



English transcript of Richard Jones' interview with Janice Connolly and Dawn Marshall on 12th November 2018

Based on live voiceovers by Mark Hetherington, Lizzie Wharton and Sue Lee

Richard Jones	Hi everybody! Hello everybody in the audience.
Janice Connolly/Dawn Marshall	Hi!
Richard Jones	<p>I'm Richard Jones. We're here tonight to have a bit of a discussion at the BSL Zone; we're live streaming. We're here at Manchester Deaf Centre, this is my place of work and I'm the Executive Director. We want everybody watching at home to click "Like" - give us a thumbs up, give us a bit of "Love" or give us some emoticons, just so we know how many people are watching tonight. So please, if you are watching, click on the "Like" button, so we want to know how many thousands of people are tuning in! As I say, my name is Richard Jones. I'll introduce... We have Janice here from Liverpool, and we have Dawn from Becoming Visible and the BDA.</p> <p>So, I want to ask you at home if you've watched Found at the Deaf Club? Have you watched it since it's been aired? What did you think? We want to know your views. Have you had any shared experiences?</p> <p>Janice, how did you feel about seeing yourself on TV - was it a bit of a surreal experience?</p>
Janice Connolly	When it was ready to come on, luckily, I'd seen a preview so I was a bit nervous, but when I saw it – yeah. I looked at it and it looked professional; yeah, I was really happy as it sent out the message about Deaf Clubs; I also talked about myself and my life. I just hope people thought, "Ooh, that's the same story as mine", and changed their attitude a little bit. You know, my family saw me and they were like "Oh I'm so proud of you", and I'm like "Gee, OK, thanks!" I was very nervous. And it's out now, so there you go.
Richard Jones	Second time today. So what did you think of it, Dawn?
Dawn Marshall	It was brilliant, actually, I have to say. You know, there are a lot of Deaf people out there in the Deaf community, but it's quite a small percentage that have Deaf parents like us, you know. I went to the Deaf Club from birth, almost. Without the Deaf Club, I can't imagine what life would be like. I don't know if you two feel the same?
Richard Jones	I can't either.
Janice Connolly	Yeah no, it was different for me, I went from 14.
Dawn Marshall	Absolutely, and that's why, having watched the programme, I thought yeah, you know. Others haven't been to a Deaf Club, as I have done, but it is, you

	know, you said it just changed your life, Janice, and I think it was amazing really.
Richard Jones	So, what is the difference now, compared to 20 or 30 years ago, in terms of Deaf Clubs? Do you feel it's got worse, or do you think more people are finding their identities?
Janice Connolly	For me it seems that the younger generation, well, where are they? We need to get them in. They don't seem very interested and I'm just wondering, is it mainstream education that affects their lives? They're not bothered with the bingo and the Deaf Clubs, they want to go out to town, they want the bright lights of the night club. You can't see and talk in there, can you, but I don't know, is it the same in your area, Dawn? Where are the young people?
Dawn Marshall	I think really, I mean to be fair, I blame mainstream education, and obviously we've talked about this before. Blame is a strong word, but I think the influence has definitely had an impact. Previously, when there were lots and lots of deaf schools, it was different, they fed the Deaf Clubs through children as they grew up, and the deaf adults, they'd be then telling them what to do; the youngsters would learn from them. When they left school, they'd go to the Deaf Club and learn committee skills and take responsibility, so it was sustainable. Going back to the 1970s at the onset of mainstream education, I think from there onwards, well, in my opinion, I think that's where the change happened.
Janice Connolly	Yes, it's definitely had an effect, hasn't it
Dawn Marshall	Yes, the education. You know, there's no avenues for the deaf children and the deaf youngsters to see Deaf adults working within the Deaf Clubs, you know. You don't see that any longer; you don't see many youngsters in Deaf Clubs; and I think that has had an effect on the youngsters who now don't want to take on those responsibilities for those roles because they haven't had that education on how to do it.
Richard Jones	So, linking on to the point about mainstreaming and Deaf centres, we have a youth club here at Manchester Deaf Centre. Every Friday we cater for a group of 8-12 year olds, and then for another group, we have 13-25. We have about 124 people registered but only 20 people attend.
Janice Connolly	Do you think it's a lack of confidence in those young people? Mainstream education means they don't have as much confidence?
Dawn Marshall	I remember growing up at the youth club at Newcastle Deaf Club, it was fantastic, it was really well attended, you know. Really, it was just incredible, but then of course, there was no technology, there were lots of games, there weren't any mobile phones. You know, at Sunderland Deaf Club at the moment, they're encouraging youngsters to get involved again; they've got their youth club, they've got the primary school children. Things are changing now, but I don't think ... if that's not available, it's scary.
Janice Connolly	In Liverpool recently, we set up a youth club from, say, one year old to, well up to 12 or 13, and it's been pretty successful. And it'll be interesting to see

