



# Hi Kent

## Challenging deafness together!

Reg. Charity No. 1052005



# Hi Kent Annual Review 2009







## *The Chief Executive writes*

It has been another good year for Hi Kent as we have continued to meet the challenge of living up to the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service which we received two years ago.

Our award sits in pride of place at our Head Office and is a constant reminder of what we have achieved, and the standards we must consistently meet.

We have run three major events this year. In March we had a splendid Shepherds' Pie Supper at which our Patron, The Rt. Hon. Ann Widdecombe MP, gave a very entertaining speech about her life and times in Parliament.

Ann also autographed copies of her novels and helped serve a delicious meal to over a hundred guests.

Held at Headcorn Village Hall, this was a hugely enjoyable evening and special thanks go to our Senior Assessment Officer, Anne Wren, who masterminded the cooking, and to Kent company Brakes, who kindly donated all the food.

In May we welcomed Minister for Disabled People, Jonathan Shaw MP, to boost our efforts for this year's Deaf Awareness Week. The Minister, who is also MP for Chatham & Aylesford, spoke to a lively audience in Maidstone, and answered a range of questions.

During Deaf Awareness Week we also visited two local nursery schools and introduced the children to the basic idea of sign language.



Our Volunteer Visiting Service continues to be a major success story, and a source of great pride. Its scale, covering most parts of our increasingly densely populated county, is unparalleled. Indeed, schemes like this simply do not exist in most of the United Kingdom.



Throughout the past year we have increased the number of our clinics by opening new ones in towns and villages where none existed before, and increasing the frequency of others to meet rising demand for our help. We have had to recruit and train new volunteers, and often ask existing volunteers to take on more commitments, and we owe them all renewed thanks for their tremendous effort and commitment.

We cannot do all this without increased resources, and it is only thanks to the financial support we receive that we have been able to sustain and in many areas expand our services to meet the needs of the county's quarter of a million deaf and hard of hearing people.

We are gradually introducing 'community ambassadors' to coordinate fundraising activity in certain towns and villages, and we intend to develop this concept in the year ahead.

It is clear that the work we have been doing in recent years to raise the profile of Hi Kent is paying off. The numerous talks that Hi Kent staff give to community groups and clubs, our coin collections at supermarkets all over Kent, our publicity activities and advertising, our information DVDs, and the varied fundraising events that we run, are all contributing to greater awareness of Hi Kent, and therefore of the needs of our client group.

The number of deaf awareness courses that we run has increased, and this is good news for all deaf and hard of hearing people.

We have relaunched our British Sign Language courses with great success, and with Levels One and Two now being divided into units, students are enrolling in record numbers.

We have introduced a range of study aids to help students achieve excellent results and are running free refresher courses in Maidstone and Canterbury for people who have studied Level One in the past.

The free Lipreading classes that we run have gone from strength to strength, and we are very thankful to the many organisations who have supported them, including numerous local Rotary and Lions Clubs.

Thanks to new donations from Tesco's Community Scheme, the Hedley Foundation and a grant from the National Lottery, we have recently opened 4 new classes in the west of the county, (Edenbridge, Westerham, Paddock Wood and East Peckham), with others to follow. City of Rochester Round Table will be funding another new class in the city, which will open shortly.

By the end of the year we shall be running more than twenty Lipreading classes, which is an outstanding achievement.

Sainsbury's are celebrating their 140th birthday this year, and all the company's stores ran a scheme to choose a charity of the year, with whom they would work in partnership and raise funds for over the next twelve months. We are delighted to have been chosen by Sainsbury's store in Maidstone as their charity partner for 2009/10, and we have already forged an excellent relationship with them and have developed a fundraising strategy to make the most of this unique opportunity.



This partnership is already bearing fruit, as Sainsbury's staff ran the raffle and donated all the prizes at our Beatles tribute show, as mentioned below.

We achieved record income from fundraising this year, and would like to thank Mr Raja of Raja of Kent restaurants for his generous support by allowing us to run tribute nights at his restaurants in Tenterden and Maidstone.

We are proud to be a founder member of the Kent Charities Group and help to raise funds that are distributed among the participating organisations.



The Raja of Kent has sponsored the printing of this year's Draw tickets, which has helped the group considerably. In addition to the annual Christmas Draw, the Group recently benefitted from a retiring collection at a special service at Rochester Cathedral, at which all the charities exhibited.

Brothers John & Paul Saunders ran the Edinburgh Marathon to raise money for Hi Kent, and we extend our grateful thanks to them for their help, which is warmly appreciated.



Staff changes since the end of 2008 have had a positive impact, and the new team we have in place has embraced our values and brought fresh ideas and strong commitment to our mission. By opening for longer hours, we are providing better service to our clients than ever, and are stocking a wider range of assistive equipment at our resource centres.

The new range of Christmas goods that we introduced last year, including an exclusive selection of wooden items as well as cards and puddings, proved successful, and we shall work even harder this year in this area.



