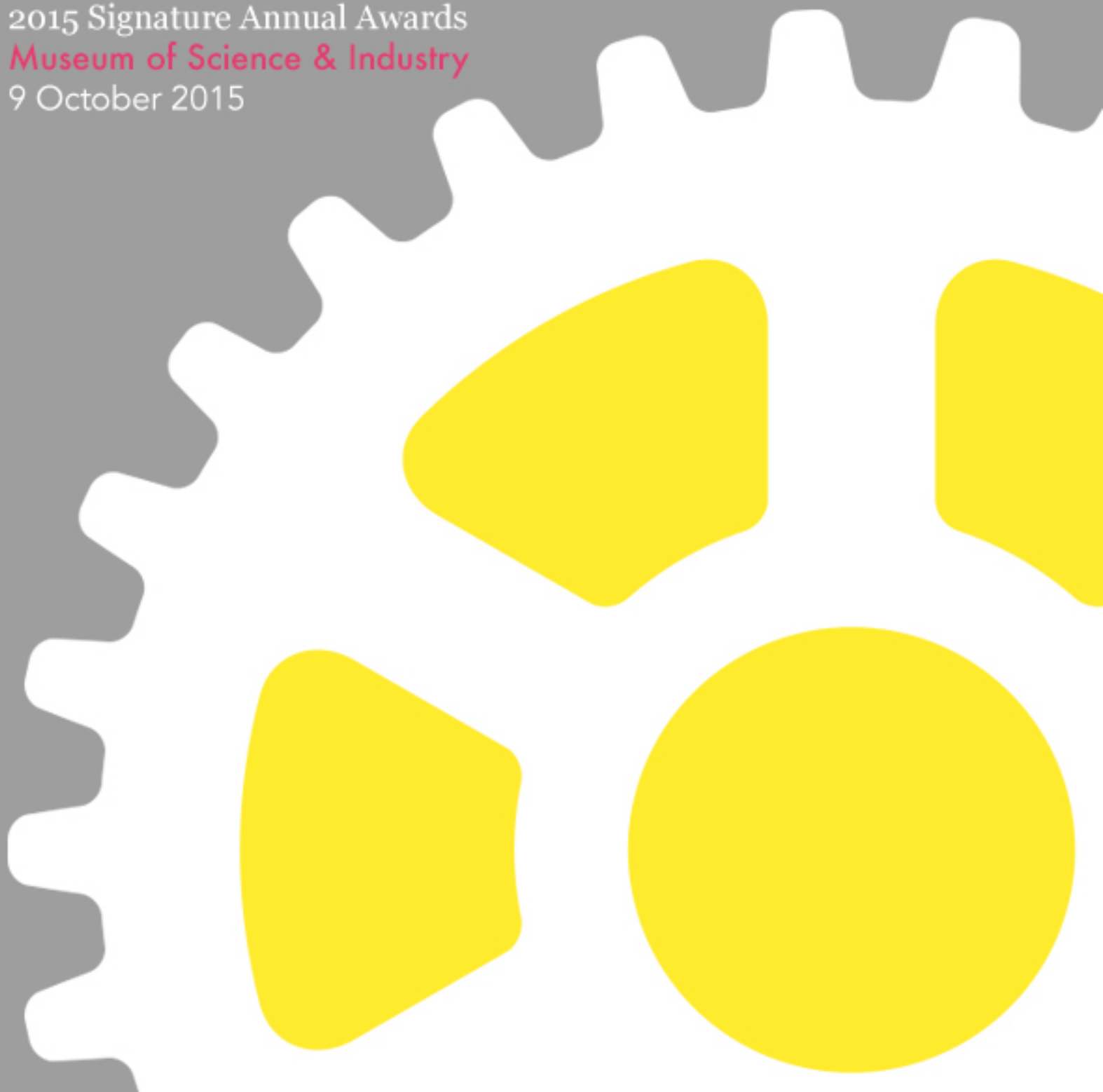


2015 Signature Annual Awards
Museum of Science & Industry
9 October 2015



WELCOME TO THE 2015 SIGNATURE ANNUAL AWARDS

signature annual awards

2015



OUR CHAIR

I am delighted to personally welcome you to the seventh Signature Annual Awards ceremony, and my first awards ceremony as the Chair of Signature.

Along with a new Chair the Signature Annual Awards also have a new focus, and will honour those people that work in our communities everyday to inspire deaf and deafblind people and help them flourish.

We have chosen the Museum of Science and Industry to host Signature Recognises... The Community. The building itself is the oldest surviving railway station in the world, and its long history reflects that of deaf and deafblind people themselves, and the communities they live in.

This evening we will look to honour the work of those people and organisations who share in our passion for excellence in communication with deaf and deafblind people. In particular, we will recognise those who are leading the way in making sure deaf and deafblind people have full access to their local communities.