	<p>how long that will carry on, because obviously, the first time it was well attended but then if people drop off, you know... and it's my responsibility to keep it going. Do you two feel technology is taking over their lives too much, do you think? Is it an issue?</p>
Dawn Marshall	<p>The BDA have a project called Deaf Roots & Pride and I think that's encouraging youngsters to come into the Deaf Clubs, they're bringing them into it. I think it's very successful in that respect. So, what we're trying to do is fill the gaps to encourage the deaf youngsters to get back into the Deaf Clubs. Time will tell whether it's a success or not.</p>
Richard Jones	<p>Found at the Deaf Club, which was made by Charlie Swinbourne, really looked into people's experiences. Do you think we need to conduct more in-depth research?</p>
Janice Connolly	<p>They should have a different group, I mean like, you know, I wasn't Deaf until I was 14, the three of us have similar stories haven't we, of growing up. And we need maybe now to talk about people with cochlear implants, what's it like for them growing up? And also people like yourself, who were born into Deaf families. There were three different stories in ours, but there's different groups within those groups isn't there, we're all interconnected but have very different lives.</p>
Dawn Marshall	<p>Absolutely, yeah, we're talking to the young people now, some Deaf adults as well. We ask why they aren't going to the Deaf Club - they say they've never actually been in. I think it's important that Deaf people themselves take responsibility, really, for those that don't know, to get out there and spread the word. Give them something back, give them what they want, you know. Offer them something that they want. And what about here, Richard?</p>
Richard Jones	<p>In terms of the Deaf Centre, we provide a youth club, we have training, employment support, advocacy and advice. And every Monday, well if we go back 20 years ago, we would have welcomed about 100 members from the Deaf community but I think now, in today's age, we will have maybe about 10 people coming on a Monday evening, so that's drastically reduced. But I think one of the problems here is that we're based centrally in Manchester and it's really hard for car park provision, so that ultimately means that people are having to pay for NCP car parks which puts a lot of our members off. But if they want to come and have a drink at the Deaf Club, they can.</p>
Janice Connolly	<p>Yes, parking and it's dark in the evenings, isn't it, as well, especially for the older people. They'll always ask what time the bingo is on, and if it's in the afternoon, they'll say, "that's alright, we'll come." But if it's in the evening, they don't want to come because they're a bit frightened to go out, and that's a shame.</p>
Richard Jones	<p>Absolutely, I mean on a Monday afternoon, we have between 60-80 people every Monday.</p>
Janice Connolly	<p>Yes, and on a Wednesday afternoon with us and it's fantastic, there's loads. There could be like 80 in at one time, it's very different.</p>

