

LET'S HEAR IT!

NEWSLETTER OF
DORSET DEAF CHILDREN'S SOCIETY
SPRING 2022



Our 50th Anniversary Christmas Party!

On Saturday 4th December 2021 we held our annual Christmas Party at The Blandford School, Blandford and this party was also celebrating our 50th Anniversary. After missing out on the 2020 party it was so good to be back! 175 members came along including some very excited children.

To start the party we had music and games from Party Time For Kids, craft tables, face painting and also a photo booth. Everyone had a great time dressing up in the props for their pictures! A raffle was held to raise funds for us and the DDCS information table was also available for families to help themselves to any literature and information they might need.



Everyone enjoyed a finger buffet with plenty of delicious food and tea, coffee and juice were available. The savoury food was provided for our families by the school catering company, Caterlink Ltd. We would like to thank Karen Hall and her team for giving up their time to make the savoury food for us. Mark Bennett Patisserie provided us with some delicious cakes and we added to this with other cakes, biscuits and fruit.

After the food it was time for the entertainment provided by Richard and Party Time for Kids! This included his wonderful bubbles, games for the children and dancing and before long the adults were joining in! Everyone had a great time.

We then got everyone together to film a good luck message to Rose and Giovanni on Strictly Come Dancing as we hoped they would get to the final of the competition. Which of course they did and they won it! The film was sent into NDCS to forward on to BBC with other films. Unfortunately we didn't make the programme but our film reached 8,859 people and was viewed 4,300 times on Facebook! So at least it raised awareness of DDCS!

It was then time for a visit from a very special visitor..... Father Christmas, who brought presents for all the children. Photos taken with Father Christmas are available on the DDCS picture website. If you wish to view and download them you need to contact us on info@dorsetdcs.co.uk



We would like to thank Liz Bishopp and her team at The Blandford School for once again letting us have the venue free of charge and also thank you to the many volunteers who helped before and on the day to make the party such a success!

NEWSROUND

A BIG THANK YOU FROM DDCS!

Dorset DCS wishes to thank all the individuals and organisations who have made donations, fundraised for us or provided something for us free of charge over the past two years.

Without you we could not provide the support for the children and their families!

THANK YOU TO:

Strategic Solutions Financial Services for posting all the newsletters free of charge and making regular donations.

Charles & Suzie Andrews

Richard George

Martin Bray

Mrs R. A. Guppy

Portland Lodge

Gerry & Michele Ives

Mrs Black - Bequest

Ben Drewett

Val Dunford

Charlie Sorbie

Neil McMullen

Liam Childs

In Memorium – Rhona Kingsbury

Rejuvo JPCS

Nick Gee

Sainsburys – Poole

LFB Meat Shop – Collection Box

Greg Paige

Che & Julia Tsang

Mrs J.M. Hawker

The Gray Family – Bournemouth Fun Run

Bournemouth Society for the Deaf

The Entertainer Shop – Poole

Darren Slade

Marsham Court Hotel

The Blandford School - Christmas Party Venue

Caterlink Ltd – Christmas Party Food

Mark Bennett Patisserie – Christmas Party Food

Bournemouth Deaf Club – Venue for our AGM

Ideas for fund raising could be a sponsored event, car boot sale, cake sale, donations instead of gifts for a birthday, a collection box in a work place, raffle or a school mufti day. Why not give it a go!

National Deaf Children's Society

NDCS can provide advice and support for deaf children and families on a range of issues including benefits, education, technology, health, social care, discrimination and communication.

They also provide online courses, discussions and events. Their website is full of information on different subjects and can be accessed through the DDCS website resources page or the NDCS website.



