

Members & Supporters NEWSLETTER



April 2016

125 WAYS TO CELEBRATE BDA'S 125TH YEAR

Dear Members and Supporters,

Welcome to the BDA Members and Supporters Newsletter.

First of all, thank you for your support of the BDA's 125th Year Celebrations since July 2015; we have seen many positive things happening throughout the year.

When the BDDA began in 1890, the 45 members who gathered at the Lecture Hall of the Church Institute for the Deaf, Albion Street, Leeds could not have foreseen that 125 years later their small charity would be the UK's leading Deaf-led BSL organisation with approximately 2,800 members in the UK this year!

In this newsletter we highlight some of the ways we have been celebrating our 125th Anniversary across the UK. You can also see more at www.bda.org.uk and also at our separate website: www.shared deafarchive.org

Finally, as the proud Chair of this wonderful Association, I would like to invite you to attend the special BDA 125th Year "Back to the Future" Congress in Torquay! Please look out for the booking form which explains what the 5-day programme is all about.

Join us and help us shape a positive future for deaf people in the next 125 years!

See you in Torquay!

Kinds regards,

Dr Terry Riley OBE
Chair



The BDA stands for Deaf Equality, Access and Freedom of Choice

News in Brief from BDA Deaf Community Projects



- **Deaf Roots and Pride Northern Ireland Project**

Several Deaf mentors have visited families and their deaf children. Deaf children who were withdrawn and quiet have blossomed, thanks to mentoring support and have become much happier and confident about who they are.

- **Deaf Roots and Pride UK Project**

A number of appointments have been made as Deaf Roots & Pride is extended to the rest of the UK, starting in the Midlands, Wales, South West and Cumbria. Sue Barry was appointed as project manager. New staff also appointed in Wales and Midlands. For more information, email: manager.drpuuk@bda.org.uk



- **Deaf Heritage Film Project**

Launch of the fantastic “SHARE: Deaf Archive” website showing an amazing range of old Deaf films, videos and photos such as Galas, Congress, Sports, Clubs, and the screening of a 70-minute film documentary *Power in Our Hands* at independent cinemas across the UK. The film will also be shown in selected Odeon cinemas from April. For more information, email: filmheritage.assistant@bda.org.uk
Website: www.sharedeafarchive.org

- **BDA England – Deaf Access & Inclusion Project**

In the last twelve months, over 15 local public authorities have signed up to the BDA’s BSL Charter. Among them was the biggest local authority in Europe, Birmingham City Council. Most recently the London Assembly passed a BSL Charter motion asking the Mayor to sign up. We will lobby new Mayor of London to sign the BSL Charter after May election.



- **BDA Scotland – Access & Inclusion Project**

Working with other organisations we successfully convinced the Scottish Parliament to pass the **BSL (Scotland) Bill** – the first ever BSL legislation in UK political history – on 17th September 2015! Our project team continues to work with the Scottish Government to implement the BSL programme.

- **BDA Northern Ireland – Access & Inclusion Project**

After nine years of campaigning and planning alongside other organisations, we recently had the momentous announcement that the Northern Ireland Assembly would set up a formal consultation with the Deaf community, a very similar process to Scotland, to introduce a **BSL / ISL Bill** in Northern Ireland.



BDA 125TH YEAR CONGRESS “BACK TO THE FUTURE” 20th-24th July 2016 – Torquay

Many people have taken up the Early Bird Registration fee offer for the BDA Congress in Torquay. An exciting 5 day programme is being put together – please visit the BDA’s 125th Year Congress website: www.bda.org.uk/congress for more information.



Important announcement – the Early Bird Registration offer ends on 18th April: Price £105 for the full five days (after 18th April, £135) Or £55 day registration before 18th April (after 18th April, £75) Book now to avoid disappointment and remember also to reserve your accommodation! Don’t miss this rare opportunity to meet people from all over the UK at Congress and have some fun at the seaside!

BDA’s SIGN LANGUAGE WEEK 2016 – “I’m Deaf, Let’s Sign!”



Last month, we ran a very successful social media campaign to promote the BDA’s Sign Language Week 2016, raising public awareness about our language – British Sign Language and Irish Sign Language in Northern Ireland.

For more on “I’m Deaf, Let’s Sign!” you can visit our website to see the posters we prepared for each day with a different theme. It is important we spread our message with your help and raise public awareness about our language – British Sign Language.