In September we staged a Beatles tribute night at the Weald of Kent golf club, which was another sold-out event.

The support that we receive from Kent County Council, Medway Council, and Kent's Primary Care Trusts are absolutely fundamental to our work, and I take this opportunity to say how much we value our partnerships with them and the work that we do with them and on their behalf.

**Hi Kent** Registered Charity No.1052036

*President: Nadra Ahmed OBE DL*

*Patron: Rt.Hon. Ann Widdecombe MP*

*Chief Executive & Company Secretary: John Clayton*

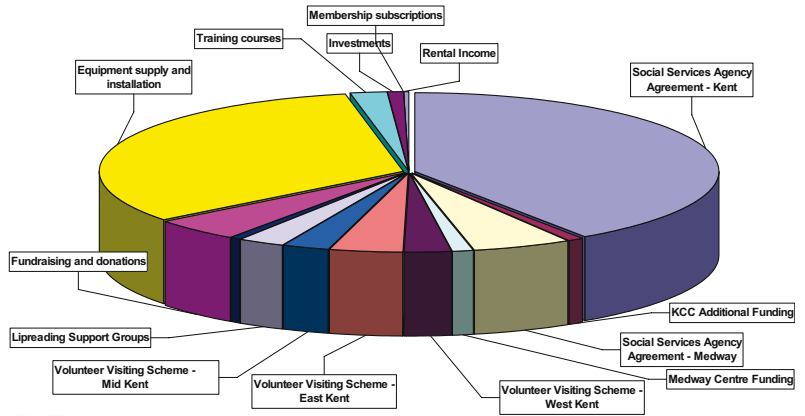
*Trustees:*

**Clive Reddihough (Chair) Christopher East (Treasurer)**

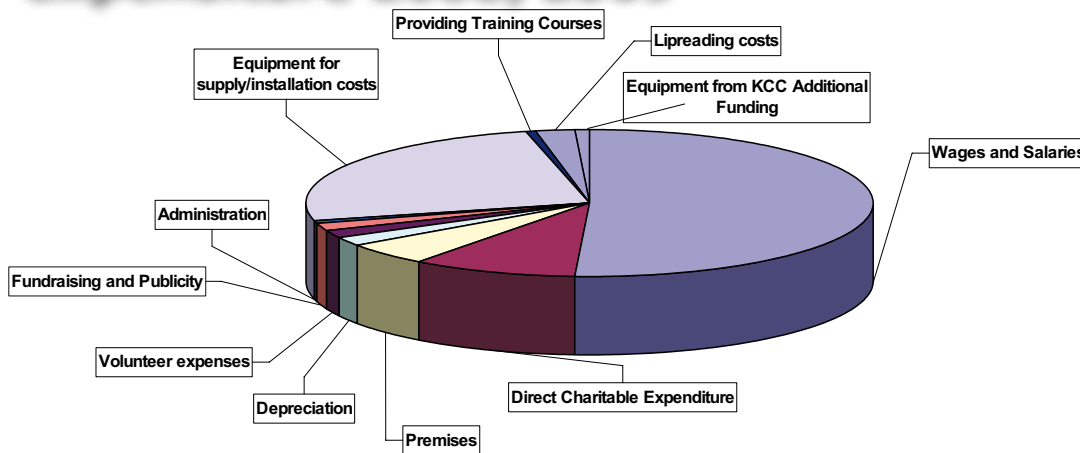
**Bob Livesey Lindsey Rousseau Bill Lamb**

*Secretary to the Trustees: Kathryn Excell*

### Income 2008/2009



### Expenditure 2008/2009



#### Hi Kent Income - 2008/2009

Social Services Agency Agreement - Kent	£ 299,453
KCC Additional Funding	£ 5,645
Social Services Agency Agreement - Medway	£ 40,726
Medway Centre Funding	£ 7,273
Volunteer Visiting Scheme - West Kent	£ 18,339
Volunteer Visiting Scheme - East Kent	£ 29,867
Volunteer Visiting Scheme - Mid Kent	£ 18,235
Lipreading Support Groups	£ 17,969
KCC Member Grants/Britannia Building Society	£ 3,075
Fundraising and Donations	£ 35,581
Equipment supply and installation	£ 239,878
Training courses	£ 14,283
Investments	£ 5,996
Membership subscriptions	£ 620
Rental Income	£ 2,350

**Total:** £739,290

#### Hi Kent Expenditure - 2008/2009

Wages and Salaries	£ 373,836
Direct Charitable Expenditure	£ 69,815
Premises	£ 35,684
Depreciation	£ 15,203
Volunteer expenses	£ 10,547
Fundraising and Publicity	£ 13,713
Administration	£ 4,128
Equipment for supply/installation costs	£ 183,924
Providing Training Courses	£ 5,769
Lipreading costs	£ 16,124
Equipment from KCC Additional Funding	£ 5,645

**Total:** £734,388



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