

Irish Deaf Society



ANNUAL REPORT 2011

Irish Deaf Society
National Association OF the Deaf

Annual Report 2011

30th Annual General Meeting

Hibernian Hotel
Main Street, Mallow
Co. Cork

Saturday 21st April 2012
2.00pm

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MISSION STATEMENT

The Irish Deaf Society as the leading national organisation of the Deaf in Ireland brings equality and human rights to members of the Deaf Community through advocacy and empowerment as full citizens. It shall be achieved through promotion of Irish Sign Language and its related culture and norms.

STANDING ORDERS

1. No alcohol or smoking is permitted in this room
2. Only one signer at a time is permitted with a maximum duration of three minutes
3. All signers must address conference from the platform
4. All remarks must be addressed to the Chairperson
5. All members must be seated when the Chairperson is signing
6. No members shall sign more than once on the same subject. However, any member exercising the right to reply may sign a second time for no more than two minutes
7. The Chairperson shall have the discretion to declare any unresolved subject closed
8. Any members wilfully disregarding the Chairperson's ruling may be suspended during the remainder of a subject under discussion, or for the whole AGM
9. A point of order shall be made where the Chairperson rules as follows:
 1. Incorrect procedures – contrary to Standing Order, e.g. signing longer than allowed
 2. Irrelevancy – wandering from the subject
 3. Inappropriate language – swearing, personal abuse or other inappropriate remarks
 4. Breach of Rules – procedures contrary to that laid down by Standing Order
10. A point of information shall apply where a member calls for
 1. Clarification of a point raised by a signer
 2. Provision of additional information
 3. Correction of a signer on a point of fact
11. Voting on motions and elections shall be made in accordance with the rules laid down by the Constitution
12. The decision of the Chairperson on the matter of procedure is final.

IDS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chairperson
Vice Chairperson
Honorary Secretary
Honorary Treasurer
Board of Directors

Kevin Mulqueen
John Fennell
Fiona Foley
Jimmy Geraghty
Wendy Murray
Peter Regan
Lianne Quigley
Melissa Howlett (Co-opted)

STAFF

Chief Executive Officer
Office/Human Resources Manager
Personal Assistant to CEO
Accounts Clerk
Advocacy Services Manager
Deaf Adult Literacy Services Manager
Advocacy Development Worker
Advocacy Services Administrator
DALS Supervisor
Receptionist
ISL Academy Administrator
Fundraising Manager
Fundraising Administrator
Volunteer

John Mangan
Eddie Redmond
Louise Sheerin
Donal Desmond
Elaine Grehan
Brian Crean
Tracey Treanor
Michelle McNulty
Susan Whelan
Caroline Whelehan
Caroline Whelehan
Janette Byrne
Dominic McGreal
Shreyoshi Banerjee (Julie)

AGENDA

1. Approval of minutes of decisions of preceding AGM
2. Matters arising
3. Chairperson's Address
4. 2011 Review Report
5. Financial Report
6. Elections
7. Motions/Resolutions
8. Any Other Business

MINUTES OF 29TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 21st May 2011

Dublin Deaf Association, 30 Lower Drumcondra Road, Dublin 9.

The meeting was formally opened by the acting chairperson **Kevin Mulqueen** at 2.15pm. The acting chairperson commented that there were only 32 members present of a total membership of 283, so a quorum had not been reached. He asked whether this meeting should proceed without the full quorum as, traditionally, it had been asked of the members who are present whether the AGM should continue. The vote was carried and the AGM continued. The acting Chairperson **Kevin Mulqueen** welcomed everyone to the 29th AGM. He informed the floor that the Chairperson, **Carmel Grehan**, stepped down in December 2010 due to study commitments after being on the board for 6 years. The acting chairperson appreciates her hard work during her tenure. **Kevin Mulqueen** said he was honoured to be acting chairperson since December 2010. **Brian Crean** and **Peter Hughes** were appointed tellers for the remainder of the meeting.

1. Standing order of the AGM

Housekeeping rules were outlined and the agenda was confirmed to be as per the Annual Report. The Standing Orders were explained in ISL. It was put to the floor by the Acting chairperson that these standing orders be accepted. This was carried.

2. Approval of minutes of decisions of preceding AGM

There were no amendments. The minutes of the 28th AGM were proposed by **Audrey Conama** and seconded by **Kevin Lynch**. There were no objections and the minutes were passed.

3. Matters Arising

There were no matters arising from the floor.

4. Acting Chairperson's Address

"Welcome everyone, It is my honour to be here as the Acting chairperson to welcome you all and to open the 29th AGM. The IDS Board and I were shocked to learn that the chairperson **Carmel Grehan** had tendered her resignation due to personal reasons and the need for a full time commitment to her studies last December. She was on the Board for 6 years and has done a lot of voluntary work during her tenure as a Board member of the IDS.

During the year, the IDS have improved their financial situation tremendously. I would like to express my appreciation to **John Mangan**, CEO, and his staff who worked very hard to keep the IDS up and running. The IDS Board and I are grateful to both John and to **Janette Byrne**, fundraising manager, who worked very hard at getting continuous funding and grants coming in. This is also a new era for IDS as we've set up a charity shop in Phibsboro. I hope this will be very successful.

The most important and primary objective, is to get ISL recognition. The IDS will have a sub-committee for ISL recognition this year. I have attended several CIDP meetings in relation to the Deaf Village. The IDS will ensure that it will be a Deaf led organisation. In conclusion, I would like to express my appreciation to all the staff, the Board and the members of the Deaf community for supporting the IDS and hope it continues going from strength to strength for many years to come."

5. 2010 Review

The acting chairperson said that the 2010 review was sent to members recently. **John Bosco Conama** clarified that the IDS members can ask questions about the 2010 review.

Teresa Lynch - referred to 'Fundraising 2010' and wondered where the flag collection was and asked if Deaf people had helped out with the flyer.