Next Year – BDA’s Sign Language Week 2017 from Monday 13th to 19th March 2017. In Autumn 2016, we will announce plans for BDA’s Sign Language Week 2017. Please contact us then for more information.

FUNDRAISING NEWS

Upcoming fundraising event in support of the British Deaf Association



London Marathon 2016

– raising money for BDA Community Projects
Majella McAteer, James Barnes-Miller and Naaman Peter will be running the London Marathon and aiming to raise £6,000 towards BDA Community Projects. Please support them by either sending a cheque to the BDA

(with “London Marathon” on the back) or clicking <http://bit.ly/bdamarathon>

London to Paris Bike Ride 2016

raising money for BDA Deaf Roots and Pride Project. A BDA team of ten will join hundreds of bike riders who will leave London on 20th July 2016, and arrive in Paris on 23rd July. **We have four riders, we need to find SIX more**, see more information via <http://bit.ly/bdabikeride>. If you are interested, please contact David Buxton: directorcc@bda.org.uk or the BDA office for more information.



Why don’t you try raising money for the BDA? If you wish to organise an event and raise money for the BDA’s Deaf Community projects, please contact us and we will give you a list of local fundraising ideas.

Remember the BDA in your Will

The BDA is extremely grateful to those individuals who have already left a gift to the British Deaf Association in their Wills.

Such a gift is among the most far reaching and valuable contributions a supporter can make, directly benefiting future generations to come. A gift can reflect your particular interest and passion and can be directed to specific Deaf projects.

If you are considering leaving a gift in your Will to the British Deaf Association and would like further information, please contact us via BDA Contact Details.

BUILDING OUR LEGACY



The BDA conference was an opportunity to reflect on the association's achievements over the last 125 years and how its founding resolution to protest the ban on sign language in education remains as relevant as ever today, Director of Campaigns and Communications David Buxton writes



ACY FOR THE FUTURE

Around 150 BDA members and supporters gathered in London on a cold Saturday in February for the 2016 Conference and AGM. The venue was the Amnesty International Centre in the heart of old London near Old Street. As they arrived they couldn't fail to have been inspired by Amnesty posters promoting human rights and free speech, central themes throughout the history of the BDA.

Murray Holmes BEM, BDA's Vice President, opened his keynote speech by reading out the British Deaf and Dumb Association's (as the BDDA was known as until 1971) only founding resolution: "Determination to indignantly protest against the prohibition of the use of finger and sign language in the education of deaf children." Murray went on to say, "125 years on, we still see deaf children deprived of a basic human right to use BSL freely at home and in school."

He said the BDA had come close to achieving a major breakthrough on that original resolution during the 1980s when BATOD and key politicians initially approved a report which stated that the "oralist only" method of educating deaf children had failed. They had agreed there was a need for some deaf children to be educated by the combined method. But sadly the introduction of a separate report by Baroness Warnock, urging that deaf children should be mainstreamed, took precedence resulting in a large number of deaf schools closing down.

The audience were urged to return to that original resolution and campaign again for another Conrad report (published in the 1970s, the Conrad report identified low literacy rates among deaf school-leavers which raised questions about oralism) or even a royal commission for deaf education.

Murray also talked about the many unsung achievements of the BDDA/BDA over the last 125 years. He told the audience that in 1924 the BDDA had helped rescue the National Institute for the Deaf (NID, now Action on Hearing Loss) when they were on the verge of collapse. In 1933, the BDDA successfully fought to win deaf drivers third party insurance. Also many members

seemed unaware of the role the BDA played in the setting up of CACDP (now Signature) and the European Union of the Deaf.

BDA Deaf Heritage Project assistant Lianne Holly delivered a presentation entitled *From the Skip to the Premiere*. The story of the old BDA film reels discovered in a building skip which, with the help of a Heritage Lottery grant, led to the launch of the inspirational SHARE: DEAF ARCHIVE website bringing together a vast collection of rarely seen films of deaf people from the 1930s onwards and also some old photos from the 1890s.

Rescued and preserved forever are early films in sign language, the Princess of Wales signing at conference, footage of the BDDA dropping "Dumb" in 1971, various international deaf sports events and the famous Leslie Edwards reporting in BSL during the 1930s.

Lianne also explained that many more old deaf films and photos had been donated to the BDA since the project began. A 70-minute film utilising the archive entitled *Power in Our Hands* is currently being shown in cinemas.