Richard Jones	But we aren't seeing anybody from the younger generation.
Dawn Marshall	Yeah, it's about... what do they want? I think it's difficult to get out there because where are they? They are difficult to reach. What we need ... we need to work with other organisations perhaps, I think it's a weakness the Deaf community has, actually. We need to be able to outreach, we're too insular, I think, we need to get out there more.
Richard Jones	I know here in Manchester we have approximately 650 deaf children but only 10 of them use sign language.
Janice Connolly	Oh in Manchester? Wow.
Richard Jones	A lead researcher within the education sector informed me of that. So I think there's about one deaf person in every 1,000 people, and from that 650, only 10 of them can sign. So it's ...
Dawn Marshall	You know, about those that don't sign, what about their mental health, their education, their opportunities in life – are they on a par to hearing people? I don't think so...
Janice Connolly	And also, how do we connect with that child, you know? We're talking about SENCO and things like that, you know. People just assume, don't they, that they can do it? It's like you said, Richard, it's assumed that 10 of them can sign, but how do we know that, where do they get those numbers from?
Richard Jones	I know as well there's another issue surrounding cochlear implants, the development of technology, and how that has an impact on lifestyle.
Janice Connolly	Technology for me... in the old days, I mean, I worked with hearing people Monday to Friday, and I couldn't wait to get to the Deaf Club on a Friday night, you know, plan the weekend, find out what's going on. And that was great but now it's just texting isn't it, "Oh well, I'll be there, where are you going?", so the Deaf Club is suffering really, it's a shame.
Richard Jones	And what's happening with Deaf pubs?
Dawn Marshall	Can we just go back to those have cochlear implants, you know, you can't stop cochlear implantation, of course you can't. You can't say to people that they can't join; they are part of society, they are part of the Deaf community, these people. So I think Deaf people have to look at ourselves, to be fair. And you mentioned Deaf pubs, Richard, I think there is some effect because where's the money going? It's going back to the hearing economy, not back to the Deaf community, the Deaf economy, we could manage that better I think.
Janice Connolly	And that started about 10 years ago didn't it, the Deaf pub type thing, and that became really popular. But now, I don't know if you hear much about that these days. So has that gone? Will they come back to the Deaf Clubs?
Dawn Marshall	And what about Deaf sport, you know? In years gone by, there'd be the darts, there'd be the football and so on, yeah.

Richard Jones	Absolutely, and I know that's still going in the North West.
Dawn Marshall	In the North East too, but it's less than it was previously, you know, I think before we had real great opportunities.
Janice Connolly	We had matches, we had a league, didn't we?
Richard Jones	I mean, I've not actually participated, but I want to know about the younger generation's levels of engagement - is it just the older generation, or is there any new blood coming through in those tournaments for those competitions? Or is it a fact that mainstream has impacted on that as well? I know each respective area, Liverpool, Manchester, but I don't know how that feeds into it. Maybe if there's friends or social networking or after school events for the Deaf community? I know we have tried to engage more at our youth club and we do a lot of outreach work. It's relatively new and we started in September when we're visiting schools and we set up two After School Clubs, but they're still not accessing the hub or the club here.
Janice Connolly	At MSDP now we've got a better communication with the deaf unit within Knotty Ash, which is a mainstream school. We work with the deaf unit and we're hopefully teaching them, so we've said "Hey, we're here," and then when they leave school if they need support then we can have the facility
Dawn Marshall	It's too late isn't it actually? We need to go to the parents when the child is first born. If you can get that information to them to say "There's no harm, your child's fine", you can give that positivity to new parents, but it's not happening now.
Richard Jones	Absolutely. So... to anybody watching us on the live stream, if you've got any questions, please contribute. Send them in via Facebook and we'll be able to come up with an answer! I know we have one question from Terry Jones. He's saying that the problem is people don't necessarily need to leave home anymore because of technology. That's right, we've got things like games and Facebook and we can order food online. So essentially people are just born and they live and they die at home essentially. They don't need to interact anymore, they've got the internet.
Janice Connolly	Why not have a pizza at the Deaf Club?
Dawn Marshall	Why not.
Janice Connolly	Mix a little bit socially too.
Dawn Marshall	But we talked about that a little bit before didn't we, you know, like waiting for Friday night to come, and now it's just texting – "Hey what are you doing, blah blah blah." You know, you can just sit at home and do that and have that interaction. People don't see each other as much because of technology. What can you do?

