

DEAF SPACE

The Future

Technology has clearly changed the scope of Deaf community life. However, whilst the venues might have changed, the reasons for coming together as a community remain largely the same (Atherton, 2012). The future opens up exciting possibilities for the Deaf community. The space of the Deaf club is evolving (Valentine & Skelton, 2008). The internet enables Deaf people share information about Deaf events and meetings. The internet is extending Deaf people's networks, enabling them to meet new contacts, many of whom may live further afield than the local Deaf community. The world is getting smaller, communication much quicker and international and global networks a reality.



Conversation on a video platform – Photo by DeafMuseums

“Looking forward to the future, I believe there will continue to be smaller groups of Deaf people but with a Deaf hub, where people will be able to go to with any problems or if in need of any support for social and welfare needs; anything that may help with preparing for their future. I think one-off events where people come together to discuss issues or special events regarding film or art, I think a wide range of people would attend that.”

(David Ellington)

“In the future Deaf clubs and centres may well close but Deaf people will still come together, as Deaf people can get in touch with text and meet on activities like walking, going on holiday together, finding a community centre or potentially a pub, which would be better than nothing. Deaf people will always meet and I believe this will continue long into the future. The difference will be that there won't be a fixed place to meet.

(Mark Heaton)

“Thinking of the future, as we know technology is always changing. I think this means there will be more video calling, thinking ahead will we be calling via hologram? If you remember the programme Star Trek they would always communicate via this way in 3D! So, if I had a friend that lived in Australia rather than video calling it would be via a hologram and it would be as though they were here! In the future transport could be much faster making it easy to meet people wherever they are, going to Australia and then America in short succession.

(Ricci Collins)

References

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