

LET'S HEAR IT!

NEWSLETTER OF
DORSET DEAF CHILDREN'S SOCIETY
SPRING 2024



Christmas Party Fun!

On Saturday 2nd December 2023 we held our annual Christmas Party at The Blandford School and what a wonderful time we had! We welcomed three new families and just under 50 families attended consisting of 189 members including some very excited children!

To start the party we had music and games with Jamie Jigsaw, craft tables, face painting, raffle and a photo booth. Tea, coffee and squash were available for everyone. The photo booth was popular with all the children and families dressing up in the props for their pictures! Joanna, who is Liliana's mum, provided some fantastic face painting.



Then it was time for the finger buffet. This year the Trustees had to organise the buffet at short notice as the school caterers were unable to help us. The Trustees pulled together and we were able to provide a delicious feast.

After the food it was time for Jamie Jigsaw's show with some brave children getting up on the stage! Everyone had a great time. This was followed by the raffle with some wonderful prizes. Debbie Ravensdale, NDCS Child and Family Support Officer, was also available for families to ask for any help or information.

It was then time for a visit from a very special visitor.....
Father Christmas who brought presents for all the children.



We would like to thank The Blandford School for once again letting us have the venue free of charge and also big thanks to the trustees and volunteers who helped before and on the day to make the party such a success!



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!

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



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

DDCS GRANTS

DDCS has funds available for grants and will consider contributing towards our member's costs or partial costs for deaf related equipment, activities or learning.

We regularly contribute towards signing classes and provide literature to support signing. We also provide specialist alarm clocks for children to become more independent at getting up in the morning!

We may also be able to offer grants in certain circumstances for financial support with a deaf related project.

Please contact us in writing or by emailing info@dorsetdcs.co.uk with details of what you are asking for, how it will help your child and the costs.

Please give as much information as possible.

Each case is considered on its individual merits.



VoluntEars is a specialised organisation that arranges trips to Nepal, Sri Lanka, Ghana, Morocco, Montenegro and Nepal Everest Base Camp for D/deaf, hearing and hard-of-hearing people. Their trips are a great way of working with the local deaf community and exploring a new country and culture. All the trips include a trip leader from their UK office and an experienced BSL Communicator.

You can read about them here: www.VoluntEars.info

You can also check out this video one of their volunteers made about the trips!

<https://www.voluntears.info/voluntears-short-film/>

HELP AND CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN – Kevin Forbes, Hamilton Court House, 1-3 Alum Chine Road, Westbourne, Bournemouth, Dorset, BH4 8DT 01202 769890

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

SECRETARY – Julie Hansford, 34 Fernside Avenue, Poole, Dorset, BH14 0PN 07973 737687

Website – www.dorsetdcs.co.uk

E-mail – info@dorsetdcs.co.uk

NDCS FREEPHONE HELPLINE 0808 800 8880 (voice & text)



For more information, news, pictures and future events please visit our website.
www.dorsetdcs.co.uk

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 year.

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.

Mauveworks for printing our newsletters free of charge.

Richard George

LFB Meats Shop - Collection Box

Charles & Suzie Andrews

Axis Foundation

Patrick Blackmore – London Marathon

Darren Slade

Petra – non uniform day, Broadwindsor Primary School

Anna Reidy

Blue Pebble Finance Ltd

Strategic Solutions Financial Services Grant

Catherine Enright

4Com

Nicki Paul – London Landmarks Half Marathon

The Entertainer, Bournemouth – Jack Gives back pennies

Caroline Watton

Tesco - Grant

Emilia Gray – Car washing

The Blandford School - Christmas Party Venue free of charge
Bournemouth Deaf Club – Venue for our AGM free of charge

Ideas for fund raising could be a sponsored event, car boot sale, cake sale, donations instead of gifts for a birthday or anniversary, a collection box in a work place, raffle or a school mufli day.

Why not give it a go!

Baby and Pre-School Children's Events

Dorset DCS has recently been organising some events for families with pre-school children and babies with a hearing loss. Our usual soft play events for the babies and young children up to the age of 9 or 10 years old are quite often quite busy as we usually have about 60 members attend these. With the New Born Hearing Screening Programme most hearing loss is diagnosed within a few weeks of babies being born. We felt that the families of these very young children would benefit from a small group and a smaller venue to meet our trustees and other families in a similar position as themselves.

We organised our first get together at Little Pickles Play Cafe in Moordown, Bournemouth on a Sunday so that working mums and dads could come along. It was attended by five families and they had a lovely time. Our second get together was at Streetlight Café in Wimborne where we had 20 children and 13 adults come along for a few hours of fun and this venue was ideal for our families.



All the children were able to play in the soft play and the parents had a chance to chat and meet other parents with children the same age as their own child.

This has been such a success that we will be arranging more of these events on a fairly regular basis.



Rock Reef

On Sunday 5th November 2023 we visited Rock Reef at the end of Bournemouth Pier on what was a very windy day! This was our third visit to Rock Reef and this time forty nine children and young people came along to enjoy the day.

We had three groups, two in the morning and one in the afternoon for the teenagers and youth members. Parents accompanied the younger children as clippers to ensure they climbed safely. We had children attending from 4 years old up to 18 year olds.

It was also very entertaining watching all the surfers from Bournemouth pier as there were such large waves!



Lush Factory Tour

On Wednesday 10th April we visited the Lush Factory in Poole. We had two groups for the first tour starting at 9am and two groups for the second tour starting at 12. Seventy members came along for a fun and interesting morning and afternoon.

It has been five years since we last visited and in that time Lush have opened their Green Hub. It was very interesting to see all the recycling and reusing of waste and in so many ingenious ways! They even recycle containers sold in their shops and customers who return the empty pots are rewarded with a free face mask and also money off shop items!



As well as a tour of the Green Hub and making some bath bombs, with staff from the Ballistics department, everyone had a visit to the Bubbles department. There the children were able to make their own bubble bath, soap and shampoo and there were some interesting creations.

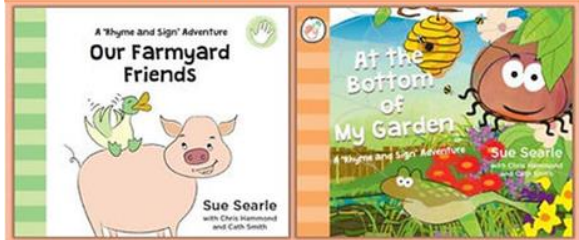


We had a brilliant day at Lush and the staff were amazing with the children. We can't thank Lush enough for making us so welcome!



Story Books

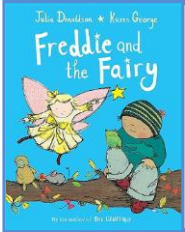
Little Signers Club
www.littlesignersclub.co.uk



The 'Rhyme and Sign' Collection



where sign language and stories meet



For families with younger children this book has a charming story. Freddie found a fairy, tangled in a tree..... Freddie is desperate for a pet, so when he rescues Bessie-Belle and she offers to grant his wishes he knows just what to ask for. The only problem is that Bessie-Belle can't hear very well, and Freddie tends to mumble. Whatever can they do? Luckily the Fairy Queen is on hand to explain..... A delightful tale full of Julia Donaldson's (author of The Gruffalo) trademark rhyme and wit, with a subtle message about hearing loss. You can find this book on Amazon for a very good price!

Looking for stories with deaf characters?

www.ndcs.org.uk/childrens-books