The acting chairperson answered her question. The Flag collection was at Croke Park. **Teresa Lynch** expressed concern about the flyer because it sounded patronising and could create the wrong image of the Deaf Community. She doesn't like the idea of flags because it seems to look for sympathy from people. The acting chairperson reminded the floor that the IDS need funds especially now during the recession. The IDS will look into this further.

Audrey Conama - referred to the Philanthropia International Issue. She asked the acting chairperson what was happening with P.I. and **Kevin Stanley**. The acting chairperson said that the P.I. issue is still ongoing and the case is not finished yet. The P.I. issue will be included in the CEO report.

Kevin Lynch - asked if the remote interpreting was successful. The acting chairperson said the remote interpreting had not yet been evaluated.

The 2010 Review Report was proposed by **Audrey Conama** and seconded by **Brian Lynch**. All accepted.

6. Financial Report/CEO report

The financial report was presented by the auditor **Richard Kendrick** of K&A Accountants. He stated that 2010 had been an exceptionally good year for the IDS. A surplus of almost €150,000 was achieved. This reduced the IDS's deficit, but another couple of good years were required to clear the large losses made in 2007 and 2008. He stated that the financial controls now in place in the IDS were good and finally the organisation was headed in a positive financial direction.

Questions from the floor:

Paul Ryder asked if the IDS owe anything. The auditor went through the debts and said that he is happy that the IDS have done better than last year. **John Heenan** proposed to pass this report and seconded by **Paul Ryder**. All accepted.

The CEO report was presented by **John Mangan**. He presented graphs with the income and losses of the IDS from 2007 to 2010. While 2010 was a good year financially, it was necessary to raise an additional surplus of €350,000 before the IDS would be in a financially secure position. He then detailed the various fundraising activities of IDS:

- a. The IDS received €65,000 from the IDC – bag packing.
- b. Church collections brought in around €80,000 to €100,000. He hopes that the IDS will not have to do this in the future, when more grants are received.
- c. Easter and Christmas raffles have been doing well.
- d. Donations from wills. The IDS received an anonymous donation from a will in the sum €99,500.
- e. Our charity shop was set up in Phibsboro and the first month's profit was in the sum of €2,500. It is expected that the charity shop will bring in between €30,000 to €50,000 a year.
- f.

Mr Mangan explained that significant cuts had been made to grants; 10% to DALIS funding and 40% to Deafward. He explained that more cuts were expected and that the IDS would have to cover any shortfalls to both these departments. Construction of the Deaf Village has started and a detailed memorandum and articles of association has been drawn up for the management company that are to manage the Village. These are legal rules as to how the company would be run. A preliminary meeting has taken place about the Life Long Learning centre, but there was no clear view as to how it would be managed. He outlined details of the last meeting with RTE which led to better subtitling and more newsreaders for the Deaf. He encouraged more Deaf people to attend this meeting with RTE in the future.

Questions from the floor:

Liam Breen: was shocked to see that the IDS received €60,000 from IDC. He wondered how the IDS received a larger sum than DHC as DHC need €50,000 to preserve old films. He also enquired if there were

any updates on BCI. The CEO said he couldn't answer the first question because he works for the IDS and not IDC. He also stated that the IDS do not work with BCI and assumed that Hands On work with them.

7. Presentations

a.) ISL Recognition by Dr. John Bosco Conama:

Dr **John Bosco Conama** advised that the presentation would be very brief, and confirmed that there is a new government coalition who has promised to review ISL recognition. He said that there had been an ISL recognition committee some years ago, with **Carmel Grehan, Fergus Dunne** and **Cathy McCormack** among the members. When the ISL Academy was set up, one of its aims was to campaign for recognition of ISL. He informed the floor that the Barrister Barrington we're working with has mentioned six possible options to get ISL recognition and also that he would like to meet Deaf people in the future. CIDP are involved but he would rather it was led by the IDS. Icelandic Sign Language recognition is in process. The IDS board members will be invited to be on the ISL committee.

The acting chairperson thanked **Dr. John Bosco Conama** for giving presentation.

b) Joint Statement by Caroline O'Leary

On 13th November 2010, Caroline gave a presentation about an idea for a new representative body. CISLI comes from WFD and WASLI. The old agency - ISLAI collapsed in 2007. There are three interpreting agencies in Ireland - SLIS, CSL and Bridge interpreting. Without CISLI, it could affect the quality of ISL interpreting for Medical and Legal jobs which need a higher level of interpreting competency. CISLI will have a Joint statement with the IDS. They agreed that CISLI must have some Deaf representatives on the steering committee. If there are no Deaf representatives on the steering committee then the meetings couldn't go ahead. CISLI was set up in Limerick on 8th May 2011. People who go to CDS and become qualified interpreters will then need to a pass national license system (like the driving license system) in order to avoid conflict between the Deaf community and interpreters.

Caroline O'Leary informed the floor that CISLI will have a formal launch at the end of the year to sign the Joint Statement between CISLI and IDS. She believes that the job of interpreters is a professional one, therefore licensing needs to be developed. The aim of CISLI is to make interpreters more professional and to provide a positive image to the Deaf community. She signed the Joint statement between CISLI and the IDS to the floor.

The Acting Chairperson thanked **Caroline O'Leary** for her presentation.

Questions from the floor.

Kevin Lynch - asked how many members on CISLI and if CSL, SLIS and Bridge interpreting are members of CISLI?

Caroline O'Leary confirmed that - CISLI have 45 members on the database but there are only 23 official paid members. CISLI had invited CSL, SLIS and Bridge Interpreting representatives to attend the meeting but Bridge Interpreting representatives did not attend.

Louise Coss - asked if she can send complaints to CISLI. Caroline replied that CISLI will set up 'Dispute Resolving Services' rather than 'complaints'. She also pointed out that this service is for interpreters too.