As my first awards as the Chair of Signature, I have been overwhelmed when reading the nominees' stories. The work that these volunteers, businesses and others are doing in their communities is truly inspiring, and I would like to thank everyone who took the time to submit a nomination to us.

I am sure that you will agree after hearing these stories that all of our shortlisted nominees are a worthy winner and deserve to have their work recognised tonight. I am proud to be taking part in such an event.

So on behalf of everyone at Signature, I would like to congratulate all our nominees and wish you all the best of luck.

JONATHAN FARNHILL
Chair of Signature

THE CEREMONY

2015 SIGNATURE ANNUAL AWARDS

Our venue for tonight is the Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester.

Set inside the oldest railway station in the world, their mission is to explore where science met industry and the modern world began.
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OUR HOST

After presenting the Signature Annual Awards in 2013, BBC Breakfast business presenter Steph McGovern has returned this year to host **Signature Recognises... The Community.**

Over the past ten years Steph has reported on business and finance from around the world. She has established herself as part of the BBC Breakfast team, covering business developments daily, and also regularly taking to the sofa as main co-host.

Originally from Middlesbrough, Steph's first TV appearance was on a programme about women in science. She had just won the title of Young Engineer for Britain, after saving Black & Decker over £1million on a design. This led to work experience on Tomorrow's World and, eventually, to producing the financial news on Radio 4's Today programme.

During the financial crash Steph was the lead producer of business news on all BBC bulletins, working with business editor Robert Peston at the forefront of the award-winning coverage of the credit crunch and banking crisis. She soon began presenting on 5Live's On The Money and hosting her own feature - Steph's Sunday Shift - where she spent time in over 50 different workplaces across the UK.

As well as her media work, Steph is involved in community and education projects. She is also a former champion Irish dancer. She still attends competitions, and coaches, and was briefly a YouTube sensation when she showed off her talents on air.

"I was thrilled to be asked to present the Signature Annual Awards again this year, after hosting the event in 2013. The work that Signature and the nominees do with deaf people in their communities and beyond is admirable. I am very honoured to be involved in the awards and I look forward to meeting everyone on the night."

STEPH MCGOVERN
BBC Breakfast Presenter

THE SCHEDULE

7:00pm - 7:15pm - Guests Arrive

7:20pm - 7:30pm - Welcome Speech

7:30pm - 8:30pm - Drinks & Canapes

8:30pm - 9:30pm - Presentation of Awards
- Opening video
- Opening speech

9:30pm - 10:30pm - Drinks & Networking



INSPIRATIONAL YOUNG PERSON AWARD 2015

This award recognises people aged 18 years and under whose work has benefitted or enriched the lives of deaf people within their local community.

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JADE CHAPMAN

Jade (18) established the campaign 'Let Sign Shine' in July 2014, with the aim of improving communication with deaf people in her local community.

After winning a Bernard Matthews Education Youth award which came with a prize of £1000, Jade used the money to help her deaf sister by arranging for a sign language course to be taught at her school Dereham Neatherd High.



ESTHER MARIA HARFLETT

At only 5 years old Esther has raised more than £300 which has been donated to the National Deaf Children's Society.

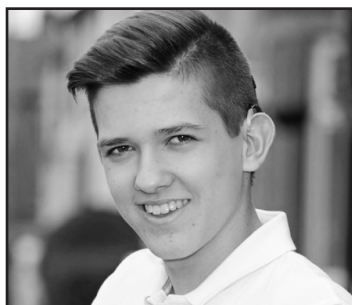
Esther wanted to raise money after hearing about the work the charity does. Her best friend at school uses sign language and makaton to communicate, and so she chose to raise money by running a sponsored spell-athon using British Sign Language.



ZANNA MESSENGER-JONES

Zanna (18) has been an active member of a national charity's young people's advisory board for nearly two years.

During this time she has worked hard to represent and share the views of deaf young people across the UK. Her passion and drive has taken her all the way to number 10, when she successfully campaigned against government plans to cut back support for disabled students.



NATHAN YOUNG

Nathan's determination to succeed has earned him national recognition on the British youth swimming scene.

Aged 16 he was selected to represent Team GB Deaf Swimming Club at the World Deaf Swimming Championships. The chance to represent his county is testament to his hard work and devotion to the sport. Following the championships Nathan is now ranked 8th in the world for his 200m backstroke.

COMMUNITY SPIRIT AWARD 2015

This award recognises an exceptional individual who has given their time and energy to enrich the lives of deaf people.

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MANDY DAVISON

Mandy is a support worker at Northern Counties School, who has also run the Stanley Deaf club for the last 11 years in her spare time.

The club offers social opportunities to people of all ages and is run exclusively from donations. Mandy does a lot of the fundraising, she organises weekends away for all of the members, and offers social opportunities to people of all ages and families with newly diagnosed deaf children.



