children and adults who are deafblind. We provide expert advice and information as well as specialist services to deafblind people, their families, carers and the professionals who work with them. We also support people who have sensory impairments with additional disabilities

### **Signstation**

[http://www.signstation.org/signstation\\_dictionary/showUserHomePage.do](http://www.signstation.org/signstation_dictionary/showUserHomePage.do)

Want to know about British Sign Language (BSL)? Signstation has video, interactive exercises, pictures, graphics and explanations about BSL and Deaf people at work. Signstation supports Deaf awareness training under the Disability Discrimination Act

### **Signature**

<http://www.signature.org.uk/>  
[durham@signature.org.uk](mailto:durham@signature.org.uk)

Signature promotes excellence in communication with deaf and deafblind people so our vision of a society in which deaf people have full access can become a reality.

### **UK Council on Deafness**

<http://www.deafcouncil.org.uk/home.htm>  
[info@deafcouncil.org.uk](mailto:info@deafcouncil.org.uk)

UK Council on Deafness is the national infrastructure organisation for voluntary sector organisations working with deaf people. Has a list of member organisations.

## **University of Bristol Centre for Deaf Studies,**

<http://www.bristol.ac.uk/deaf/>  
[enquiries-cds@bris.ac.uk](mailto:enquiries-cds@bris.ac.uk)

Europe's first academic institution to concentrate solely on research and education that aims to benefit the Deaf community

### **Sign Bytes (Deafway)**

Our Sign Bytes project is an example of Deafway putting our philosophy into action. We believe strongly that all D/deaf people should have equal access to, and opportunity in, all areas of life. One of the most important of these areas is access to information.

Non-deaf people who use English as a first language have a vast range of information leaflets that they can access in relation to virtually any organisation or topic you can think of. Non-deaf people who use a minority spoken language have a smaller range of information leaflets available – but nonetheless considerable efforts are made to make an increasing range of important information available to users of minority languages in their own languages.

Deaf people who use BSL as a first or preferred language however are able to access very little information in their own language. The reason for this has not been any sort of malice on the part of hearing society, rather it has simply been because there is no written form of BSL (or indeed of any other sign language).

In an attempt to remedy the above situation, a number of organisations have translated some of their information into BSL and made it available on videotape or CD/DVD. Whilst this is laudable, there are only so many videotapes/CDs/DVDs that can be produced and circulated and only so many that Deaf people will wish to be given/sent. Supplying every Deaf person with hundreds of CDs/DVDs cannot be a viable long-term solution to making information available in BSL. The Internet however can be.

We believe that Sign Bytes is a major step forward in giving all Deaf people who use BSL as a first or preferred language access in that language to all of the information that non-deaf people already have access to.

The Sign Bytes project takes information leaflets that are in written English, translates them into BSL, and makes them accessible to anyone in the UK (indeed anyone in the world) who has access to a computer and to a Broadband Internet connection. For those Deaf people who have this facility in their home, this information is accessible to them 24 hours a day, 365 days per year. For those Deaf people who do not have this facility at home, most local libraries in the UK provide this access free of charge.

The Sign Bytes project has been developed with the input throughout of a pilot group of Deaf people in Lancashire. This group included members of all ages, some of whom had a great deal of experience with computers, others who had never touched a keyboard in their lives.

We would like to thank all members of the pilot group for their invaluable input.

SINTO - the information partnership

[www.sinto.org.uk](http://www.sinto.org.uk)

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