

**Wow! Another year nearly gone, but don't worry we will be back in 2022 with loads of new plans!**

## WHAT'S ON FOR DECEMBER?

- 10/11/21 Young at heart Christmas Catch up
- 12/11/21 BSL Café Zoom

**No more Badminton sessions this year due to venue maintenance**

From all the Trustees & committee wishing you all a fabulous Christmas and Happy new year, see you soon

## WHO ARE YOUR ACCESS BEDFORD TRUSTEES & COMMITTEE MEMBERS?



Catherine



Helene



Ally



Ciaran



Marie



Lisa

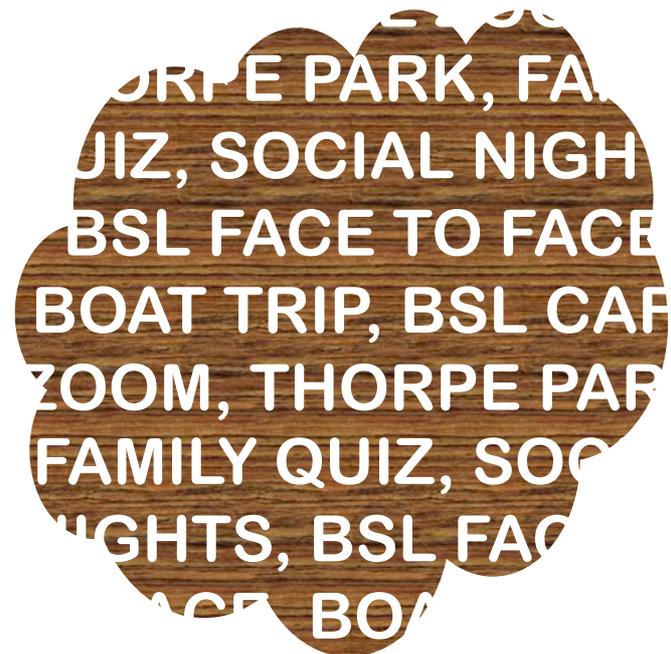


Tyler

## FINALLY WE WERE ABLE TO ALL MEET UP AGAIN AND ITS BEEN A BUSY FEW MONTHS!

- Lots of people met up at the Running Festival! Lisa one of our volunteer committee met Helene for the first time!
- Badminton Tuesday nights
- Tavi pub nights
- Young at heart catch up
- BSL Café via Zoom
- The Committee & Trustees met to plan for 2022.

**A GLIMPSE OF 2022  
WATCH THIS SPACE!!**



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## WHO'S BEEN WATCHING STRICTLY COME DANCING?

The lovely [Rose Ayling-Ellis](#) has been raising the profile of deafness. If you haven't seen her strut her stuff on the dance floor, check this link out, and who knows maybe you will be dancing your way into 2022! [Rose via Youtube](#)



**"I have no problem being deaf, it's the society that makes it harder for me"**

Rose Ayling-Ellis

## Do YOU like Ed Sheeran? BSL interpreters at Wembley



**LINK Fletch & Marie**  
BSL Interpreters

24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup>, 29<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>  
June & 1<sup>st</sup> July 2022

To book your tickets, please call our ticketing team on **0800 093 0824**. Alternatively, please visit [thefa.signvideo.net](http://thefa.signvideo.net) - You can read more about our SignVideo service here: [Services for the hard of hearing or deaf](#).

Wembley offices are open Monday - Friday, 10am-5pm.

Wembley are doing more to support the deaf community.



## The Runners should be so proud of themselves they raised £1,513.49

Would you be interested in running for us in 2022? We are already planning to take part in this event again. Maybe you will set yourself a New Year's resolution to complete a 10k or even a Half marathon, why not ask us about a charity place. If running is new to you Helene would be more than happy to give you some guidance and help you on your way. Thank you again to our amazing runners for raising this fantastic amount for Access Bedford!

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### DISABILITY HISTORY MONTH

**Date:** 18<sup>th</sup> Nov 21 – Early Jan 2022  
**Where:** The Higgins Bedford

We asked our deaf community to create some short videos about how the Covid Pandemic has impacted them, in both a positive and negative way. Thank you to everyone who supported this and made a video.