JOHN PURSER

John has worked tirelessly for generations to enrich the lives of deaf people in the community as a trustee at Deaf Direct.

John has had a huge impact on the local deaf community, supporting countless deaf people throughout their lives. He was instrumental in achieving funding to establish a sign language interpreting service and also runs a weekly coffee morning to ensure the deaf community are aware of current issues that might affect them.



DANIELLE WILLIAMS

Danielle started campaigning in 2014, with the aim of raising awareness of the challenges faced by deaf children.

As a mother with a young deaf child, Danielle decided to embark on a number of public awareness campaigns to focus on the positive aspects of deafness. One of her campaigns, 'Hands on Ears', has been featured a lot in the media. She recently created a music video with lots of celebrities recording messages of support.



HARRY WOOLDRIDGE

Harry formed the Bluebird Deaf Water Ski Club in 1965 with fellow members of the Norwich Deaf Football Team.

Harry's initiative 50 years ago has benefitted many Deaf people and their families, allowing them the opportunity to socialise and participate in water-skiing and wakeboarding in a safe and pleasant environment. He has given much of his own time and energy to establish the club and to keep it going for future generations.



DEAF ENTREPRENEUR AWARD 2015

This award recognises a deaf individual who has used their merit and resource to drive a business to success. Nominees may have set up their own business or supported a venture.
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VANESSA ADDISON

Vanessa is the founder and Director of Green Bee Homes Ltd, a company building affordable green homes for the next generation of house buyers.

Being profoundly deaf, Vanessa aims to make all of her homes fully accessible. She has never allowed her deafness to hold her back in her career, which has also seen her become Vice President of Barclays Global Investors, Governor at Mary Hare Deaf School and a trustee of the Royal National Institute for Deaf People.



LOUIS FRANCIS

Louis is the first deaf stone mason in the UK. He founded his company Francis Stone Design in 2014.

Within a short space of time Louis has managed to build up a very successful company, with many of his commissions coming from happy customer recommending his services to their friends and family. His biggest achievement to date came when he was approached to work on a project at Windsor Castle.



SARAH LAWRENCE

Sarah launched SLFirst Magazine in 2011, aiming to bring together businesses and services that are accessible to all.

Sarah is Deaf herself and created the magazine to prove that this could not hinder her from fulfilling her dream of running her own magazine business. Sarah has been able to build up a very successful magazine whilst also running her own international training and consultancy company for over 18 years.



SADIA GRABHAM

Sadia is the founder and director of BSL First Limited; a private language school that delivers training in British Sign Language (BSL) and Deaf Awareness.

Sadia is passionate about raising the standard of BSL training to produce high quality BSL interpreters. Through her commitment and hard work she creates strong and positive relationships with her students, and takes a real interest in developing their skills in BSL and Deaf Awareness.

COMMUNITY IMPACT AWARD 2015

This award acknowledges the work an organisation has done to make itself more accessible to deaf and deafblind people.

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CLUB ATTITUDE

Club Attitude is a live music event that is run by the national charity Attitude is Everything, who aim to improve deaf and disabled people's access to live music.

The nights host a mix of deaf, disabled and non-disabled artists, and they ensure the experience is accessible for all. In June 2013 the Chief Executive of Attitude is Everything Suzanne Bull, was awarded an MBE for her services to music, the arts and disabled people.



LEICESTERSHIRE POLICE & AND THE POLICE LINK OFFICERS FOR DEAF PEOPLE (PLOD)

Police Officers and staff from across the Leicestershire area have received training in deaf awareness and British Sign Language.

The group was started in 2011 after the force acknowledged the need to make themselves more accessible to deaf people. Since then they have worked actively with deaf people in their local community to reduce the fear of crime and explain ways of preventing and reporting incidents.



LIFELINE PROJECT

Lifeline Project has recently engaged with deaf people in the community in Greater Manchester to challenge the inequalities linked to alcohol and drug misuse.

They recognised the real difficulty that many deaf people face in accessing existing services that could help them with alcohol and drug addictions. They recruited deaf volunteers to work within the community to support families and raise awareness of drug and alcohol issues.



THE MANCHESTER DEAF CENTRE JOBCLUB

The Manchester Deaf Centre Job Club was setup in 2011, with the aim of offering a service to people in the deaf and deafblind community that would help them to gain control of their lives and secure employment.

Since it began the job club has had a real impact, with many of its clients finding employment, retraining for a new career or pursuing further education.



OUTSTANDING SERVICE AWARD 2015

This award recognises an employee who has gone above and beyond their daily tasks to make a difference to the daily lives of deaf people.

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SUE CURTIS

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OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION AWARD 2015

This award recognises an individual's outstanding contribution towards developing a society in which deaf and deafblind people have full access.