Janice Connolly	Yeah, technology is supposed to make life improvements for us, not to make things worse.
Richard Jones	Absolutely.
Janice Connolly	Oh yeah, I mean, you know, Facetime, we can chat using that type of stuff, yeah.
Richard Jones	So, Dawn, going back years ago, the BDA had area councils, the branches. I'm not sure if people watching this will remember, if you're old enough, if you can remember the BDA's branches? The regional councils became area councils. Has that gone now? What's the situation with that?
Dawn Marshall	The structure of the BDA has changed hasn't it, over the members, one member one vote, that kind of thing. All these changes have been in place, with changes of director and chair and whatever. I think the most important thing is for Deaf Clubs, that deaf organisations like the BDA need to get information from those out there. What do they want from the BDA? So, come along to the AGM on January 26 th and give us your feedback; give us your views, and then we can take that and develop thereafter to match what people actually want. So you know, if you're not a member, it's free to join, so come along.
Richard Jones	Is it free to be a member?
Dawn Marshall	It's free membership, absolutely.
Richard Jones	Since when has it been free?
Dawn Marshall	It's been for a while now.
Richard Jones	I thought it was £10.
Dawn Marshall	No, it's free.
Richard Jones	There you go, everybody at home, it's free to be a member.
Janice Connolly	That's something I didn't know about. Well maybe you need more advertising to let people know. I don't know, but I feel like I've lost touch with the BDA a little bit. I didn't know that, actually, about it being free.
Richard Jones	I know. And with the programme Found at the Deaf Club , in terms of your mindset Janice, what was it like to go through that? What was your experience?
Janice Connolly	I had nothing.
Richard Jones	I wonder if you think about young people nowadays, if they have the same mindset as you now? I think you said before you didn't know about the Deaf Club until later in life. But I think what's really important, we have to reach out, because of people's well-being. I think when you look at hearing people, they can access everyday society... they can go to the hairdressers, even if they don't need a haircut, just for that interaction. They can go to the

	library and they can engage in general chit chat, can't they, and that does wonders for their well-being. They can access mainstream centres, or even do something as mundane as walking past somebody on the street and saying hello. Deaf people don't have that.
Janice Connolly	The Deaf Club isn't it? That's the one place.
Richard Jones	Absolutely, so we have implemented a well-being group here at Manchester Deaf Centre, so those members of our community who are isolated can come here. Now I'm just thinking about the younger people's mindset.
Dawn Marshall	But remember, in years gone by, obviously we're here to talk about the years gone by too, soldiers would light fires to signal to each other in other camps. We're talking about the army there, they had beacons; they would light a beacon so that information could be sent that way, yeah, beacons. I think Deaf Clubs are beacons of the Deaf community. We've got history, we've got identity, we've got culture, we've got a shared experiences to draw upon. I think what we need to be Deaf to know, you know, that hearing people can't empathise fully with what it's like for us. You have to be Deaf to know. And I don't want to see that go. I really don't.
Janice Connolly	No, no, it shouldn't happen.
Dawn Marshall	We say at Deaf Clubs, it's bad, it's dreadful. I don't object to that because I think deaf people have an opportunity and a liability to actually change things themselves.
Janice Connolly	Of course, and plenty of support, don't expect ... oh, somebody else will do it for you and you can take a back seat.
Richard Jones	That's something. Have we got any more comments or questions from you at home? We're waiting for you to contribute, we want you to take an active part in this conversation. I know Janice, you were saying in Liverpool, you saved the Deaf Club from almost closing down. And there was a lot of community campaigning. What did that involve?
Janice Connolly	Well at that time it was a funding issue. We relied on funding, and then when it was cut, we were like, "Oh, that's it." I mean, you know, we were upset, we were angry and whatever. And then, we got a new CEO and they came into place with more of a business mindset. We were a little taken aback and they were like "Rely on funding, what are you talking about? You want to be a business". And so, we had that advice; we had to think about both funding and the business model to keep going. You're the same, yes, this is it, and that's where we are now, and the Deaf Club is lovely because of it. So we do have both things in conjunction with each other, but for years and years and years, we relied on funding all the time, and when those cuts came, we were stuck.