The exhibition is **FREE** to visit. Peter found himself on screen! *"Can we have your autograph?"* You need to book with the Higgins to visit the museum.

[LINK: WATCH OUR VIDEO HERE](#)

[LINK: The Higgins Bedford](#)



**WORDS**

SANTA PRESENTS ELF MILK REINDEERS COOKIES

**Access Bedford** **YOUNG AT HEART**

**JOIN US FOR A CATCH UP AND A CUPPA!**

**DATE:** 7<sup>th</sup> Jan, 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, 4<sup>th</sup> Mar, 1<sup>st</sup> Apr, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**TIME:** Arrive from 11am

**MEET:** Woolpack Hub, Bedford MK40 1PX

**YOUNG HEART**

**CONTACT US:** 07376262873  
**Email:** [info@accessbedford.org.uk](mailto:info@accessbedford.org.uk)

OVER 50'S SOCIAL CLUB

FUNDED BY

**Access Bedford** **BSL CAFÉ ONLINE**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Each Month**

**COME & JOIN US** each 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of each month at 11am -12pm

12<sup>th</sup> Dec 2021, 9<sup>th</sup> Jan 2022

13<sup>th</sup> Feb, 13<sup>th</sup> Mar *new Face to Face* awaiting venue information, 10<sup>th</sup> Apr, 8<sup>th</sup> May 2022

**NEWFLASH - Bob Rose**

Deaf BSL Tutor will be joining us on these sessions

These sessions are for new learners, as well as our regulars who are continuing their BSL journey and need a safe place to practice

HOW TO LOGIN ON ZOOM:

FUNDED BY

**Access Bedford** **DEAF SPACE**

**BOOK A FREE FACE TO FACE MEETING WITH AN NRCPD REGISTERED INTERPRETER**

**FREE & CONFIDENTIAL**

We can support you:

- ✓ Make phone calls
- ✓ Book appointments
- ✓ Translate letters & emails
- ✓ Modify English

FIND US:

FUNDED BY

### FANTASTIC CHEQUE DONATION FROM CO-OP



We met the Co-op team and talked about how they support local charities. A lady from the Counselling foundation was also there and explained what they do. The Bedford Hospice Day Centre is lovely and we chatted to the manager. Access Bedford received a fantastic cheque from Coop Local community fund.

BY CATHERINE WRIGHT

FUNDED BY



## CINEMAS

PRESS LINK BELOW FOR DETAILS

[Full listing for Bedford and Milton Keynes, sign up for email and you can see the latest films each week!](#)

## HEALTHWATCH FOCUS GROUP

Time to have our say about  
Health & Social care services.

The morning went well and we had plenty to say, we could go on all day about the barriers that deaf people have when trying to access their GP, dentist, hospital etc. We shared negative & positive experiences. Thank you to the people that came, Healthwatch and the lovely interpreters.

BY CATHERINE WRIGHT

**CARRON KING**

**PERSONAL ASSISTANT/  
SUPPORT WORKER**

IF YOU ARE OR KNOW SOMEONE WHO IS DEAF, HARD OF HEARING, DEAFBLIND, DEAF WITH A LEARNING DISABILITY WHO NEEDS A PA SUPPORT WORKER THEN CONTACT ME

**07523 061304 (TEXT ONLY)**  
**EMAIL: CARRON@PASUPPORT.CO.UK**  
**WWW.CARRON80.WIXSITE.COM/CARRONPASUPPORT**

MORE DETAILS AT CARRON PA SUPPORT

## 'Seen and Heard'

Focus Group  
20<sup>th</sup> November 2021  
10am – 1pm

BSL interpreters and refreshments will be provided

For more information, text:  
Emma on 07480 115337  
Access Bedford on 07376 262873

Priory Methodist Church,  
63 Newnham Ave, Bedford  
MK41 9QJ

In partnership with



**WORDS**

FESTIVE BOOZE CELEBRATE GAMES FAMILY FOOD

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## WOULD YOU LIKE MORE BSL INTERPRETED EVENTS LOCALLY?