Louise Coss - queried the quality/level of interpreters. **Caroline O'Leary** said that CISLI will be working with BEI (Board of Evaluation of Interpreters) as a sister organisation on levels of interpreters.

Larry Coogan - Deaf People already know what R1, R2 and T1 mean. Caroline said the new license system will mean an 'ISL 3' is equal to R1. Caroline expected all interpreters would come back to evaluate their job titles.

Liam Breen - asked about BSL, ASL, and ISL interpreters? Caroline said there are many USA Deaf people looking for ASL interpreters in Ireland. CISLI looks after all interpreters - perhaps Northern Ireland Deaf people will want BSL interpreters in Ireland.

8. Elections

The acting chairperson informed the floor that there were 6 vacancies on the board and three nominations were received before the deadline, therefore these nominees were deemed elected.

Chairperson - **Kevin Mulqueen** Proposed by **Jimmy Geraghty**, Seconded by **John Fennell**.

Hon. Secretary - **Fiona Foley** Proposed by **Wendy Murray**, Seconded by **Peter Regan**

Board Director - **Wendy Murray** Proposed by **Kevin Mulqueen**, Seconded by **Jimmy Geraghty**.

The elected chairperson asked the floor if they could fill three vacancies on the board of directors.

Peter Regan is willing to carry on. He was proposed by **Brian Lynch**, Seconded by **Edward Power**. He was voted onto the IDS Board with no objections.

Lianne Quigley - was proposed by **Audrey Conama**, Seconded by **Paul Ryder**. She was voted onto the IDS board with no objections. The chair asked the floor to agree to let the IDS board decide to co-opt members at the next IDS board meeting. The floor agreed unanimously.

The chair then welcomed **Lianne Quigley** as a new IDS Board Member.

9. Motions/Resolutions

Motion 1: That all membership fee rates are amended to €20 per person from the previous rates and IDN magazine will be included effective from 1st January 2012. This motion was proposed by **Wendy Murray** and seconded by **John Fennell**.

Wendy Murray explained to the floor why this motion was brought up; in 2010, membership fees were €15 but did not include the IDN magazine. Before these new fees, there were 400 members but thereafter only 50% of the members paid. One of the reasons is a couple would only pay for a single membership. Wendy encouraged IDS members to support the IDS.

Questions from the floor:

Audrey Conama - she accepted the motion but questioned if two magazines will be posted to her house. **Wendy Murray** answered that the IDS will set up an area on the website for the magazine - members can click one magazine per household online. **Wendy Murray** also informed the floor that Greenbow members prefer to read magazines online rather than receiving a hard copy which also saves the environment. The IDS will follow this up.

Kevin Lynch - He and his wife would rather receive the magazine than read it online. The IDS will look into how to set up a system which will cater for both an online and hard copy of the magazine.

Liam Breen - hoped the IDN would not become extinct - he would like to have magazines for Deaf Heritage Centre.

This motion was passed unanimously by the floor.

Motion 2: The IDS Constitution no. 35.

(c) Directors may only hold office for a period of three years, may offer themselves for re-election

(d) Directors returning after three years period of office, may offer themselves for re-election.

Proposed by **Wendy Murray Jnr**, Seconded by **John Fennell**.

Wendy Murray Jnr felt that two years office is too short a time.

Questions from the floor

Paul Ryder - He likes this idea but in the last few years there had been difficulties getting people to become elected board members.

Teresa Lynch - She liked this idea and said that there is very little difference between two or three years.

This motion was passed unanimously by the floor.

Motion 3:

Joint Statement of the IDS and CISLI. For the attached Joint Statement to be proposed, accepted and officially recognised as the official working partnership agreement between the IDS, Ireland's Deaf - led association and CISLI in all ISL interpreting matters going forward in Ireland. This will be of equal benefit to the Deaf Community and ISL interpreters and is recommended by WFD and WASLI as best practise in the official establishment of interpreter associations around the world.

Proposed by **Wendy Murray Jnr**, Seconded by **Frankie Berry**.

Wendy Murray Jnr informed the floor that this motion ensures that CISLI and the IDS have high standards.

This motion was passed by the floor.

10. A.O.B

Paul Ryder - the IDYA will have its 25th anniversary this year and will host a dinner/gala dance in Athlone on 12th November 2011. The IDYA will have a website launch on 25th May 2011 and will sell tickets there for €40 special offer on that day only. The normal price is €55.

John Bosco Conama - congratulated **Kevin Mulqueen** for being elected as chairperson. He expressed concern that motions were not sent to members before the AGM but he believed that as the motions were not of a serious nature, that it was acceptable for today. He informed the floor that he received a grant from the European Hidden History to do a project about Deaf people and advised the floor to contact him for more information.

Teresa Lynch - The IDS's constitution does not mention any dates for the AGM and suggested that the AGM be held in March rather than May. She advised that May is always a busy month for the Deaf community.

Liam Breen - Analogue television will be gone in October 2011, and he suggested that the IDS should set up a workshop about Digital TV to inform the Deaf community.

Valerie Roche - Tallaght Deaf Club will have a sports day on Belgard Road on 27th June 2011.

Kevin Mulqueen - He had forgotten to mention during AGM that **Wendy Murray** and himself will be attending the WFD congress, where there will be bids to host in 2015 from Turkey, Germany and Mexico to host in 2015. He asked the floor for their approval for them to make the decision as to which country to vote for. The floor agreed.

The chair closed the meeting and thanked all present for their support of the IDS. The meeting was officially closed at 5.05pm.

