

March 2025

Newsletter

A newsletter written by Lydia Cumley



Special Edition
Let's Celebrate
Deaf Women's Day
March 2025

A powerful, proud day for our community – on International Women's Day

From the arrival of the staff, volunteers and stallholders at 8:30am, Let's Celebrate Deaf Women's Day was already in full swing. Held as part of International Women's Day, the event brought together Deaf, Hard-of-Hearing and Deafblind women for a day of empowerment, creativity, connection and community.

Stallholders were setting up, early arrivals were catching up over hugs and chatter, and the rooms quickly filled with excitement. Some had travelled from as far as London, Liverpool and Manchester to attend — a testament to the importance of the event.



Volunteers and staff working on a digital tablet for entry

REACH













Many new and familiar faces



As a volunteer with Deafinitely Women, it was wonderful to see so many new and familiar faces, including people attending for the first time. Abi, one of those first-time attendees, told us:

"It's amazing to see so many Deaf and HoH women in one place. I've loved having the chance to practise my BSL and be part of this amazing community."

After a warm welcome and housekeeping from Teresa, the day's programme began, showcasing an incredible line-up of speakers who shared stories, wisdom, and encouragement:

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 Yvonne Cobb a lively, inspiring talk on health, positivity and self-affirmation, delivered with her signature energy. She was also proudly announced as the new patron of Deaf-initely Women!
 - Deepa Shastri shared her journey with intersectional identity, urging more Brown Deaf women to be brave, speak out, and support each other.
 - Paula Garfield MBE a British theatre director and actress spoke about representation and visibility in the arts.
 - Jo Milne founder of the Cure Usher Syndrome charity, shared her lived experience of Type 1D Usher Syndrome.
 - Deborah Lush spoke passionately about Deafinitely Women's work educating us on safety, and the risks of catfishing.

























Deaf creatives!



Brought together by compères Caroline Field and Tammy Broskom, the day flowed with positivity, empowerment, and support.

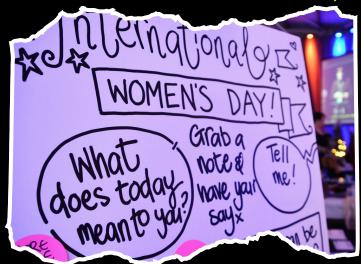
The first-ever Deaf Creations Market was a huge success. Stalls offered hand-made gifts, cards, books and more — many run by Deaf creatives who usually sell online. Attendees loved browsing and buying in person.

Zee, running the Listen In Silent Mode stall, said:

"It's my first time doing a stall, and I'm so glad it was at a Deaf event. I've had a really lovely day – it's great to see familiar faces and connect with new people too."

HitsCreation4U, who travelled from near Liverpool/Manchester, brought their beautiful handcrafted pieces and said they were delighted to be part of the day.

Among the volunteers, Kelly Sheldon from 13 Bends Design was live-scribing throughout the day. Kelly offered her unique creative skills to visually record attendees' thoughts and reflections - helping to capture feedback in a beautiful and accessible way.





















Deaf charities get on board!

There was also a strong presence from charities and Deaf services like BDA, Sign Video and RAD, offering support and information.

Attendees said they learned about services they didn't even know existed – a powerful reminder of why events like this are so vital. Judith, from Borrowash, told us:

"It's lovely to see friends I haven't seen in years. It's well organised, and even bigger and better than last year!"





The passion of our Police Force

Speaking to Nicolle Ndiweni-Roberts, Police and Crime Commissioner for Derbyshire, she shared how much the day meant to her:

"It's so special to be here celebrating the Deaf, HoH and Deafblind community – recognising how far we've come, but also how far we still need to go.

I'm incredibly proud of

Deafinitely Women – to see
how it's grown from an idea



at a birthday dinner to this huge event is inspiring. It's important we celebrate everything it stands for, and the impact it can have. No one should be left behind – we all have a role to play in helping it grow and supporting each other."



From the laughter at lunchtime to the buzz around the stalls, to the passion shown throughout the talks – this day was a celebration of strength, sisterhood and shared experience.

The day, organised by Deaf-initely Women, felt safe, uplifting and joyful. The success of Let's Celebrate Deaf Women's Day reminds us that we are stronger together – and that there is so much to be proud of, and so much more still to come.

Here's to raising each other up – every day of the year.