Richard Jones	So we can have funding and business, but there's also one more element we need to rely on - the Deaf community - because if they don't come, we're ultimately redundant.
Janice Connolly	Exactly.
Richard Jones	So we need Deaf people to come.
Janice Connolly	Yes, you need the three things.
Richard Jones	Of course, you need management and leadership, yes, from a technical point of view, but we have to engage with the committees and link up with the community.
Dawn Marshall	Yes exactly, you know, as a group. Without Deaf people, without that interest, you know, and hearing people, too, as allies working very closely together, we need that obviously. But if you look back, in the past, we had the missioners, didn't we?
Janice Connolly	Yeah, I wasn't born then!
Dawn Marshall	I was.
Richard Jones	I missed that, what did you say?
Janice Connolly	I said I wasn't born at that time.
Dawn Marshall	The missioners, you know, Deaf people thought they were great because they gave us the help for things that we wanted, they give us the jobs, helped with marriages and so on which was lovely. But we relied on them, and then things changed and the Deaf community, we were very reliant on them for a long time. We need to encourage people now to gain their skills, to use the skills that they have. It feels then that the CEO from Liverpool, you know, has the business sense; they've got all that, but what about the Deaf community actually learning from those skills, having those skills passed down to them? We have to learn from hearing people to allow us then to develop and grow things in our way.
Janice Connolly	Yes, you need someone like a buddy, don't you, or somebody?
Richard Jones	I know in my role as the Executive Director here, I inherently understand and know what deaf people want.
Dawn Marshall	That's right, it's not easy is it? No. You're going to be quite torn too, aren't you, I think. If you think about Deaf people making a profit, at the same time, you have to balance that with the value of what we are and who we are.

Richard Jones	Absolutely. I know that there's one Deaf Club here that's just started to charge for the use of its rooms and facilities.
Janice Connolly	Yeah because everything used to be free didn't it, it was always free.
Richard Jones	Absolutely, and here we don't issue a charge. We do a lot of fundraising. Oh, we have another question: so Laura Helen Jones says "I think for Deaf Clubs, it's really important for young deaf people in mainstream education to come to Deaf Clubs to see Deaf culture."
Janice Connolly	Yes because you know, think about hearing people in the mainstream, they're not aware of or don't understand Deaf identity because they're in the hearing environment.
Dawn Marshall	Mixing with other Deaf people you learn from that in a naturally developed way, don't you?
Janice Connolly	Yeah but I grew up with hearing people. I played with friends in the street who were hearing, and then, like I say, when I was 12 I started to think things were different; were we being treated differently? And then my mum said, "Oh, you're deaf".
Richard Jones	So how do Deaf people learn about Deaf culture if they're in mainstream environments. Like you and I, Dawn, we went to a deaf school.
Janice Connolly	Well that's what I mean, yes.
Richard Jones	So we understood and learned about Deaf culture and the Deaf way and how deaf people would leave Deaf Clubs at night and continue signing under the lamp, that sort of thing. Do you still do that?
Dawn Marshall	I think it's interesting for me, that's a crucial point there, because, you know, one qualified hearing interpreter went to a Deaf event recently... they'd just recently qualified and the Deaf people there were banging on the tables, as they do. It was quite noisy, and this person, although they were qualified, had never even been to a Deaf Club and was quite shocked by the noise. [interrupted].
Janice Connolly	And that's why we need to... [interrupted]
Richard Jones	I think we're moving onto the next question. We have a question from Adrian Bailey; he is observing about how we can be more motivating to encourage people to come back to the Deaf Clubs. So we need to offer something good, we need to have an incentive. I know in Stockport they regularly have events like a barbeque.
Janice Connolly	Sorry, where's that?