Chairperson's Address

Hello Members

WOW! What a year for the Irish Deaf Society. Our 30th Anniversary ended this year with so many different events, all of which turned out to be highly successful. I have to praise and thank all the staff involved as well as some of the board members. Well done to the sub-committees also. As the IDS is getting stronger and stronger, we are becoming more widely publicised on a national level through newspapers, radio and television. A big thank-you to the staff here at the IDS who have all worked extremely hard with their sub – committee to make those events a big success, especially the exhibition 'Signs of Life', the Deafhood Congress and DAT. Roll on 2012 for lots more new and exciting events to come in the year ahead.

There has been a huge improvement in our finances which will help provide services such as the Deaf Adult Literary Services (DALs) and Deafward. We have secured further funding from the government up to 2013, and are fortunate to be able to keep our services open, which are used by so many members of the Deaf community.

We have been very successful in fund-raising from our charity shop. However, in order to keep our shop open and thriving, we still need more donations of clothes, shoes, books, unwanted gifts etc. We appreciate all your help and support in this regard, and welcome all contributions.

The IDS recently attended two launches. Firstly, the 112 Emergency text message service which launched in January. IDS had been consulting with several other Deaf organisations and Gardaí. However, this is only a pilot scheme; it is a start and hopefully will be a success and become a permanent service for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing population in the Republic of Ireland.

Secondly, the IDS attended the launch of a new policy document on Deaf Education by NCSE in February. This was long overdue, but was finally implemented by the Department of Education. The IDS had been working on the Deaf Education policy with several other Deaf organisations, Deaf Schools and experts on this document. It is hoped that it will have a positive impact on the lives of Deaf children in Deaf Education today. However, the IDS will continue keep in contact with the department to review the new policy.

The Deaf Village Project on the grounds of St Joseph's, Cabra is underway and is due to be completed in August 2012 - sooner than anticipated. The Board of Management (BOM) of the Deaf Village have agreed a new official name for the Village Project called "Deaf Village Ireland". IDS Board member, **Fiona Foley**, is now a director on the BOM acting as a representative on our behalf. Our second office will be located in the new premises. Our staff visited the site and made observations on the premises and reported back with a lot of both positive and negative comments. Roll on the summer for the opening of the Deaf Village.

Just as our 30th Anniversary is over, we will be busy with the International Deaf Film Festival, which will be the first of its kind in Ireland. This will express the pride and heritage of Deaf Films and Deaf Filmmakers from around the world. This event is to be held in October of this year, the venue of which is to be confirmed. In addition, the IDS will host an EUD workshop, seminar and General Assembly in 2013. The IDS will set up a sub-committee led by **Eddie Redmond**, who will be responsible for the organisation. **Fiona Foley** and **Wendy Murray Jr** will be attending the events in Denmark in May this year.

One of IDS's main priorities and aims is to get Irish Sign Language recognised. A sub-committee group led by **Dr. John Bosco Conama**, has been set up with experts from different fields including **Dr. Lorraine Lesson**, **Cathy McCormack**, **Senator Mark Daly**, and a Barrister, to name but a few. It has been a long process with a lot of work involved. We still have a lot more to do and further research needs to be carried out.

Before I sign off I would like to thank **Jimmy Geraghty** for serving two terms as treasurer, and wishes to be re-elected if there are no other nominations. **Melissa Howlett** has been co-opted by the board and she wishes to be elected officially at the AGM. I would like thank the rest of the board of directors for volunteering their time serving on the Board of the IDS.

Finally, I would like to again sincerely thank all the staff at the IDS who have been working extremely hard to keep the IDS active and up and running, including our CEO, **John Mangan**.

Thank you



Kevin G Mulqueen

2011 Review

ISL Academy - islacademy@irishdeafociety.ie

1. Brief history of the ISL Recognition Campaign

- a. A team under **Cathy McCormack** was established a few years ago but became inactive for a while but restarted last July under **John Bosco Conama**.
- b. CIDP paid a barrister to produce a paper which was shared with other members.
- c. CIDP agreed to fund the campaign and for the IDS to lead it.
- d. **John Bosco Conama**, **Lianne Quigley** and **Cathy McCormack** have now joined the task force group along with Deidre Dunne, **Carmel Grehan** and Lorraine Leeson.

2. Current situation

- a. **Lianne Quigley** is the current IDS board representative on the team.
- b. Team members have met with various representatives to establish such issues as:
 1. ISL to be recognised in the constitution via an amendment.
 2. Push for the UN Convention on the Rights for People with Disabilities to be ratified by Irish government. It is envisaged that the convention will be passed this summer.
 3. Liaising with the office of the Ombudsman regarding the discrimination of ISL. This complaint should be addressed in a clear and effective manner
 4. In order to do this, the group is considering setting up a public meeting to explain about ISL recognition etc , however, as yet no plan has been finalised.
 5. Meeting with **Mark Daly** - Senator
 6. **Cait Keane** - Senator, will put in place a motion to the British-Irish Parliamentary Assembly for ISL and BSL recognition. If passed, it will not have any legal impact on the Irish system. However, it will be a useful tool to put pressure on the Irish Government to take action. This will take place in Dublin in April of this year. **John Bosco Conama** contacted British Deaf Association (BDA) who agreed to enter into discussions in 2012.
 7. **Cait Keane** agreed to table more questions to the Irish government in Dail Eireann, but we would need to furnish her with more information.
 8. **Brian Barrington** (barrister) - Legal Advisor
 9. **Ciaran Cannon** - Junior Minister for Education and Children - is interested in supporting our campaign. He advised that it would be advantageous to have a template that Ireland can follow. **John Bosco Conama** said there are a few countries with such templates, for example New Zealand and Hungary and will forward Ciaran the information in due course. He will meet us again in the new year.
 10. **Tracey Treanor** successfully secured her local councillors in Monaghan to put in a motion to call the Irish government to recognise ISL. This motion can also be used for other county councils.
 11. **Tanya Ward** of ICCL gave a list of people to contact and advised us to meet and ask them to support us.