Contact details are:
www.ndcs.org.uk
Telephone: 0808 800 8880
Email: helpline@ndcs.org.uk



HELP AND CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN – Kevin Forbes, 15 Heather Road, Bournemouth, BH10 5EE 01202 510078

VICE-CHAIRPERSON, TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY - Shirley Sorbie, Touchwood, 9 Oakland Walk, West Parley, Ferndown, Dorset, BH22 8PF 01202 571089

SECRETARY – Jessica Legg, 22 Lea Road, Weymouth, Dorset, DT4 9HT 07444 788495 (text only)

Website – www.dorsetdcs.co.uk

E-mail – info@dorsetdcs.co.uk

NDCS FREEPHONE HELPLINE 0808 800 8880 (voice & text)

JustGiving™

FUNDRAISE OR DONATE TO DDCS

Virgin Money Giving has closed down so we have now registered with Just Giving for fundraising and donations.

You can still donate directly to us or send us a cheque but if you would like to fundraise for us with a sponsored event this is the best way to organise donations. All you need to do is go on our Just Giving page www.justgiving.com/dorsetdcs and set up your own fundraising page and the sponsorship comes direct to us and they claim gift aid for us too! You can also make single donations.



Support DDCS by buying a lottery ticket from BH Coastal Lottery, if you buy a £1 ticket, 50p goes directly to DDCS!

There is a one in fifty chance of winning each week (that's better odds than the National Lottery and People's Lottery) and the top prize is £25,000!

So if you think you can be lucky and also support Dorset DCS then please log on to: www.bhcoastalottery.co.uk

Select buy tickets and then select Dorset Deaf Children's Society! Thank you!



What is the Buzz?



It's the only website for deaf young people aged 8 to 18 in the UK. This safe, online space, created by deaf young people, is entirely theirs. They can read inspiring stories, connect with other deaf young people, find the latest information and support, sign up to events, ask questions and get involved.

Explore the Buzz now!

For advice and answers to your questions, email NDCS at youngmember@ndcs.org.uk (monitored 9 to 5pm weekdays).

If you're 18+, check out the great websites for information on college, work, mental health, money and more!

www.ndcsbuzz.org.uk

DO YOU HAVE AN EXPERIENCE YOU WOULD LIKE TO SHARE WITH OTHER FAMILIES?

We are always looking for articles for our newsletters. It really helps to read what other families have experienced,

or maybe you just have a story to share?

Please contact Shirley on 01202 571089

We would love to hear from you!

DO YOU SHOP ON AMAZON?

IF YOU DO YOU CAN HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR DORSET DCS BY SHOPPING ON SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK. JUST SELECT DDCS AS YOUR CHARITY AND PLACE YOUR ORDER AS NORMAL.

IT IS AS SIMPLE AS THAT!



For more information, news, pictures and future events please visit our website.

www.dorsetdcs.co.uk

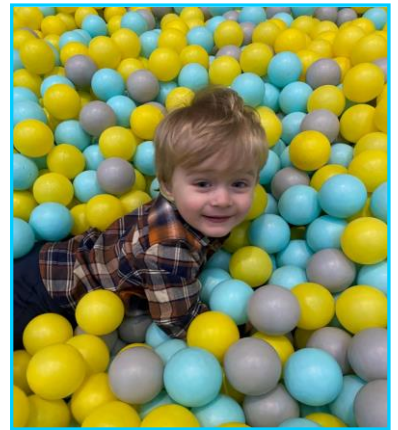
JUMPIN 2022

On Sunday 13th February we held our first ever event at Jumpin in Salisbury, the 18,000 sq.ft. inflatable theme park. We were not sure if our members would travel to Salisbury but they most certainly did with 119 members enjoying the day.

The inflatable theme park is jam packed with exciting activities including obstacle courses, football, giant wipe out balls, slides, airbag slide, balance beams and a jumping into an air bag! It hosts Jelly Mountain, Wobble Forest, and Gladiator Zone and a giant ball pond. For the under 5's there was a soft play area with climbing decks, cargo nets, rotating beams, slides, ramps and ball pit. Something for everyone!

