



Kent Deaf Children's Society

Registered Charity No 1015013



Minutes of 2008 AGM Saturday 5th July 2008

At
Royal School for Deaf Children, Margate.

Present: Ivor & Jane Riddell, Brian & Jo More, Lynn Stow & John, Steve & Angie Ralph, Ian & Sarah Storer
Belcher family, Drown Family, Champion Family, Mary Bucknall, Chappell family, French family, Gooderidge, Grasson family, Hewer family, Jones family, Mead family, Mary Monehei, Needham family, Samuels family, Spencer, Sullivan Monks family, Tracey family, Veal family, Wells family, Wilson family, Mcnally family.
Lisa Godden (interpreter), Gillian Wills, Simon Woodhouse.

2. Minutes 2007 AGM: Accepted as a true and accurate record.

3. Matters Arising:

No matters arising

4. Financial Report

This year has been a good year financially with KDCS spending nearly £7,000 on family events and many successful outings including our memorable panto trip – with Ivor getting attacked by the cast with a water pistol and one of our Deaf children being asked up on stage., whilst our Easter event was snowed out – a big contrast to the previous years sun burn!

We have been successful in obtaining a grant from KCC Deaf services to launch our befriending project, and build on our already successful family signing projects. We have also invested in more equipment – this PA system, display boards, and toys this year, as well as increasing our marketing of the society across the county with the production of folders, leaflets and posters which continue to attract the attention of new families.

We do however, urgently need to fundraise this coming year as we have a deficit this year of expenditure over income of around £8,000 and only had £1,000 in the bank at the end of this financial year! I do have copies of the full accounts, should any one wish to look at them.

To enable the society to continue to grow and offer the same level of services we desperately need families to support us in fund raising. Our fundraising week in May this year was disappointing with only around £350 being raised. However our newly launched 100 club looks to becoming a very successful way of raising money – if you have not already purchased a number please see Steve and Angie NOW!



If you have any ideas on fundraising – or would like to become our fundraising officer, please talk to me today before you go home!

Thank you

5. Chairman's Report

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to this the 24th Annual General Meeting of the Kent Deaf Children's Society.

Firstly a special thanks also to the Royal School for Deaf Children here in Margate for allowing us once again to use their wonderful facilities to hold our event

Building upon the amazing success of 2007 this year has been even busier. We have seen a consolidation of our membership base and attendance at events throughout the year have been markedly higher with the exception of the Easter Breakout at the Hop Farm, probably due to the rather wet weather on the day.

As always our work with all the statutory bodies in Kent and Medway, continues and much has been achieved through these links. Unfortunately the issues over Cluster Lead Schools and provision of an effective paediatric audiology service in both East and West Kent are still rumbling on but we continue to press for improvements representing the voice of the parent and carer at a strategic level. With regard to these issues we are now working alongside the National DCS who are also bringing pressure to bear at a regional and national level

I would like at this point to recognise the support and encouragement we receive from the Children and Families Deaf Services Team in Kent headed up by our own Lyn Stow who is here today and I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lyn for her support and advice on many issues which have cropped up not to mention the substantial grant to enable many of our projects to become a reality.

We have also had some new Organising Group members step up to the plate; namely Ian and Sarah Storer who have been supporting Jo with admin tasks and mail-outs etc. Then the irrepressible Steve and Angie Ralph who with the assistance of their son Samuel have set up our excellent new website at www.kentdcs.org.uk and the newly launched 100 club which will hopefully provide ongoing income through its subscriptions which will help to support what we do. I would like to thank you all for your support and enthusiasm over the last year.

If you feel you might like to become more involved and help at events etc then please do speak to us after the meeting.

There are as I said a myriad of new initiatives now running which all require a good deal of time to make happen not to mention a huge amount of work. These being:

- **My Language:** encouraging young Deaf people to gain a recognised qualification in their 1st Language of BSL through their school.



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- **Kent Deaf Youth Gang:** giving older young people the chance to take control of their own activities and have a real say in the community of which they are a part. This has been a real success story so far and with the help of NDCS we now have a youth group that I believe will start to make a real difference to the lives of it's members for a long time to come.
 - Some of the young people have already met a panel of Kent County Councillors at County Hall to talk about why young Deaf people do not tend to engage with local politics and government. They have also attended an event at the Houses of Parliament to lobby government on better provision for the young Deaf people.
 - They have taken part in a funding panel for the Youth Opportunities Fund and have been asked to propose Two members to attend the Kent Youth Parliament.
- **KDCS Befriending:** a service for families who have a newly diagnosed Deaf child, providing support and a friendly face for people who are going through a traumatic point in their lives facing choices and a mass of information that will have a long term affect on their child.
- **Family Signng:** a group set up to give close and extended family members an opportunity to learn sign language that is relevant to a young Deaf child growing up and not focused on an academic qualification. The pilot group will be finishing soon and we are hoping to run one in Medway in the near future as well as another possibly around Ashford or Canterbury.
- **Sibling Signng:** you will remember from last year was a great success but since the initial course we have been finding it hard to locate an area where it is suitable for enough families to attend to make it a viable proposition.

These all require a huge amount of time setting up and administrating and for that superhuman effort I would like to thank Jo Moore for her continued efforts in keeping it all juggling and keeping me in line too.

I would at this point before closing like to pay special tribute to Two people in particular before closing who I am sure Jo would agree have been patient and supportive in the extreme whilst she and I have been gallivanting around the county on KDCS business. They are of course our significant others Jane and Brian, in addition to there support they have now also taken on the role of adult mentors for the Kent Deaf Youth Gang, thank you for all your support over the last year and for all the patience and support in the year to come.

There are a many, many projects and events that have taken place this year as well as several cases of individual support to families by the Society. We continue to live up to the core ethos and purposes of the KDCS by supporting Deaf young people to become a contributing part of their community, and their families who want to see their children develop their fullest potential and raise their aspirations, becoming full members of society with a sense of self worth and confidence.



Add to all I have spoken about the social activities we manage to set up through the year I think you will agree that your membership subscription is excellent value.

Finally I would like to thank you all for coming here today and celebrating with us another successful year and supporting us in whatever way you have and of course, listening to me today and not throwing anything to solid whilst I speak

That concludes my report to the AGM for 2008 if there are any questions I will try my best to answer them.

6. Stand down of the committee

All were thanked and formally stood down

7. Election of organising group/trustees

The following posts were proposed by Simon Woodhouse and seconded by Howard Grasson

Mr Ivor Riddell	Chairman
Mrs Joanne Moore	Membership Secretary
Mrs Joanne Moore	Treasurer
Mrs Lyn Stow	KCC Representative
Mr Stephen Ralph	IT Support Officer
Mrs Angela Ralph.	100 Club Coordinator
Mr Ian Storer	Admin assistant
Mrs Sarah Storer	Admin Assistant
Mr Brian Moore	KDYG Mentor
Mrs Jane Riddell	KDYG Mentor

9. AOB: None

10. Meeting closed