Richard Jones	Stockport, sorry, Stockport. And they have community barbeques, community bingo events, and that's a really lively atmosphere.
Janice Connolly	For children, too?
Richard Jones	Yeah, they've got a lot of events for children as well, and we try to do the same here. We have grand bingo twice a year, but we're not necessarily engaging as much as we'd like with younger deaf people though.
Janice Connolly	Once a month, we have a youth club that we've just started. It's been successful, yeah, and we're trying to encourage more, you know, like trying to get out there and encourage people to come from different places.
Dawn Marshall	It's interesting, if you think about hearing clubs out there, the OAP clubs and suchlike, they'll have one that's aimed at a particular age group, or for a particular reason, and they're all set up all over, which is fine. But the Deaf Club has to cover all ages and all age ranges, you know. You've got Deaf, hearing mixing together, so it's very difficult to satisfy everybody.
Janice Connolly	Yes, in Liverpool Deaf Club, we've got four different groups, we have the EPC (Elderly Pensioner Club) on Wednesday afternoons, on Thursdays we have the Deaf Catholic group, attended by the same people actually, but a different committee runs things. And then on Fridays, we have the sports and social club and a different committee, but the same people. And they come, some come four times a week. On Sundays we have a different one, and then everybody comes in; we have plenty of people coming to those clubs, but it's usually the same people!
Richard Jones	It's really similar to here actually, I know there's eight Deaf Clubs throughout Manchester - Oldham, Ashton, Stockport, Bolton, Bury, here in Central Manchester - and you find the same people will just move between each Deaf Club.
Dawn Marshall	That's exactly how it is yes, I think that's quite a normal transition, to be fair. You know, some people say, well, that club's got something for me, but that one doesn't, yeah.
Richard Jones	I think we've got one more question coming up...
Dawn Marshall	There was also a question from someone who asked person how do we get people into the Deaf Club? You're right I think, we need to offer what people want, but at the same time we need to balance that, we need to be outreaching people as well, and that's quite important. So, you know, some deaf people never come to the Deaf Club. They might have a reason why they don't come; they might be members but they still don't come. We need to engage with people.
Janice Connolly	Yes that's true, I think again it comes down to confidence.
Richard Jones	But when you think about those who do come, they are sort of controlled or governed by who's already there and I think they may experience some back stabbing or some criticism from within their own community and it

	<p>makes people withdraw. So sometimes we have an established group who can decide the membership of the Deaf Clubs, so to speak, so we need to be a really inclusive environment where we're welcoming everybody.</p>
Dawn Marshall	<p>In this Found programme, Christine, was that her sign name was it? You know, she said she wanted to give something back, she wanted to do that and I think, for me, that's so important, it's crucial, you know. People need to be able to give something back. They need to feel a relationship and then give something back and I think that's probably missing at the moment. I think maybe there could be another programme about that!</p>
Richard Jones	<p>I think you're probably right there.</p> <p>So we've covered BV and the BDA and Liverpool... and what needs to happen next?</p>
Dawn Marshall	<p>I feel the Deaf Clubs should be working with other organisations, as I said before, the</p>
Richard Jones	<p>We tried that in Greater Manchester; we tried to engage with other Deaf Clubs. Instead of working in isolation we wanted to bring back that cohesion, that community cohesion.</p> <p>We have another question, from Martin Corns. He's asking, "How do we encourage young deaf people to get involved in the planning of activities of the Deaf Clubs?"</p>
Dawn Marshall	<p>Offer them money!</p>
Janice Connolly	<p>Oooh, give them some money!</p>
Dawn Marshall	<p>Get them to plan something, encourage them. Previously, in a previous life, I was a Youth Worker, working at the Youth Clubs. It's a safe place for people to learn. If they make mistakes, it's fine, they're allowed to do that because it's a learning environment, it's safe. I don't think we're getting enough of that at the moment. Deaf children are relying on CSWs, schools are wrapping them up in cotton wool. You know, when they could be learning about responsibility, getting them at the Deaf Club and teaching them responsibility.</p>
Janice Connolly	<p>Do you have a role for a Youth Leader at the minute?</p>
Dawn Marshall	<p>The BDA do have mentors. I think that's similar to youth work.</p>
Richard Jones	<p>The national youth work curriculum states that we have to listen to younger people, they have to be an active voice through participation and planning, and I know on Tuesdays and Fridays we do have an open dialogue with our younger people, so they're involved in the planning of the activities that they ultimately want to do. And when they get a bit older, when they reach about 25/26, they just stop coming.</p>
Dawn Marshall	<p>That's back to the committee though isn't it?</p>