Advocacy and Representation

Deafoward - deafoward@irishdeafociety.ie

Continuous Drop in Service Our service is very popular and well known within the Deaf community. Deaf people can rely on us to provide information for them and advocate for them, represent their interests in several areas. These areas include making phone calls, filling in forms, writing letters etc. An increasing number of Deaf people are aware of, and use, our services because they don't have access to many public

service providers. This is due to a combination of communication barriers and lower than average literacy levels in the Deaf community. Deafward has seen an increase in the self-confidence and abilities of those who that have been using our services. This reflects the positive benefits of the Deafward approach.

External organisations and service providers Deafward continues to work with many different service providers and organisations to improve access to services and information. Deafward hopes that involvement in these areas has raised, and will continue to raise, awareness of the Deaf community and improve service provision for Deaf people.

Outreach Program Course for Deaf people in conjunction with UCD Twenty five Deaf student's applications for the UCD/IDS Equality Studies Certificate Course have been approved. The Equality Studies Centre, (UCD) is now offering this course in partnership with the Irish Deaf Society with a specific focus on providing an opportunity for Deaf people to come together and deepen their understanding of how society promotes equality/inequality for Deaf people in Ireland. The Certificate course is a recognised Higher Education Certificate mapped to the National Qualifications Framework at Level 7. The course outlines six modules:

Introduction to Equality Studies; Understanding the Theory of Equality; Equality in Irish Society: Systems and Structures; Equality Issues for Particular Communities and Groups; two parts in Working for Change: Theory into Action & Strategies for Social Change.

Remote Interpreting Service (RIS) IDS, SLIS and Deafhear are working together to provide a Remote Interpreting Service (RIS) for a trial period of 9 months. This pilot project began in first quarter of this year (2011). It is a slow process, but IDS has received many positive comments and feedback from the Deaf community. This project allows Deaf people to access public services, for example accessing an Irish Sign Language Interpreter through video and via the internet. RIS means that the interpreter will interpret for you through a webcam via a computer eliminating the requirement to meet face to face. It is intended for use by public service providers such as Government Departments, FÁS, County Councils, Citizen's Information Offices and many more.

During the trial, the interpreter will be based in the SLIS office on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm to run this service. Unfortunately this service is not for private use and is intended for Deaf people wishing to access public services only. Medical interpreting is not covered until the second phase of the pilot scheme. IDS have made a video clip to help Deaf people to have a full understanding of how RIS works.

Health Service Executive

HSE Access Policy for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people The Board of Management of Sign Language Interpreting Service (SLIS) were asked by the HSE National Steering Committee on Universal Access to form a working group to develop an Access Policy for Deaf and Hard of Hearing people. The HSE representative's role is to ensure that the HSE observes and adheres to the Disability Acts.

A working group has been established to redraft some sections of the existing policy. This group includes representatives from the HSE, Irish Deaf Society (IDS), TCD Centre for Deaf Studies (CDS), HSE Occupational Therapist, Sign Language Interpreting Service (SLIS), Council of Irish Sign Language Interpreters of Ireland (CISLI), DeafHear, Irish Hard of Hearing Association, (IHHA), Catholic Institute of Deaf People (CIDP), Citizen's Information Board (CIB), Cork Deaf Association, (CDA) National Chaplaincy for Deaf People (NCDP) Irish Deaf Women's Group, School Liaison Officer and Deaf Elderly Group.

HSE: On Speaking Terms The HSE published a new interpreting policy "On Speaking Terms" which aims to highlight the rights of Deaf people when requesting interpreters. The policy now states that HSE is responsible for the provision of interpreters when needed. The policy also states that staff are to inform Deaf people who may be unaware that they have a right to an interpreter. Parents of Deaf/Hard of Hearing (HoH) children are left in the dark without any support services when their children are born deaf. For most hearing parents their deaf child is the first deaf person they have ever met. The parents of Deaf Children set up a Parents' Forum because they believe their children deserve unconditional support and parity of respect regardless of communication, education or technological decisions they have made or will make for their deaf children.

They set up a new organisation called 'Sharing the Journey'. **Elaine Grehan** agreed to be a committee

member. They set up a Baby and Toddler play group date for Deaf and Hard of Hearing children, and were very pleased with the number of children who turned up for the play date last month. As a result the parents requested more play dates, and Sharing the Journey agreed to organise these on a monthly basis. Sharing the Journey are to develop workshops on educational issues for the parents and children in the next few months, such as a youth festival which involves drama, dance and performing arts.

Sharing the Journey are also planning a summer camp called "Sign Language Immersion Program", modeled on the Gaeltacht. Sharing the Journey are offering children aged 5-11 the opportunity to learn sign language while enjoying performing arts, sports and outings and introduction workshops while immersed in ISL and Deaf awareness.

Redress & Counseling Service Deaf people are continuing to request late applications until the deadline on the 17th September 2011.

Garda Text Service IDS and Deafhear have been working with the Gardai to establish an SMS contact service with the backing of Vodafone Ireland who have agreed to sponsor the creation of this service. IDS is awaiting the green light from Garda Headquarters with the launch being postponed until later in 2012. We are also working with the Gardai to make a Deaf-friendly SMS service website which will be up and running in early 2012.

Phone companies Deafward have had very positive meetings with mobile phone companies since it was brought to our attention a number of months ago that Deaf people feel they are paying more than is fair each month on their mobile phones as they are unable to make phone calls. As a result, when they sign up to a bill pay system they have no option but to pay for call minutes even though they never use them. The meetings were enlightening for the phone companies and helped them to better understand the Deaf community and its needs. There is a lot of scope and opportunity for them to enhance their relationship with IDS and for the phone companies to improve on their service offerings.