### BSL INTERPRETED SHOWS AT THE QUARRY.

Would you like to see more BSL shows? Could you let us know what kind of things would interest you, currently interpreted shows are aimed at young children & families.

### THEATRE SHOWS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Please see the link below to find other Interpreted shows around the country, it's a great way to see what's on throughout the year. More local shows can be found on the individual Theatres website. Select each venue to purchase tickets.

<https://theatresign.com/shows/#showsection>

### MILTON KEYNES THEATRE BSL OR CAPTION VIEWING

#### JACK AND BEANSTALK

BSL Performance: 21<sup>st</sup> Dec 7pm

Book Tickets Here: <https://www.atgtickets.com/shows>

Captioned Performance: 29<sup>th</sup> Dec 7pm

Book Tickets Here: <https://www.atgtickets.com/shows>

### NORTHAMPTON DERNGATE

#### DICK WHITTINGTON

Captioned Performance: 20<sup>th</sup> Dec 7pm & 29<sup>th</sup> Dec 2.30pm

BSL Performance: 16<sup>th</sup> Dec 7pm

Book Tickets Here: <https://tickets.royalalndderngate.co.uk/>

### CAMBRIDGE JUNCTION

#### THE SNOW QUEEN

BSL performance: 19th Dec 2:30pm

Book Tickets Here: <https://www.junction.co.uk/>



## DID YOU SEE OLLY MURS IN CONCERT?



The show was on 10<sup>th</sup> Sept 2021. BSL interpreters Charlotte Anderson and our very own Marie Biswell were on stage with Olly Murs live at Bedford Park Concerts.

*From Marie Lyn Biswell:*

### Interpreting for Olly Murs will definitely be an experience that I won't forget in a hurry.

I was bought in as a last minute replacement for a co worker that had tested positive for COVID so it was a rush but definitely not something I wanted to turn down.

When we first arrived I found the co - worker and then backstage to find where we needed to go and what we needed for the stage, although I had done stage work before I hadn't done anything this big with names like this. The stage seemed huge when we got there and found our space at the front so we could be seen by the audience.

We waited back stage going over a few songs so we could be clear exactly on what we were signing and when. When it was our turn to go up we waited nervously by the side of the stage, earphones on and ready to take our place. The most surreal thing happened next that the group Scouting for Girls walked past us one way when Olly Murs walked the other and the realisation hit that there were a lot of famous people here!!

On stage was a brilliant experience we got through the first few songs and then suddenly when I was signing Olly Murs came over to me and wanted to sign thank you to the Deaf concert goers and asked for the signs!! I got Charlotte, my co worker, to come out while I interpreted for what they were saying, highlight of the evening that was!

*It came to our attention afterwards that the interpreters on stage were really hard to be seen if you were stood further back in the park so we have bought this up to the Bedford Inclusive Town meetings in the hope that this will be looked at for accessibility in the future. In an ideal world we would love for the interpreters to have a spotlight and possibly be projected on to the big screen for clearer visuals throughout the park but this is something to work towards.*

# THE IMPORTANCE OF USING REGISTERED INTERPRETERS

It has come to light recently for us that a lot of Deaf Patients in their appointment are being sent interpreters that are calling themselves interpreters and are not qualified. We thought it would be useful to give you a bit of information about what it is to look out for in your appointment, this can be for the Deaf patient or the organisation that has booked them.

All NRCPD Registrants are issued with an ID Badge as proof of their registration. Please see below as an example of what each ID badge looks like.



**Yellow** is a RSLI registered sign language interpreter or a registered interpreter for Deafblind people

**Purple** is a TSLI trainee sign language interpreter

**NRCPD** will be printed in the corner of the badge to show they are registered with the regulatory body which is the **National Register of Communication Professionals working with Deaf and Deafblind individuals**