Following the mid-morning break, the BDA 125 Years Pictorial History Book was officially launched with a short video. The book was well received with a queue of people demanding the four authors sign their book.

It was an uplifting morning enjoyed by all on the theme of "Building our legacy for the future".

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Dr Terry Riley OBE, the Chair of the Association, opened the AGM in the middle of the BDA's 125th year, revealing what the BDA had achieved during the year of 2014-15.

The Chair asked the Trustees to present the Chair's report, as he felt this was a report from the whole board.

The Company Secretary presented the BDA's Audited Accounts showing the BDA having another successful year, resulting in a very small deficit.

AWARD WINNERS

The BDA was delighted to present the **FRANCIS MAGINN AWARD** to two deaf people who have served the Deaf community in the past few years. They are: **Lilian Lawson OBE**, for her amazing dedication as a public servant to the Deaf community in senior roles with the BDA, RNID and SCoD and her successful work leading the campaign for a BSL (Scotland) Act; and **Murray Holmes BEM** (pictured right), for his dedication to the BDA over many decades, including taking the baton as the Chair from Jock Young OBE and appointing the first Deaf Chief Executive.



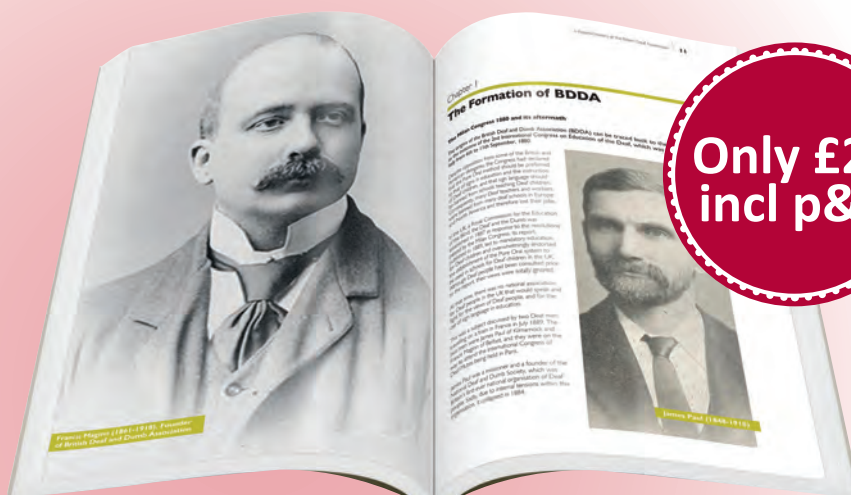
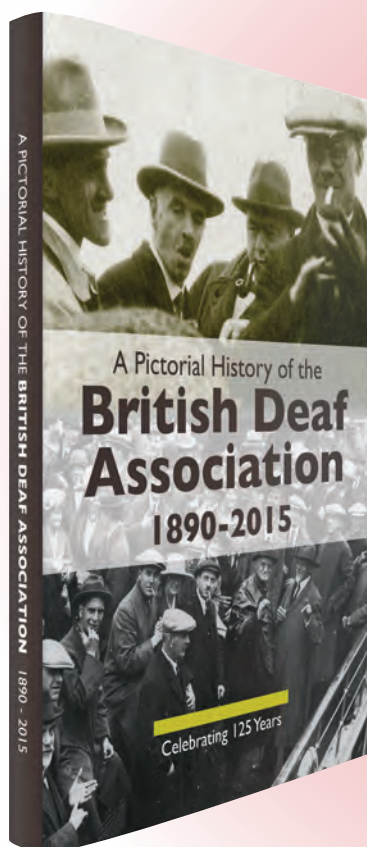
Another award **BDA CERTIFICATE OF MERIT** was presented to two Deaf individuals: **Agnes Dyab**, former BDA vice chair, for her dedication to the Deaf community work in the Greater London and her Sign Language teaching work. Also to **Sarla Meisuria** for her commitment to promoting Deaf BAME work in the Greater London and also in her role as Chair of GLDA for three years.

A **BDA CHAIR'S AWARD** was presented to **Gloria Pullen** for her amazing dedication to the local Deaf community in Nottinghamshire, especially exerting pressure on local public authorities to sign up to the BDA's BSL Charter.

