

SQA Star Awards

Deafblind Scotland is delighted to announce that one of its students, Eve MacKenzie, was a finalist for SQA School Candidate of the Year 2015.

Eve decided to learn British Sign Language in her spare time. She took an SQA BSL Level One course at Deafblind Scotland where she was a fantastic student and was one of only four school-age students on the course. Eve went on to promote the awareness of British Sign Language to her peers and community. She was a great support in the class and showed great maturity in learning with a mainly adult group.

Eve was nominated by Deafblind Scotland and by her school. She is the youngest person to have been nominated for an SQA Star Award.

The 2015 Star Awards Ceremony was held on Friday 20 November at the Assembly Rooms, Edinburgh. The Ceremony evening rewards and recognises inspirational achievements and commitment from individuals, schools, colleges and training organisations across Scotland.

The judges stated Eve was Highly Commended in the category. Well done to all finalists and winners on the night.



Car Raffle

Have you entered our raffle for the chance to win a brand new car for £1?

Go to page 7 for more information.



Workplace Assessment

Deafblind Scotland supports companies to become wholly accessible business environments. After the assessment, each premises will be equipped to deal with the everyday challenges faced by people with sensory impairments. The workplace and public areas will become more practicable through more accessible communication practices and assistive technologies.

Step 1

2-hour workplace assessment, and liaison with relevant personnel on current communication practices.

This assessment is based on a best practice approach in meeting your duty of care to adhere to relevant legislation and regulations, including equality legislation, building regulations and health and safety regulations.

Step 2

Written report produced by Deafblind Scotland with recommendations on how your business premises and public areas can be made more accessible for deafblind and/or persons with sight and hearing difficulties.

A designated advisor will be appointed to your business and our team will be available for ongoing guidance and support.

Step 3

A certificate of endorsement and 'marking' recognising your company as an approved business environment will be provided to place on your on and off line resources, to be reviewed annually.

Contact John Whitfield on jwparticipation@deafblindscotland.org.uk for further information.

Paddington Bear prepares for Grand Canyon

Deafblind Scotland's Health Access Officer, John Whitfield, will be completing a four day trek of the Grand Canyon to raise money for the Field of Dreams project.

On the 5th March 2016, John Whitfield, his guide/communicator, and their trusted companion Paddington Bear, will embark on a gruelling journey, in temperatures exceeding 30°C.

This follows previous expeditions with John and mascot Paddington Bear, who has previously visited China and Peru to bring awareness to Deafblind Scotland and Field of Dreams.

Paddington Bear returned from Machu Picchu, Peru in 2014 and embarked on the Hollywood movie life for a while. After taking an early retirement from the silver screen, he has decided to head over to the Grand Canyon in the hope of meeting his wild cousins.

John Whitfield said:

"I live by the motto, "Know no limits". It was given to me when I used to ride motorbikes and was always pushing the limits and beyond! Now I'm no longer able to ride, I push the limits in other ways, such as these treks. I hope that by pushing these limits I can show those who are newly diagnosed that there is life at the end of the tunnel and, hopefully, be an inspiration to our members. The Field of Dreams is such an imperative project as it unites deafblind people, encouraging interaction, communication and an opportunity to share their unique experiences."



In advance of the trip why not head along to The Grizzly Grand Canyon Trek Quiz Night?

Date: 29 January 2016

Tickets: £5 entry

Starts prompt at 7.00pm

The Iron Horse, 111 West Nile Street, Glasgow G1 2SB

To buy tickets or for more information contact John Whitfield at JWparticipation@deafblindscotland.org.uk

Bills, Consultations, Publications and Reports

Social Care Services, Scotland, 2015

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/11/5804>

Latest national figures for Social Care services provided or purchased by Local Authorities in Scotland.

Active Scotland Outcomes: Indicator Equality Analysis

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/11/9439>

This report presents an analysis of equality data across the indicators from the Active Scotland Outcomes Framework. Many data gaps were highlighted, however, available evidence points to inequality of opportunities and outcomes for all groups with protected characteristics across all the Active Scotland outcomes.

Literature Review on the Impact of Digital Technology on Learning and Teaching

<http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2015/11/7786>

This literature review was commissioned by the Scottish Government to explore how the use of digital technology for learning and teaching can support teachers, parents, children and young people in improving outcomes and achieving our ambitions for education in Scotland.

Too many pupils with a sensory impairment still being let down

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/92448.aspx>

Many pupils with a visual or hearing impairment are still not getting the same opportunities as their peers. This is just one of the findings in a report issued by the Scottish Parliament's Education and Culture Committee.