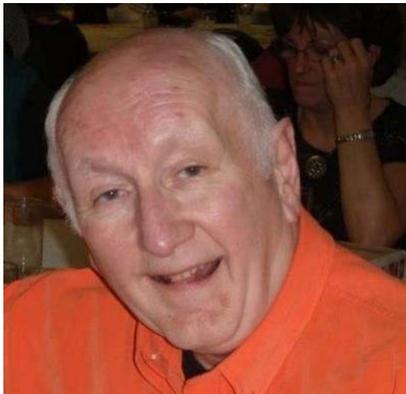
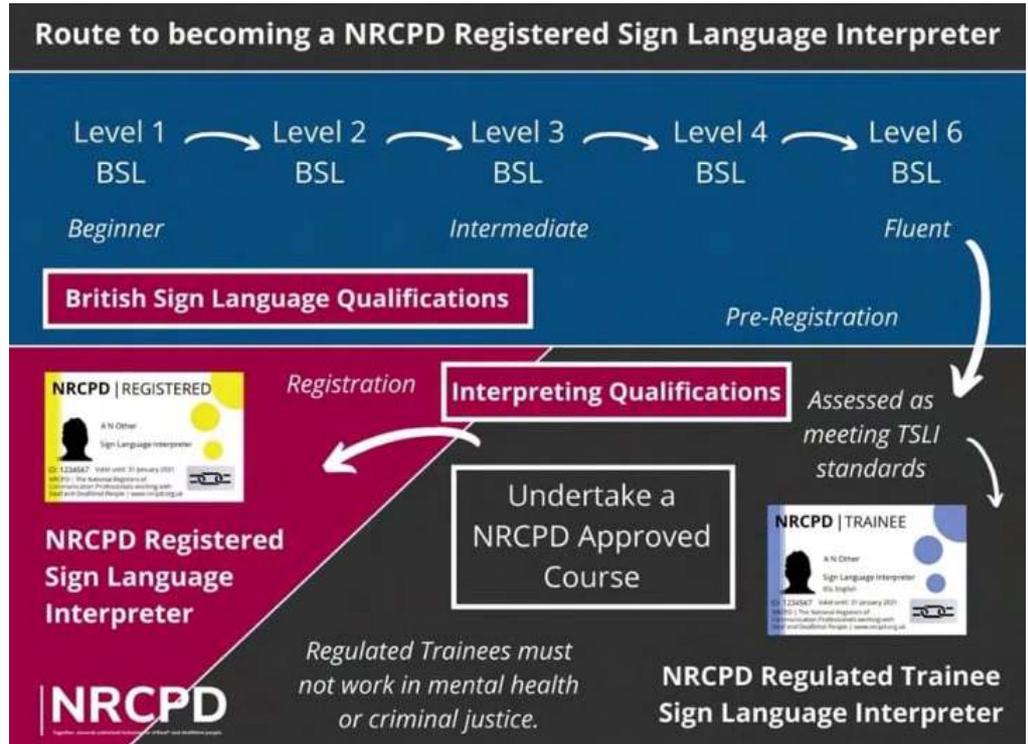
If the person at your appointment **does not have an NRCPD badge you have the right to refuse them into the appointment.**

The NRCPD is also there for you both as the Deaf patient and the hearing person who booked them to raise concerns to if you feel this is needed.

It is important to use interpreters with their badges for your appointments for example in **Doctors, Hospitals, Courts or Police stations** as these interpreters have gone through years of training to learn how to communicate smoothly in these situations.

## NRCPD Interpreters

- Have been through years of training
- Have the correct insurance cover
- Deliver information in safe way which is clearly understood by everyone involved.



## IN LOVING MEMORY OF MIKE WEBSTER

We were very saddened by the news that Mike Webster passed away on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

Mike was a popular and loved member of the Deaf community and a leader in deaf sports organisations. He was a director of the British Deaf Sports Council (94-95, 2002-08) and the Alban Neave Deaf Centre, Luton. He also helped to set up the Deaf Caravan & Camping Club and organised holidays for the Over 50s.

He was honoured with the Lifetime Achievement Award in 2020. Here is the tribute video from Deaf Sports Personality of the Year <https://www.youtube.com/>

As the chair of Southend Deaf Club, Mike was an important part of RAD's community. In recent years, and with the support of his family, Mike was an important part in the creation of TalkMore, the wellbeing service RAD set up in memory of his son Daniel.

