

# LET'S HEAR IT!

NEWSLETTER OF  
DORSET DEAF CHILDREN'S SOCIETY  
AUTUMN 2022



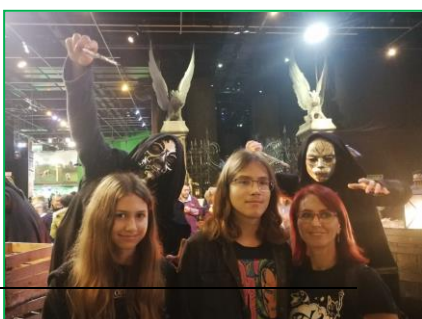
## A MAGICAL DAY AT THE HARRY POTTER STUDIOS!

What a fantastic day we had on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> October at the Warner Bros Harry Potter Studio Tour. Two coaches set off from Dorset with 82 of our members for an absolutely magical day!

It was a great way to start the school half term and there were some very excited children (and adults) travelling up the motorway! On arrival tickets were given to all the families to enter the tour and everyone entered the amazing entrance hall with a gigantic dragon flying overhead. The tour started with a walk through some exhibits, including the room under the stairs, leading eventually into a cinema for a short film. The film ended with a picture of the Great Hall doors on the large screen, then the screen rolled up and the actual doors were there. They opened the doors and revealed the great hall decorated with lit up pumpkins. It was really magical!



After the great hall everyone was free to experience the rest of the studio at their own pace. All the actual sets from the films were on display with loads of hands-on experiences for the children, including Dumbledore's office, Hagrid's cottage, Gryffindor dormitory and many many more. Discover The Dark Arts has returned to the studio and included a procession of death eaters as well as the Halloween experience. From there you visit the Forbidden Forest and on to Platform nine and three quarters and the Hogwarts Express, then the backlot including No4 Privet Drive, the Knight Bus and more plus the new Professor Sprouts Greenhouse with noisy mandrakes. We visited Diagon Alley and Gringotts Bank where we had to look out for the dragon! As well as all of this you can find out how the films were made from costumes, sets, props, special effects and much more. The tour ended with the Hogwarts Castle model which filled a massive room.



Of course there was a visit to the shop which had the most amazing selection of things to buy. Some of it was rather expensive but the children still managed to find something to remember the day! Thank you to Warner Bros for providing BSL sign support for us.

It was an amazing day and everyone had a great time even though the heavens opened with an almighty downpour of rain as we were making our way back to the coaches and some of us got a bit wet!



# NEWSROUND

## 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 have in the past contributed towards signing classes and provided literature to support signing. We have also provided 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.



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](http://www.bhcoastalottery.co.uk)

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

Thank you!

## DDCS PHOTOS

At our events we take many photographs that we cannot put on our website. There are some really lovely photographs of your children. DDCS Members can access these pictures to download on the Dorset DCS Shutterfly website.

If you would like to view, download and print pictures of your family then please contact us by email [info@dorsetdcs.co.uk](mailto:info@dorsetdcs.co.uk)



We will then add you as a member of the Dorset DCS Shutterfly website and you will be sent instructions on how to view the pictures.



Individual and family pictures with a certain person at the Christmas party will also be on the website after Christmas.

Only DDCS Members are allowed access to the pictures.

## 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!

## 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](http://www.ndcs.org.uk)  
Telephone: 0808 800 8880  
Email: [helpline@ndcs.org.uk](mailto:helpline@ndcs.org.uk)



## DO YOU SHOP ON AMAZON?

IF YOU DO YOU CAN HELP RAISE FUNDS FOR DORSET DCS BY SHOPPING ON [SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK](http://SMILE.AMAZON.CO.UK). JUST SELECT DDCS AS YOUR CHARITY AND PLACE YOUR ORDER AS NORMAL. IT'S AS SIMPLE AS THAT!

## DDCS FACEBOOK GROUPS

DDCS has a public Facebook page which we would love all our families and their relatives, friends, work colleagues and in fact anyone who is interested to follow us as this helps raise awareness of our charity.