Younger children had to be accompanied by an adult but other parents/carers were able to relax in the café and enjoy a coffee and chat to other parent/carers. We booked two one hour sessions and by the end there were some very exhausted children who no doubt fell asleep in the car travelling home.

It was a great day full of fun!



FAMILY BOWLING AND TEEN/YOUNG PEOPLE BOWLING 2022

On Saturday 26th March we held our first Family Bowling event for quite a few years and as we have not held a Teens/Young People's event for a while we decided to book some lanes and combine the events.

In total 70 members came along to the Hollywood Bowl at Branksome and it was great to see everyone having a great time, catching up with old friends and also making new ones!



CODY'S STORY

By Gemma Naylor

Cody was born in 2010 and at birth he had Microtia of the right ear. As a younger mum I didn't understand what this meant for Cody at the time and what a journey we would be going on.

Cody did not pass his Newborn Hearing Screen in hospital and we were referred to audiology very quickly. We saw the audiologist a couple of weeks later and Cody slept through the whole thing!

They told us he has a conductive hearing loss in the left ear and a severe hearing loss in the right ear. After a CT scan of the small ear we went on to having regular hearing tests and ended up with an air conduction hearing aid at 9 months old.

Two years later Cody was wearing the one hearing aid and we requested to try a bone anchored hearing band which was all new to us but Cody struggled with direction of sounds and the audiologist trialled it on a soft band. With both devices Cody was progressing well with his speech and sound tests at audiology along with using a radio aid at school.

Cody has been asked if he would like to have plastic surgery for his small ear and we visited Great Ormond Street hospital in 2017 but Cody really likes his small ear and has chosen against it for now and we always wanted it to be his decision.

Cody went on to receiving care under the Auditory Implant Service at Southampton University and got funding for two bone anchored hearing aids on a new sound arc. This was a lot smaller and nicer than the soft band. We have been so grateful for their help and support and they have helped us along the journey to provide Cody with great hearing devices and upgrades when available.



Cody really enjoys wearing his sound arc which he can change the colours of the sides and pick what colour his aids are. We are very grateful that technology keeps being updated and new things come out all the time.

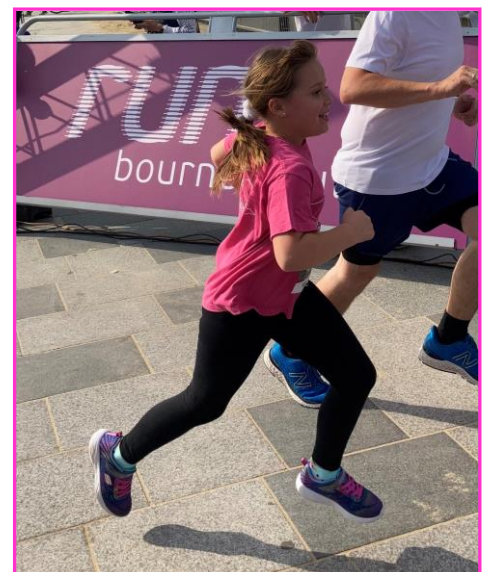
As Cody is getting older his confidence is soaring and he is so comfortable wearing his sound arc which is so much a part of him. We have been worried about friends and school in general but Cody has adapted well, he enjoys school and gets regular visits from his Teacher of the Deaf who visits to check up on everything.

Cody is a very positive young man and I hope this continues as he grows up.

ALEX RACES TO THE FINISH LINE

The Dorset Deaf Children's Society has been an amazing source of support and fun for Alex and his family. So to say thank you Alex wanted to fundraise for the charity by running 1km in the Bournemouth Marathon Festival in October 2021. He managed to persuade his big sister to do the 1.5km and his Mummy and Godmother to run the 5km.

In 2019 Alex and his sister raised £361 by running the 1km, but this time they wanted to raise even more. With a lot of support from their family, friends and school community they managed to raise an amazing £1,150.56p!



Well done Alex and a big thank you to you and your family!