[TalkMore service - Royal Association for Deaf people \(royaldeaf.org.uk\)](http://royaldeaf.org.uk)

He was a role model and friend to many, and he will be greatly missed. Our thoughts and deepest sympathies go to Mike's family and friends at this very sad time.



## BSL TASTER COURSE

### 6 WEEK ONLINE BSL TASTER COURSE

In October we held another of our popular BSL taster courses. This time we partnered with The Recovery College, who specialise in supporting people in Luton and Bedfordshire to improve their mental health and wellbeing through learning new skills. Topics included fingerspelling, numbers, colours, directions, weather and jobs. Some of the people attending this course have now gone on to research where they can go to learn level 1 BSL which is very exciting. We hope to support all the attendees to learn more about BSL and the D/deaf community going forward. Thanks again to Dom Caswell for teaching a super taster course and to Kirstin and Yvonne at the Recovery College for organising and supporting the group. BY ALLY TREE

The logo for Recovery College, featuring the text "Bedfordshire NHS" in a green, cursive font, with "mental health and wellbeing service provided by ELFT" in a smaller, black, sans-serif font below it.

**Recovery College**  
For Better Health & Wellbeing  
email : [elft.recoverycollege@nhs.net](mailto:elft.recoverycollege@nhs.net) call : 01234 263621

The Recovery College face-to-face courses and workshops are being held on a limited basis due to the Coronavirus emergency but they are providing free online courses and workshops which are easy to access via Zoom. Find the most up-to-date prospectus here [September to December Prospectus \(elft.nhs.uk\)](#)

### WHAT THE RECOVERY COLLEGE SAID ABOUT THE 6 WEEK COURSE

*"These wonderful sessions were a fantastic to begin a journey of learning about this wonderful language which has the added benefit of helping us communicate more effectively with the deaf community. This opportunity has proved to be invaluable. The Sessions themselves were professionally and skilfully delivered, even with the challenges of zoom. Thank you for sharing your knowing and working with us to increase knowledge around BSL in Bedfordshire.*

FUNDED BY



## 6 WEEK FACE TO FACE BSL & DEAF AWARENESS TASTER COURSE



We met the IMPAKT team at the Bedford Running Festival weekend, *Maddy-Director for HR & Organisational Development*, asked us if we could provide her and the team with some basic BSL & Deaf awareness tuition. We obviously said yes and on the 27<sup>th</sup> October they had their 1<sup>st</sup> session taught by BSL Tutor Bob Rose at CVS in Bedford. The group have been learning the BSL basics as well as the importance of Deaf awareness. Learn more about IMPAKT here <https://impakt.org.uk/>

If you or your organisation would like to join a basic BSL workshop or short course please get in touch with us at [info@accessbedford.org.uk](mailto:info@accessbedford.org.uk) to find out more, we can offer bespoke courses online or face to face depending on your needs.



## ACTIVE ACCESS BEDFORD

**This was new for 2021, we decided we would like to support the community to be active and stay well - physically and mentally. We took a quick Facebook poll and Badminton came top of the list as something people would like to do.**



The John Bunyan Sports centre had a slot on Tuesdays 7.30pm till 9.30pm and we initially booked 4 courts for our group to use. The initial turn out was great and we regularly had 10-15 players joining us, during the school holidays we had a number of children joining the group too.

In September the numbers began to drop off as the kids went back to school and we decided to reduce the number of courts down to two. We have a regular 6-8 people attend but as the evenings have got darker and the weather turned cooler interest has really dropped.



The John Bunyan Sports centre is closing the main hall in December for maintenance so our last Badminton session will take place on Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

**We would like to thank everyone who has joined us for a game and a big thank you to Catherine and Tyler who have been supporting the sessions on behalf of Access Bedford.**

Active Access Bedford will continue in 2022 and we are looking into small group PT sessions led by Michael Easton from Back to the Fitness [Back To The Fitness](#) and also Squash sessions at the John Bunyan sports & fitness centre. Watch out for announcements coming soon, if you have any ideas about activities you would like to try please let us know.

Email [info@accessbedford.co.uk](mailto:info@accessbedford.co.uk)



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