The **British Deaf History Society** also received a **BDA CHAIR'S AWARD** for their work on the unique *A Pictorial History of the British Deaf Association*. The **BDA CHAIR'S AWARD CERTIFICATE** was presented to the four BDHS volunteers who compiled the book: **Diane Webb**, book project coordinator, **Ian Depledge**, **Alan Murray MBE** and **Ian Urquhart**.

The next BDA Members' Conference and AGM will be held in York on Saturday 28 January 2017

BDA 125th Year – Pictorial History Book – NOW ON SALE

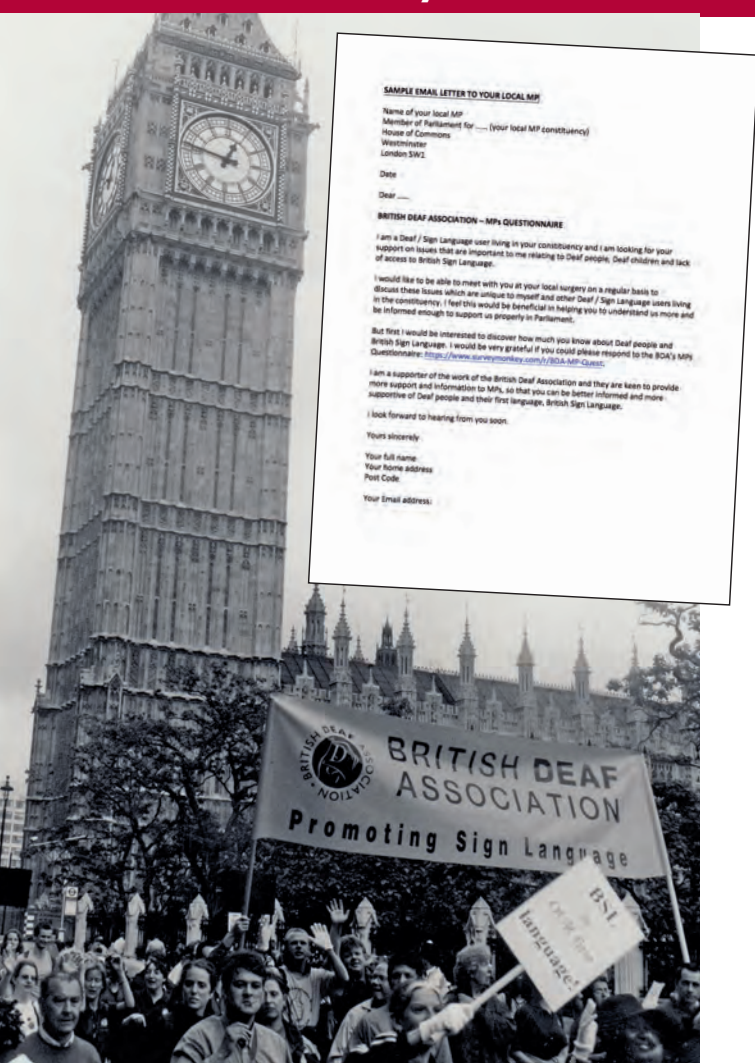


**Only £23
incl p&p**

The book has been selling fast since its launch on 20th February 2016. We are close to selling out of our initial print run! The book reveals the fascinating history of the BDA and contains plenty of old photos and QRs for you to enjoy! Click the book launch video (<http://bit.ly/bdabooklaunch>), telling the story of how the 160 page book was put together.

You can order a copy for £23 including P&P, please click the order bda.org.uk/shop. If you wish to order a copy by email: bda@bda.org.uk

Please contact your local MP – BDA MPs Questionnaire Survey



It is now thirteen years since the government of the day announced that it recognised BSL as a language in its own right. But we are still waiting for full legal acceptance and for 151,000 BSL users to have the same rights as users of the UK's other indigenous languages such as Welsh, Gaelic and Cornish. We have been promised that a legal status for our language would be considered. So far... nothing. Our Sign Language Week poster last month highlighted the wait. "Today 13 years on, we are still waiting... Parliament may have forgotten, we haven't!"

We need YOU to...

Help us to make a real difference in the Houses of Parliament – please contact us for a sample letter for you to send to your local MP. Have a look at the video (www.bda.org.uk/bda-mps-questionnaire-2016) which explains why we would like your local MP to complete our simple Questionnaire. It will help us to find out how much MPs really know about British Sign Language and Deaf Education and identify which MPs will be willing to help us to achieve a legal status for BSL / ISL at Westminster.