Holyrood report: Loneliness 'as damaging to Scots health as poverty and poor housing'

<http://www.scottish.parliament.uk/newsandmediacentre/93466.aspx>

The Equal Opportunities Committee launches its report on the extent and impact of social isolation on older and younger people living in Scotland.

Projects

Connect to Welfare Rights

The “Connect to Welfare Rights” project has now been running for over one year and is funded to run until the end of March 2016. We have been consistently assisting more people each month with welfare rights enquiries, with a high percentage of positive outcomes.

We have continued to raise awareness of the project through attending events, liaising with local community groups, liaising with other Third Sector organisations and attending visually impaired support groups.

Please contact Helen or Chris on 0141 777 5830 or WR@deafblindscotland.org.uk if you have any questions or issues with regard to welfare rights, including benefits, money matters, access to information in different formats and your rights as sensory impaired adults.

Health Access

The Health Access Officer has been liaising with health professionals across the board and has attended close to 80 meetings this year to ensure dual sensory loss remains on the health agenda.

There have been 32 training sessions on deafblind awareness from health centres, audiology staff and an increasing number of Scottish Ambulance staff.

The Health Access Officer also began his role with Mobility and Access Committee Scotland in an advisory capacity for transport accessibility issues.

Information

Deafblind Scotland is committed to ensuring that Deafblind people can make informed choices when accessing information.

Deafblind Scotland’s Information Services actively support access to information and ensure that information is formatted to that individual’s accessibility requirements. Deafblind Scotland enables Deafblind people to access information about the services, facilities and opportunities available to them in their local area and also in wider society from a range of service providers. We provide this information in the individual member’s preferred format of Braille, Moon, audio CD, large print, extra-large print, British Sign Language DVDs or using a one to one Guide/Communicator.

Please contact Stephanie on information@deafblindscotland.org.uk if you have any questions about our information and formatting services.

Training Courses

If you are interested in training with Deafblind Scotland then please contact us. If you aren't sure what kind of training would be best suited for you then please contact us and we would be happy to advise.

BSL 2 Evening Class

Suitable for people who have already achieved BSL 1.
Registration Evening: Wednesday 20th January 5-6.30pm.
Start Tuesday 26th January 6-8.30pm

BSL 1 Intensive Class

Suitable for people with little or no BSL knowledge.
Registration Evening: Wednesday 20th January 5-6.30pm.

9.30-4.30

Thursday 28th January
Thursday 4th February
Thursday 11th February
Thursday 25th February

Hands on Sign Workshop- Glasgow

Registration by email: trainingadmin@deafblindscotland.org.uk

Suitable for BSL Interpreters and people who are fluent at BSL level 2 and above.
Saturday 5th March 9.30-4.30

For more information on any training courses contact Ellen on trainingadmin@deafblindscotland.org.uk or call 0141 777 6111

Win a brand new car for £1

Have you entered Deafblind Scotland's **car raffle 2015** yet? Bargain price of only £1 per raffle ticket. Why not be the best colleague ever and buy raffle tickets as an extra for your fellow workers this Christmas? Tickets on sale now and the draw will be via live link at www.deafblindscotland.org.uk on Thursday, 24 December 2015. The time of the draw will be given on Deafblind Scotland's website from Monday, 21 December 2015.

To buy your tickets, call 0141 777 6111 or email alisonhardie@deafblindscotland.org.uk. Best of luck!

WIN

A BRAND NEW CAR

*WORTH £7,000

Raffle will be drawn on Christmas Eve 2015 at Deafblind Scotland's Lenzie office, live link via www.deafblindscotland.org.uk



Sterling Silver Appeal

For over 25 years Deafblind Scotland has been a constant lifeline of assistance, there for deafblind people when they need us, and you can now help continue our critical work by donating to our Sterling Silver Appeal or signing up your business as a Sterling Silver Business Partner.

By donating £25 or pledging to donate more regularly, you will be supporting Deafblind Scotland to continue its work with the deafblind community. Contact our team for donation options or you can text SLVR99 £25 (or other chosen amount) to 70070 .You can also donate online at www.justgiving.com/sterling-silver.

Contact Deafblind Scotland to find out the various benefits your business can have if you donate £25 to the Sterling Silver Appeal.



Referrals

Deafblind Scotland aims to help people in Scotland live as rightful members of their own communities. Membership is free to anyone who has a severe degree of combined visual and auditory impairment resulting in problems with communication, information and mobility. To refer a person call 0141 777 6111 or email membership@deafblindscotland.org.uk

Mailing List

If you know anyone who would like to be added to the Deafblind Scotland Newsletter mailing list to receive this email, or if this mail was forwarded to you and you would like to receive it directly, please contact information@deafblindscotland.org.uk.

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SCN: SC031167