Richard Jones	I think there's a gap there in how we retain those members when they reach the age of 40 - that's a definite gap.
Janice Connolly	Yeah, I think there's a gap, because you visit, you get married, you may have children. Yeah, like you can't take your children to some Deaf Clubs. So, I mean, they can be stuck.
Dawn Marshall	Yes, if I go to a Deaf Club on a Sunday night, it's difficult because my daughter's got school the next day, so I think yeah, there is that. There is this big gap, though, because when I was growing up, I'd see Deaf adults and Deaf leaders out there, you know, there'd be in the Deaf Club, they'd be in the BDA. I mean, it's crucial that they are out there because the youngsters are learning from those adults. But at the moment, where are all our leaders now? Where are they? Would they be local, would they be national? Where are they? I think we do need to work on that too, I think this is a crucial thing that that viewer's just asked.
Richard Jones	Just another point – I know how in cinemas we have access via captions. We have interpreters for theatre performances, and we can engage in things like bowling and all sorts of other things. There's a lot more things to do, so people are more likely to do that and not bother with Deaf Clubs.
Janice Connolly	Yeah and that's why I said, young people say "Bingo? I'm not going to bingo, I'm not interested in that!"
Dawn Marshall	Particularly for the bigger Deaf Clubs, you could have a bowling place here couldn't you?
Richard Jones	We have a question from Anne Lucas. Thank you so much, everybody, for your contributions, because I think without your suggestions this conversation might be a bit more difficult to shape. Anne is saying, "If you know where the schools are, we can promote Deaf Clubs to them." Like I was saying, we set up two After School Clubs here for the Deaf Centre. Have you done anything like that?
Dawn Marshall	We have done that as well, we have a relationship with the local school in Sunderland as well. We often go along and we teach them sign language, a bit of Deaf history, and the BDA film, The Power in Our Hands, is shown to the children as well. These children were really amazed by the history. They hadn't thought... they just thought that Deaf people were just like they are today, they didn't realise there was a history.
Richard Jones	Yeah, I know, we asked our younger generation if they knew about Milan 1880, and they didn't, they have no idea about history. We have another question from Kate Green who says, "As a hearing person can we get positively involved in Deaf Clubs, or are Deaf Clubs only for Deaf people?"
Janice Connolly	Yes, we always encourage Level 1, Level 2 students to come to our Deaf Club because it's the best place to learn, it's the best environment. I mean, it's like you said before, a qualified interpreter was shocked because somebody Deaf banged on a table. I mean, you know, come to the Deaf

	Clubs, see how it is, you know, and experience the beauty of the language and be involved at the source.
Dawn Marshall	It's difficult as well though, isn't it, because years and years have gone by and we've had hearing people who don't sign, but there's a strong, vibrant Deaf community there. Now I think with the lessening of numbers, it's almost like the hearing are coming along and taking over a bit, but we need them in a positive way.
Richard Jones	In a positive way, in a supportive way, yes.
Dawn Marshall	Volunteering, working on the bar, that kind of thing, but most important thing is that they take a background role, I think. Supporting is not taking over, it's literally, as you say, supporting. And that's a soft skill that they need to have.
Richard Jones	If we draw this conversation to a close now. We've talked about Becoming Visible and the British Deaf Association, what's happening in Liverpool and in Manchester and it seems there is a variety of different influencing factors like technology, mainstream, attitudes generally. I guess there's no one perfect answer, no one perfect solution that we can bring to this table.
Dawn Marshall	I don't want to see the end of the Deaf Clubs, I really don't want that.
Richard Jones	Absolutely.
Dawn Marshall	I think we all have that responsibility.
Richard Jones	As a general consensus for the well-being of Deaf people, I think it's really important that we continue. I know we are now reaching an end, but please, everybody at home, make sure that you are tuning in and watch Found at the Deaf Club through our website or the BSL Zone app.
All	Bye!
Richard Jones	Hope you've enjoyed watching.