We also have a private members Facebook group, only for our members. The Parent Forum group is private so that parents can keep in touch with each other, ask for advice or get information. If you wish to join this group just send a request to [info@dorsetdcs.co.uk](mailto:info@dorsetdcs.co.uk)



We have noticed that some members follow the public page but are not in the Parent Forum group and vice versa. Please join both.

If you would like to join the groups they are easy to find just type "Dorset Deaf Children's Society" and "Dorset Deaf Children's Society Parents Forum" into your search bar.



## 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](mailto: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](http://www.ndcsbuzz.org.uk)

## HELP AND CONTACTS

**CHAIRMAN** – Kevin Forbes, C/O Strategic Solutions Financial Services, Hamilton Court House, 1-3 Alum Chine Road, Westbourne, Bournemouth, BH4 8DT 01202 769890

**VICE-CHAIRPERSON, TREASURER & MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY** - Shirley Sorbie, Touchwood, 9 Oakland Walk, West Parley, Ferndown, BH22 8PF 01202 571089 07765 304968

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

Website – [www.dorsetdcs.co.uk](http://www.dorsetdcs.co.uk)

E-mail – [info@dorsetdcs.co.uk](mailto: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](http://www.dorsetdcs.co.uk)

# THE JENNY BARRETT DEAF CHILD ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS 2022

Every year, at our AGM, we present the Jenny Barrett Deaf Child Achievement Awards. The awards set out to reward achievements of hearing impaired children and they are split into two categories, the junior category which is for eleven years and under and the senior category which is for twelve years and above. In 2022 there were a total of nine children nominated.

The winners were announced at our AGM held on Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> October 2022 at Bournemouth Deaf Club. The awards were presented by Robin Barrett and the two overall age group winners received shields, certificates and cheques for £100 each. **TYLER PANTENEY** was the winner in the senior category and the winner in the junior category was **OLIVIA CALVERLEY**. All other nominees received £20 vouchers and certificates.



**Olivia Calverley**  
Junior Winner



**Tyler Panteney**  
Senior Winner

All the nominees  
have done  
exceptionally  
well to be  
nominated.

Congratulations  
to all of them!

## JUNIOR NOMINEES

Please note that the nominations below are a short summary and only a part of the nomination as the nominations can include confidential and personal information.

**LUCIA BLACKMORE** was nominated by Dawn Wrench, HSS Advisory Teacher, for her superb adjustment and embracing of her new wireless CROS aid. She has been mature and outstanding in her ability to update teachers, family, advisory teacher and audiology on how the CROS has helped her access sounds and conversations more effectively. She is commended for her resilience and enthusiastically embracing all her new equipment and explaining to the teachers how it can support her in school. She has inspired her friends at school to learn and share BSL signs and also initiated and designed a deaf awareness poster that was displayed at school.

**OLIVIA CALVERLEY** was nominated by her dad, Michael Calverley. Olivia decided she wanted to audition for the lead role of Oliver Twist for her school play. She worked hard learning and practicing the audition scene. She was up against some of the most determined hearing children in the school. She smashed the audition and landed the main role in the production and they changed the name of the play from Oliver Twist to Olivia Twist. Olivia then had two months to learn 150 lines by heart. After many hours of rehearsing the time came for the performances to the school and to parents, friends and families. She delivered every single line clearly, confidently with acting theatrics that would make the West End proud. Watching her performance and knowing the journey she has been on since birth is very emotional. Olivia deserves the recognition of what she has achieved as it is very special.

**ALEX GRAY** was nominated by his mum, Maria Gray. Alex hasn't been able to get his ears wet since surgery on his ears in 2017. This year he was finally given the all clear to start swimming. He was excited and scared when he started his 1:1 swimming lessons and the first lesson was sensory overload for him and he was aware he shouldn't get his ears wet. Slowly lesson by lesson he gained more confidence in the water but remained apprehensive about putting his head and ears in water but he has persevered with a lot of encouragement. He has had to go against what he has been told his whole life and even though he was still scared he did it. He is continuing with his lessons and progressing well and he hopes to swim independently before his next operation as then he will be out of the pool for at least 6 months.