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NICKY EVANS

Nicky has made an immense contribution to both the national Deaf community and the interpreting communities across the UK.

She is passionate about her role as a Sign Language interpreter, and strives to ensure deaf people in the UK receive high standards of communication support. She was instrumental in setting up the 38 degrees petition and Stop Changes To Access To Work Campaign, as well as the National Union of British Sign Language Interpreters (NUBSLI).



DR LORRAINE GAILEY

Lorraine is the current Chief Executive at Hearing Link. She has worked with the organisation for over 26 years, developing Hearing Link to a point where they have a strong presence right throughout the UK.

Lorraine has overseen the growth of Hearing Link into a leading charity in the sector. She has also delivered talks and lectures locally, nationally and internationally, and is highly regarded in the disability and Audiology sectors in particular.



JENNY SEALEY MBE

Jenny has been the Artistic Director and Chief Executive of Graeae Theatre since 1997.

During her time at the company she has directed or co-directed over sixteen productions, all of which use a combination of Deaf and hearing and disabled and non-disabled actors. She is also a spokesperson for the campaign 'Stop Changes to Access to Work' and co-directed the Paralympic Opening Ceremony in 2012.



MALCOLM WRIGHT

Malcolm has been the Managing Director of ITV SignPost for 15 years. During his time in the department he has campaigned and petitioned for deaf people to get better access to programming in sign language.

Malcolm also developed the multi-award-winning Signed Stories project which gave deaf children in the UK free access to best selling books translated into British Sign Language.



SIGNATURE

RECOGNISES...

THE

COMMUNITY

COMMUNITY GROUP/PROJECT AWARD 2015

The Community Group/Project Award recognises a group or project that has shown outstanding commitment to breaking down the barriers between deaf and hearing people. The worthy recipient of this award will receive a £2,000 grant to help them achieve their aims.

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ST JOHN'S DEAF COMMUNITY CENTRE

The St John's Deaf Community Centre was founded in 1913, aiming to further and benefit deaf people and sign language users from all over the UK, as well as internationally.

If the community centre were to win the grant, they would like to build on the success of their existing Youth Club, and would spend the money on expanding the club for ages 0 to 12.

When speaking about the potential new youth club, Davod Jarchlou from Remark! Said, "This project is very vital since there can not be many activities to cater for Deaf children. The new youth club will enhance Deaf children's well being to communicate without barriers and without experiencing oppression in the wider hearing world".

LIFE & DEAF

Life & Deaf is a project that aims to help young deaf people explore their identities and develop communication skills and emotional literacy through poetry and the arts.

In 2012, they worked with 20 deaf children and Julia Donaldson to create a new children's book featuring deaf characters entitled 'What the Jackdaw Saw'.

If they were to win the grant they would like to bring the characters they created to life through animation, making them accessible to more deaf children.

They would also like to take their materials abroad to East Africa to work with deaf communities there.



COMMUNITY GROUP/PROJECT AWARD 2015

There are four nominees in this category who have all helped deaf people in the community in different ways. Voting for the Community Group/Project Award has been running since 8 July, and we have been overwhelmed by the number of votes that have been received.

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VOLUNTEER SERVICE - BEFRIENDING PROJECT

The Befriending Project is a free confidential service available to deaf people, providing communication support and advice to the Deaf community.

They use volunteers and offer services such as visiting people in their homes who are socially isolated. After five years the project continues to go from strength to strength, and they have started to see some of the community who used the befriending project for support becoming volunteers themselves.

If the Befriending Project were to win the grant they would be able to increase the number of volunteers they have, making them able to enrich the lives of more deaf people.



ENGLAND DEAF RUGBY UNION

England Deaf Rugby Union was set up to give deaf people an opportunity to enjoy the sport of rugby union, and represent their country on the international stage.

Playing for the team has given many of the players a chance to become part of the deaf community for the first time. They also have the chance to learn some sign language, as during the game and training the set plays are indicated using signs that the team agrees on.

They would use the grant to ensure the team is running for future generations, recruit new players and take them forward in being competitive on the international stage.

THANK YOU 2015 SIGNATURE ANNUAL AWARDS

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2015



OUR SUPPORTERS

We would not be able to run the Signature Annual Awards each year without the help and support of all those who get involved. This includes all of our nominees, our speakers and presenters, our centres and learners, our teachers and assessors and our staff and board members, who all come together to ensure that the work that is done to improve the lives of deaf and deafblind people does not go unrecognised.

We would like to thank everyone who has embraced the new format for the awards this year, and have taken the time to complete a nomination or let us know about someone who you think deserved to be shortlisted. We have really enjoyed reading all of the nominees stories, and we hope you all will continue the hard work that you are all doing in your communities.



WWW.SIGNATUREANNUALAWARDS.ORG.UK

