

## DEAF SPACE

### **The Present**

The ways in which Deaf people previously engaged with the Deaf club is now largely consigned to history. Younger Deaf people still socialise with each other and take part in shared leisure activities, but they do so in ways that are radically and fundamentally different from earlier generations (Atherton, 2012). Deaf pubs and Deaf cafes have emerged. In addition, the internet has offered Deaf people an alternative way to access information and to communicate with each other in sign language without the need to be in the same space at the same time (Valentine & Skelton, 2008).



An event – Photo by Jakob Dalbjorn – [www.unsplash.com](http://www.unsplash.com)



Pub gathering – Photo by Victor Clime – [www.unsplash.com](http://www.unsplash.com)

*“Now, there has been a reduction (in Deaf clubs) which is bad. This is due to social media with Deaf people using their phones. In the past, there were some new technologies to help communication like the fax machine – but this didn’t have the impact platforms like Facebook have, before this there was Bebo; we also have Twitter now too. Some older Deaf people are still committed to attending the Deaf club for activities like bingo. People aged 30-40 are few and far between as they often have family commitments. The younger groups of Deaf people are nowhere to be seen, they’re in closed groups away from the Deaf club.*

*(David Ellington)*

*“With Deaf clubs, the social scene has moved to Deaf pubs or cafés. The Deaf club is good for older Deaf people, as they are easy to access. Younger Deaf people like to be out and about, going to different pubs or clubs and being active. ”*

*(John Vare)*

*“Some Deaf people have groups that go to different events together and organise to meet at specific places should they miss one another at one gathering. Some video call one another, others are part of Facebook groups and have conversations via video call. Some Deaf people go on holiday together, others work with Deaf people and socialise there or at conferences. Deaf people meet everywhere.»*

*(Ricci Collins)*



Conversation with friends via videocall – Photo by UCLan