**FELIX MAY** was nominated by Sarah Joiner, HSS Advisory Teacher and his mum Charis May. Felix was diagnosed when he was 8 years old in October 2020 during the COVID 19 Pandemic. Before diagnosis he was often described by teachers as 'not paying attention' and he struggled with team sports not fully engaging. Since diagnosis he has been inspirational and displayed positivity towards his hearing impairment despite the challenges he faced. He is a fantastic role model. He set himself the goal of taking the local 11+ test for entry to Grammar school and showed great determination whilst at the same time adjusting to his hearing loss. Felix also loves music and is learning the piano and hopes to learn saxophone next year. He is kind and understanding of why people might view his hearing loss in a negative way and says that he is lucky as his brain thinks in a different way; therefore he sees his hearing impairment as a gift. He understands people are different, is tolerant of other's needs, is thoughtful and perceptive,

## SENIOR NOMINEES

Please note that the nominations below are a short summary and only a part of the nomination as the nominations can include confidential and personal information.

**EMILY GREEN** was nominated by Michelle Christopher, HSS Advisory Teacher, for triumphing despite a challenging and stressful year. She has taken numerous GCSE's and passed them all to a good standard but also gained a level 9 for dance (this is equivalent to A\*\*). She has performed successfully in three staged dance performances this year not only dancing but also acting. She recently auditioned to be one of the dancers for a Christmas Pantomime at a local pavilion and has been offered a part. She choreographed and performed a dance to say thank you to her teachers at the end of the summer term. She is an inspirational young lady. Despite living with her hearing loss and coping with many emotional challenges she perseveres not only for herself but also to support others.

**EDWARD HOMBERSLEY** was nominated by Ken Tucker, HSS Education Audiologist, for supporting and helping another child with the decision of having cochlear implants. The child's hearing loss has become severe enough to be eligible for cochlear implants and because of his age he carried some responsibility of making the decision himself. He was undecided and had a lot of questions. Edward had needed to make a similar decision when he was the same age. Edward agreed to meet him to answer his questions and provide any support he could. Edward talked about different aspects of having a cochlear implant and answered all of his questions to the best of his ability. He was absolutely fantastic and made such a difference in helping the child to make a difficult decision.

**BEN LAW** was nominated by Sarah Joiner, HSS Advisory Teacher. In September 2022 Ben started his new school. Unfortunately due to the school being oversubscribed Ben's first choice of school, Winton Academy was not given. Therefore Ben's parents lodged an appeal. This time was very unsettling for Ben; however Ben took each day in his stride and was very resilient throughout the appeal process. It is a credit to Ben how much maturity and quiet confidence he held in himself as he awaited the final outcome. He is now delighted to now be attending Winton Academy.

**TYLER PANTENEY** was nominated by Melissa May, HSS Advisory Teacher, for his developing resilience and his ability to trust others in a hearing world. Tyler has no access to sound or speech and he uses BSL to communicate. Life is hard for him in a hearing world. As a signing child in a spoken world Tyler has to navigate daily periods when he is not included, not understood and times when he does not understand what is going on. He spent his first school years in a mainstream school and whilst he had adult support who could sign he missed out on meaningful communication with his peers as they were hearing. This was incredibly isolating and for him and frustrating too. In the last 3 years he has gained confidence in communicating and expressing himself. He has had dual placement attending Exeter's Deaf Academy and a local special school. Although his journey to Exeter is tiring, boring and very long he never moans. In the last year his special school was unable to meet his needs as a Deaf pupil and Tyler had no consistent support from an adult who could sign. He likes routine and pre warning of what is happening as this enables him to process. Over the last year this has not been possible and despite finding this incredibly challenging he has dealt with surprises with a growing reliance. Tyler has developed his sign language and worked hard to regulate his emotions and developed meaningful relationships with those who can sign. He loves to make people laugh.

**SAUL PEARCE** was nominated by his mum and dad, Sandra Mackrow and Paul Pearce. Saul has finally got his ASD diagnosis. He started at college last year but due to previous school based anxieties he struggled in an educational environment. He coped better attending one day a week. He would go to St Peters Church and keep the grounds in order. He thrived outdoors and became a valued member of the team. Credit was given to him for designing and making a compost heap. This September Saul started back at college but has found the environment still challenging.