Ombudsman The Ombudsman has been contacted by the HSE regarding a project that is being chaired by the Office of the Ombudsman. The purpose of the project is to develop resources for making a complaint, including a website, a booklet for service users and one for employers. The Office of the Ombudsman organised a networking event for staff that deal directly with service users, whether face to face or over the phone, so that they can learn about the different organisations involved in dealing with complaints about health and social care. A Deafward staff member attended the networking event and found it very useful.

IDS publications

1. Guide for Parents of Deaf Children Launch (June 2011) Deafward were delighted that **Eamon Gilmore** TD Tánaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs launched our latest publication called "Guide for Parents of Deaf Children" on 16th June at the Mansion House. The reason Deafward needed to do this for the parents of Deaf children is because 90% of Deaf children are born to hearing parents and Deafward saw how frustrated these parents were as they received insufficient information or support on how to cope with having deaf children. We hope it will give support to parents of Deaf children, reassure them, and teach them to understand how to communicate with their Deaf child.

2. General Information About The Deaf Community was launched by IDS Chairperson Kevin Mulqueen at our morning seminar 'Improving your Service for Deaf People' in October 2011. We hope the guide book will help everyone to understand Deaf culture, identity, background, interests and values. With the Deaf community there is a strong sense of empathy in shared experiences which includes; growing up Deaf, their educational experiences, barriers they have faced in the general community, or as the Deaf community would say: the hearing community. This book compiles information on issues such as an Introduction to the Deaf Community, Deaf Culture, Irish Sign Language, Communication and Common Myths. IDS were successful in receiving funding from St Stephen's Green Trust to publish the two guide books. If you wish to download the publications you can do so on the IDS website www.deaf.ie.

World Day for the Sick under Archdiocese of Dublin IDS participated in the 'World day for the Sick' conference which was held on the 5th of February (as requested by the Archdiocese). This conference included details of the provision of Irish Sign Language interpreters for hospital and palliative care, as

well as Deaf patients that have had hospital experiences. **Elaine Grehan** gave a presentation on what Deafward does, and in doing so giving a brief grounding in Deaf awareness training.

Meeting on services for Deaf with a disability This meeting was concerned with the initiation of a project to identify the needs of Deaf people with disabilities who are over the age of 20. It addressed the types of services and supports that would be of benefit to them, and also the possible numbers involved. CIDP recently set up a pilot project in this area and shared the information on how this is progressing. CIDP also commissioned a survey which was discussed at the meeting. Many of the organisations who work with Deaf people have been supporting Deaf people with disabilities in the community for many years and shared their experiences and ideas for the future. CIDP organised this meeting hoping to share information and discuss possibilities for the future of a Deaf person with a disability. **Elaine Grehan** was asked to give a presentation about how mental issues can affect Deaf people and explained how IDS would like to see new developments for Deaf adults with disabilities.

Advocacy Information Night Deafward host bi-monthly information nights where we provide information to Deaf people.

1. General Election This information night focused on the manifestoes of the different political parties that ran for election on 25th February. It was a big success as the room was full of people requesting more information about the political parties and what they can do for the Deaf community. If you wish to look back at the summary you can click on the General Election Summary on the IDS Facebook page or on YouTube.

2. UCD/IDS course “Certificate in Equality Studies for Deaf People” This information night focused on the new UCD accredited course for Deaf people only called “Certificate in Equality Studies for Deaf people.” We aimed to give Deaf people an opportunity to apply for the course to understand how society affects the equality and inequality of Deaf people.

3. Council of ISL Interpreters of Ireland (CISLI) Representatives explained about their new mission statement, constitution and code of ethics.

In-service Training for Peer Advocates Deafward hold in service training to prepare important information which is given to Deaf peer advocates to spread information to Deaf people around the country.

Roadshows in Spring (March–May 2011) Roadshows were held from 29th March until 13th May 2011 - Despite cuts to funding. Deafward continue providing information to Deaf people via their first or preferred language (ISL) such as information about the Census application form, explaining different kinds of grants they are entitled to apply for and much more. It is very important for Deaf people to have access to, and understand, information that could change their lives and it is largely thanks to the support of the peer advocates who work and travel voluntarily to spread important information to their communities that this happens. Deafward is also looking for more peer advocates in counties Sligo, Clare, Dundalk and others.

Citizens’ Information Centre Launch (March 2011) A new National Advocacy Service for People with Disabilities (NAS) has been launched by the Minister for Social Protection, **Ms Joan Burton T.D.** The service will provide independent, representative advocacy services for vulnerable people with disabilities. It is managed by five Citizens’ Information Services with teams based around the country with regional offices in Dublin, Westmeath, Offaly, Waterford and Leitrim. The service is funded and supported by the Citizens’ Information Board. Deafward met with Chairperson **Sylda Langford** and CEO **Tony McQuinn**, and asked them to spread the word about the Remote Interpreting Service to their Citizens’ Information Centres offices throughout Ireland, to reduce the communication barrier between CIC staff and Deaf people. Deafward will follow up with CIC in a few months.

School leavers (June 2011) Deafward gave a short presentation to Deaf school-leavers in both St Mary’s School (Deaf Girls) and St Joseph’s School (Deaf Boys) in Cabra to prepare them and let them know that Deafward, the advocacy service, is here to support them if they need information or access to training and/or employment, or access to services. The information was invaluable and Deafward responded to lots of their questions. It is important for them to know where to get information. In the past, many Deaf people were isolated when they were leaving school and not aware about Deaf community especially with regards to Youth and Sports.

DVD Production

1. Everyday Signed Vocabulary in a Medical Setting Booklet & DVD:

IDS, in conjunction with National Chaplaincy for Deaf people and Archdiocese of Dublin, as part of World Day for the Sick 2010 conference and Deafward, produced a DVD called "Everyday Signed Vocabulary in a Medical Setting". This DVD aims to help medical professionals learn ISL and, as a result, reduce communication barriers for Deaf people. It is distributed to hospitals, nursing schools and nursing homes.