Or please contact us (campaigns@bda.org.uk) for further assistance.

BDA Social Media

- **BDA Website:**
www.bda.org.uk – with BSL version
- **BDA FaceBook:**
www.facebook.com/BritishDeafAssociation
- **BDA Twitter:**
@BDA_Deaf
- **BDA E-News:**
if you wish to receive BDA E-News, please email membership@bda.org.uk to add your email address to our list.



British Deaf News

- **BDN FaceBook:**
www.facebook.com/BritishDeafNews
- **BDN Twitter:**
@BritishDeafNews
- **British Deaf News** – monthly magazine.
See membership form on your right if you wish to become BDA subscriber now.



The BDA wants to be closer to you, and keep you up to date with what's really happening now and in the future!

BDA membership

(Annual Member including BDN magazine)

“Campaign today...Equality tomorrow”

Membership Benefits

- Vote or nominate for Chair and Trustee elections (16+ over)
- Attend Members-only events hosted by our regional groups
- National Conference and AGM hosted at a different location every year
- BDA Deaf Community and Campaign updates
- Receive e-newsletters and information such as Annual Reports, Accounts and event information
- Participate in Special Interest groups, forums and surveys to discuss issues that matter to you
- Join our Deaf Community and campaign events
- Access to our website with news and information about the Deaf Community
- Post, chat and connect with other members on the BDA's official Facebook & Twitter page.

Free membership – ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP runs from January 2015 to December 2016

YES PLEASE, I WILL JOIN (PLEASE TICK) ☐

BDN subscriptions

(Life Member / Organisation)

Annual BDN Subscription	Full year	Full year
	Online copy option	Hard copy option
Individual	£10	£30
Organisations – UK	£10	£45
Organisations – Europe	£10	£80
Organisations – Worldwide	£10	£100

Details of contact

(Please write with capital letters)

Title Mr/Mrs/ Miss or Name

Surname

Organisation Name

Address

Town/City Postcode

Email

Date of birth (Annual Members only)

I do not wish to receive additional information from the BDA ☐



Payment options

1. Standing order for BDN Subscription

Please write clearly in the white spaces with capital letters or cross the boxes.

All sections must be completed. Please return the original form as photocopies are not acceptable. Once you have completed this form please return to:
BDA, 3rd Floor, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA.

Your details

Your account name

Name of Bank and branch name

Address of Bank

Postcode

Sort code - -
(being debited)

Account number
(being debited)

Please pay BDA the sum of £

immediately and on 1st January thereafter until further notice to HSBC Bank, Carlisle, sort code 40-16-22 for the account of British Deaf Association (BDA). Membership Account 72260654

Your signature (s)

Date

Reference no: (for office only)

2. Credit/Debit Card

☐ Please debit my Mastercard/Visa/Switch (delete as appropriate).

Card number

/ / /

Issue no. (if appropriate) Three-digit security code

Expiry date / Start date (if appropriate) /

Are you a taxpayer?

If so, every £1 you give could be worth £1.25 to us, helping to fund vital work – at no cost to you at all. Please read below and tick the box ☐, and leave the rest to us. Thank you.

You must pay an amount of income tax and/or capital gains tax for each tax year (6 April to 5 April) that is at least equal to the amount of tax that all the charities or Community Amateur Sports Clubs (CASCs) that I donate to will reclaim on my gifts for that tax year. I understand that other taxes such as VAT and council tax do not qualify.

3. Invoice (organisation only) Want us to send invoice? ☐

Company name

Contact name

Invoice Address

Postcode

Email

British Deaf Association

3rd Floor
356 Holloway Road
London N7 6PA

020 7697 4140

ooVoo: bda.britdeafassoc

skype: bda.britdeafassoc

FaceTime: 07720 916 515

For Regional Offices, please see our website

We are trying to keep our administration costs low, therefore please send us your email address if you are happy to receive the newsletter electronically.



www.bda.org.uk

Patron: HRH The Duke of York, KCVO, ADC
Chair: Dr Terry Riley OBE

Registered Office: British Deaf Association, 356 Holloway Road, London N7 6PA
Company limited by Guarantee No 2881497. Registered charity number 1031687 (England and Wales). Scottish registered charity number SC042409