At the end of the summer term, we said a sad farewell to Sally Robinson and Elisabeth Gower who have retired from the Hearing Support Service after a combined 50 years of service. Sally and Elisabeth have made an immeasurable contribution to the development of the Hearing Support Service over the years and have worked with hundreds of children during their time as Advisory Teachers. They have touched the lives of all who have worked with them, and we are truly grateful for their passion, expertise and dedication.

**We wish Sally and Elisabeth an amazing and well-deserved retirement. Thank you from the DDCS Trustees and all the children and their families!**



## HEALTHY MINDS

We all know how important it is to look after our children's physical health, but sometimes we forget that mental health is just as important.

Just like adults, children and young people can have sad or negative thoughts or feelings from time to time. This can affect their mood and behaviour. We all feel down sometimes, but if you notice your child's mood or behaviour has changed significantly, this could be a sign that something is wrong. It's not your responsibility to work out if your child has a mental health issue or what sort of mental health problem your child is suffering from. It's the responsibility of healthcare professionals to do a good assessment and consider what difficulties your child may be having and why.

Deaf children need to be aware of their deafness and feel empowered, confident and capable of dealing with some of the everyday challenges they might face. Most hearing people have little or no experience of deafness, which can make the deaf people they meet feel isolated. The way that parents, carers, relatives, friends, professionals and even total strangers respond to your deaf child will have an impact on your child's self-esteem, sense of identity and how they feel about themselves. Regular opportunities to meet with other deaf children and deaf adult role models can help your child to develop positive self-identity.

Deaf children should have the opportunity to develop strategies to manage the impact of their deafness without feeling the need to apologise for it. Make sure your child knows that they can speak to you about how they feel.

If you think your child might have a mental health condition, you should seek professional help. Some children and young people benefit from psychological therapy, such as counselling or therapy. There are lots of different forms of psychological therapy, and your GP should be able to help you decide which form is best for your child and how to access it. In many areas, there may be specialist help available for deaf children and deaf people with varying communication needs.

Not all children need to be treated by CAMHS. Even if your child is referred to CAMHS, there may be a long waiting list for treatment. In some cases, your child's school might be able to offer counselling and support. Other useful organisations that may help you and your child are listed below

- **Childline Deaf Zone**  
Advice and support for deaf children up to the age of 18 in English and BSL. You can speak to a counsellor over the phone, online chat or via SignVideo.
- **Young Minds**  
The UK's leading charity supporting children and young adults' mental health.
- **Build Sound Minds**  
Action for Children's campaign to improve the emotional wellbeing of children and young people.
- **Place2Be**  
A children's mental health charity providing counselling and mental health support and training in UK schools.
- **Anna Freud Centre**  
A nationwide children's charity providing training and support for child mental health services.
- **Mind**  
Mental health charity providing advice and support to children, young people and adults who are experiencing mental health difficulties.
- **Scope**  
Disability equality charity providing practical advice and emotional support in England and Wales.
- **Sign Health**  
A UK charity dedicated to providing access to healthcare for the deaf community, including information on psychological therapy for people over the age of 16.

### For more information:

NDCS has some great resources:

Supporting young people's mental health, emotional health and wellbeing ([ndcs.org.uk](https://ndcs.org.uk))

Emotional health and wellbeing for families of deaf children ([ndcs.org.uk](https://ndcs.org.uk))

Supporting your child's mental health ([ndcs.org.uk](https://ndcs.org.uk))

CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services) <https://camhsdorset.org>

CAMHS Gateway: <https://camhsdorset.org/about-camhs/camhs-gateway>

Recommended services on the CAMHS website: <https://camhsdorset.org/young-people/getting-the-support-you-need/whats-in-dorset-for-me>

Dorset Council has a directory of local groups and organisations: [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

Dorset Council advice and support for young people: [dorsetcouncil.gov.uk](https://dorsetcouncil.gov.uk)

BCP directory of mental health provision and support: <https://fid.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/family-information-directory>

BCP wellbeing resource directory for children: <https://www.bcpccouncil.gov.uk/Children-young-people-and-families/Working-in-childcare/Wellbeing-resources/Resources-to-support-children.aspx>