2. Census ISL version

Deafward previously mentioned that a high number of Deaf people have below average literacy levels. Deafward assisted by translating Census information from written English to Irish Sign Language and posted it to our very popular YouTube page and IDS Facebook page. This enabled Deaf people to have access to the information in ISL if they were not sure how to fill in the form.

Grants

- Tolka Area Partnership (TAP) 2011 Community Grant to contribute to part fund the Peer Advocacy Workshops.
- Hospital Saturday Funds (HSF) to support the production of Basic Medical signs booklets and DVDs to distribute to different sectors of Healthcare.

Education

Deaf Adult Literacy Services - dals@irishdeafsociety.ie

The Deaf Adult Literacy Services received a cut of 10% in 2011 from our funds by the Department of Education and Skills. We are expecting more cuts in 2012. However we aim to run the same number of classes nationwide. At the moment, we are negotiating with Deaf Village Ireland who will be providing a range of services such as the Life Long Learning Centre (LLLC). We believe this to be another form of an adult literacy services. The CIDP wishes to see that the LLLC is Deaf-Led (run by Deaf people) and as the Deaf Adult Literacy Services (DALs) is the only state funded service for Deaf adults and we are working with the LLLC on how to make the best use of the LLLC to make sure that the Deaf community can return to Education in a supportive and flexible environment.

To help us deliver new classes in the future, we are working with the Deaf Village Ireland fundraising group to try and get money from organisations that like to sponsor projects such as education. We aim to have tutor training in 2012 as we need new tutors to meet the demands from the Deaf community. For all our tutors currently working with us, we appreciate all their hard work and commitments. In 2012, we aim to provide courses that encourage Deaf adults to return to education in a supportive and flexible environment. Our usual classes such as English and Personal Development remain popular but we have set up new classes such as Art Class, CV/Interview techniques and photography classes. In the future we hope to run Irish and cultural studies classes. At the moment we have over 600 students registered to our department. Our steering committee consists of **Wendy Murray, John Mangan, Brian Crean, Susan Whelan, Dominic McGreal, Anne Coogan, John Stewart** and **Bernadette Spoule**. If you would like more information about DALs or the courses we run - please contact us at dals@irishdeafsociety.ie

Fundraising Report 2011 - funds@irishdeafsociety.ie

Shop The IDS opened its first charity shop in March 2011. It is located at 264 North Circular Road (Near Des Kelly Carpets). The shop has been a great success with an average income of 1,500 euro per week. It provides important funding to the IDS. The shop is staffed by both Deaf and hearing volunteers. IDS also purchased a second hand van to enable them to travel around the country to collect items for the shop. We rely on donations to stock the shop and the generosity of people is fantastic even in these recessionary times. If you are ever near the shop please drop in.

Fundraising Events The IDS gets a small amount of government funding but to provide all of our services to the Deaf community we need additional funding. We get this money by a variety of fundraising events

such as national raffles, income from our shop, sky diving and many more events. We need your help with these events and are always looking for new fundraising ideas. Please contact us if you would like to get involved in fundraising or have any fundraising ideas.

Deaf Village Construction work on the Deaf Village started in late 2011. It is expected that the construction will be completed by mid- 2012 and that it will be ready to move into in August. The IDS is renting a small office in the Deaf Village and will lead the educational activities in the Life Long Learning Centre. **Fiona Foley** is the IDS representative on the board of management along with eight other Deaf and four hearing organisations.

IDS 30th Anniversary Celebration

The Irish Deaf Society celebrated its 30th anniversary with a number of events in 2011. These events included:

- The Launch of the IDS 30th Anniversary celebrations coincided with the launch of a new guidebook for Parents of Deaf children. This event was organised by IDS staff member **Eddie Redmond** and was held on the 16th June 2011 at the Mansion House. Tanaiste **Eamon Gilmore** formally launched the book with the IDS chairperson **Kevin Mulqueen**.
- A Blue Gala Ball organised by IDS board member **Fiona Foley** and a committee of staff and volunteers was held at the Heritage Hotel in Laois on the 18th June 2011. Members celebrated with the founding members of the IDS in a blue themed evening. Guests arrived to a champagne reception and dined on a 4-course meal. Everyone looked great and all wore “something blue”.
- World Deaf Day was held on the 25th September 2011 (Sunday) and the IDS decided to celebrate this day on the Saturday at the Woolshed Baa and Grill pub on Parnell Street with a big ISL Karaoke night. We had a great night and even had celebrity journalist **Roisin Ingles** up singing while Deaf people signed in ISL.
- ISL Exhibition. One of the aims of this year’s event was to highlight Irish Sign Language for the general public. **Margaret Owens** from Athy previously organised an ISL exhibition of various people in Athy signing letters from the ISL alphabet. **Tracey Treanor** of the IDS came up with the idea of using famous celebrities signing the letters of the alphabet. Tracey went on to lead this project and worked with Deaf photographer **Johnny Corcoran** who volunteered to take the pictures. Various celebrities included **Jedward, Rachel Allen, Westlife, Mary Black** and **Roddy Doyle**. The exhibition began in Temple Bar, Dublin and has to date travelled to Kildare, Monaghan and Mayo. The exhibition will continue in 2012.
- A Deaf Awareness Training seminar for Service Providers was held on the 27th October 2011 and organised by IDS staff member, **Elaine Grehan**. We had a large number of service providers (Health Care staff, Teachers, etc.) who came to the half -day seminar with **Stephen Bates, John Bosco Conama** and **Elaine Grehan** all presenting. We also had presentations from SLIS and CISLI in order to give service providers information on where and how to book an interpreter and the do’s and don’ts of working with an Interpreter. IDS Chairperson **Kevin Mulqueen** also launched a guidebook about the Deaf Community at this event.
- On the 5th November, we held our congress with the theme “Celebrating our Deafhood” organised by IDS staff member **Brian Crean**. Guest presenters included **Dr. Paddy Ladd, Dr. J. B. Conama** and **Teresa Lynch**. The event “Understanding ourselves, our history, our culture, and experiences in an oppressed society” was free and packed out.
- Following the Deafhood Congress, **Brian Crean** and his congress committee invited Deaf Rapper from Norway, **Marko Vuoriheimo** and his crew “Signmark” to put on a show at the Dandelion Nightclub. There were over 200 people who signed and danced along with Signmark. Pictures of the night are on our Facebook page.

The Irish Deaf Society would like to thank everyone who was involved with the 30th anniversary. We appreciate your time and support and look forward to celebrating our 60th anniversary in 2041!

International Affairs

1. European Union for the Deaf (EUD) - www.eud.eu

Wendy Murray Jr and **Kevin G Mulqueen** represented the IDS at the 2011 EUD Seminar on 'Yes, we can!' and a General Assembly which took place in Budapest, Hungary, in May 2011. They encouraged Deaf organisations to secure a legal recognition of their respective sign language as per the 'Brussels Declaration'.

2. World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) - www.wfdeaf.org

Wendy Murray Jr and **Kevin G Mulqueen** represented IDS at WFD General Assembly in Durban, South Africa. World Federation of the Deaf (WFD) held its 18th General Assembly in Durban, South Africa, on 16-17th of July 2011. The WFD General Assembly consists of 114 delegates from 73 countries (each Ordinary Member having one vote) and is held every four years to vote for the next country to host the World Congress and elect new board members, President and Vice-President. The WFD's action plan for the next four years and amendments to the WFD statutes was approved by the General Assembly. Over two days, there followed the list of motions and approvals of their work over the last four years and continuation of this work. The next WFD World Congress will be held in 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey. The Turkish Deaf Association's bid won with a clear majority over Mexico and Germany

Television and Broadcasting

TV Access The TV Access group is made up of a large number of organisations in the disability and ageing sectors in Ireland. The group is concerned about access to television for older people and people with disabilities. More recently the group has been concerned with the digital switchover which will be completed in 2012. Other areas the group have concerns with include more subtitles, ISL (and audio description) being made available in Ireland.

BAI The Irish Deaf Society worked with the Broadcasting Authority of Ireland to transcribe their proposal for new Access Rules (how much subtitling and ISL should be on Irish TV stations such as RTE and TV3). The IDS also submitted its reply to the new proposal by the BAI. The IDS organised a forum panel with members from Greenbow, IDYA, IDWG and IDS all contributing their feedback. This feedback was included in the IDS reply. If you would like to see this document, email susan@irishdeafsociety.ie

RTE/TV3 RTE held its regular forum on access on the 9th September and was attended by IDS staff **Susan Whelan, Tracey Treanor** and **John Mangan**. We brought up many of our members views in relation to subtitles, ISL on screen, News for the Deaf, iPlayer and Hands On. A report from this meeting was mentioned on our Facebook page (notes section). Susan and Tracey have met with TV3 on a number of occasions in 2011. We continue to express our disappointment and concerns with TV3's lack of subtitles on their home produced programmes and the frequent bad subtitles experienced more recently. They have assured us they are looking into fixing this. If you wish to contact RTE or TV3 with your opinions/complaints about the services to they provide for the Deaf community you can get in touch with them on:

- RTE TEXT: 087 7989128
- RTE EMAIL: subtitle@rte.ie
- TV3 EMAIL: subtitles@tv3.ie

Website/Social Media

New Website - www.deaf.ie The Irish Deaf society has once again changed the layout of its website with the help of website developers 2bscene. The layout is clearly set out and shows the different areas of work the IDS focuses on such as advocacy, information, education and fundraising. If you have any comments about the website, email info@irishdeafsociety.ie

Facebook The Irish Deaf Society set up a Facebook page for its members to share information, news, updates and includes our regular Irish Deaf News. If you would like to become a member, click on www.facebook.com/irishdeafsociety

Youtube The Irish Deaf Society Youtube page, which can be seen at www.youtube.com/irishdeafnews was set up to provide ISL friendly news bulletins on Fridays. We know the Deaf community love our channel which also includes ISL information and ISL videos for children. On February 28th 2012 at 2.25pm, the

views on our youtube channel were: 134,678. You might be interested to know that it's not just Irish Deaf people who look at our Youtube page.

Top locations by views	Views	13-17 years	18-24 years	25-34 years	35-44 years	45-54 years	55-64 years	65+ years	Gender
1.	Ireland	61,682	3.5%	5.4%	15.1%	29.6%	34.8%	10.5%	1.2%
2.	United States	28,549	4.4%	4.8%	9.3%	17.8%	38.1%	21.6%	4.0%
3.	United Kingdom	8,887	5.4%	4.6%	8.6%	22.8%	41.3%	15.5%	1.7%
4.	Canada	2,799	5.5%	4.5%	7.1%	16.3%	35.5%	28.9%	2.1%
5.	India	2,573	7.6%	10.2%	21.5%	42.6%	6.3%	7.5%	4.2%
6.	Australia	1,875	3.7%	4.4%	9.0%	15.4%	22.1%	32.4%	13.0%
7.	Italy	1,869	3.7%	3.5%	6.8%	26.1%	31.4%	25.3%	3.3%
8.	Germany	1,800	5.4%	4.4%	10.2%	15.7%	39.9%	22.9%	1.5%
9.	Pakistan	1,357	0.0%	18.3%	27.4%	29.2%	25.1%	0.0%	0.0%
10.	Philippines	1,000	20.9%	28.8%	19.6%	22.8%	7.9%	0.0%	0.0%

Irish Deaf Society The National Association Of The Deaf Limited

30 Blessington Street
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Report Of The Directors & Accounts
For The Year Ended 31st December 2010



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