

LET'S HEAR IT!

NEWSLETTER OF
DORSET DEAF CHILDREN'S SOCIETY
SPRING 2023



AFC Bournemouth visit

What an amazing time we had at AFC Bournemouth on Wednesday 15th February!

Sixty four of our members arrived at the Vitality Stadium looking forward to a great afternoon. After the group was split in to two groups everyone had a tour of the stadium, finishing with a walk up the tunnel to the side of the pitch.

Then it was on to the 3G pitches for the children and young people to have some coaching and games. The coaches were brilliant and everyone had a great time!

They were then joined by Ben Greenwood, Dominic Sadi and Euan Pollock from AFC Bournemouth Development Squad who met the children and signed programmes. After the children and young people were presented with medals it was then time to go home.



Thank you to Steve and all at AFC Bournemouth Community Sports Trust who were brilliant with the children and for making us so welcome!

NEWSROUND



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



Hearing Support Service

Welcome Jemma O'Rourke!

Jemma joined the Hearing Support Service in January.

A message from Jemma:

I am delighted to join the HSS as a trainee Advisory Teacher. I have over twenty years teaching experience, both in the UK and internationally, working in mainstream and special educational settings. Most of my work has been with Early Years and KS 1. My specialism is working with children and young people with SEN, especially Autism. I feel very lucky to be learning from experienced colleagues on the HSS team and I am really looking forward to meeting the children, families and school staff I will be supporting.



We have recently changed to a new platform for online donations. If you would like to make an online donation or fundraise for us with a sponsored event please go to our website www.dorsetdcs.co.uk for details on how to do this.

HELP AND CONTACTS

CHAIRMAN – Kevin Forbes, 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, Dorset, BH22 8PF 01202 571089

Website – www.dorsetdcs.co.uk

E-mail – info@dorsetdcs.co.uk

NDCS FREEPHONE HELPLINE 0808 800 8880 (voice & text)

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
Bournemouth Round Table

IMI Engineering, Thompson Valve Ltd
Waitrose Dorchester

Charles & Suzie Andrews

Louise Trew – Harbour Hill Crescent Jubilee Party

ASM Assembly Systems Weymouth Ltd

In memory of Nellie Tarbin

22nd Bournemouth Brownie Pack

Poole Bay Holdings

Concern with Hearing

ASMPT Sports & Social Club

Jocelyn Tritton – Milton Keynes Marathon

Durnovarian Dames Ladies Group

Mrs D. Phillips

Dalkeith House Dentist – Collection Box

Holly Bryant – 100k march for Deafness

In memory of June Earles

Kelly Sherman

The Blandford School - Christmas Party Venue

Caterlink Ltd – 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!

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!

NDCS HELP LINE

Do you need help and advice about DLA claims or education for your child? If so please ring the NDCS help line number 0808 800 8880 or Email helpline@ndcs.org.uk



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

JOCELYN RUNNING FOR DDCS!

My mum, Jane, had a horse-riding accident at age 10 which badly impacted her hearing. Until recently she relied entirely on the 30% hearing remaining in her left ear, which often created frustration in the family, as through no fault of her own she would mishear words or not hear them at all. That's why we were so delighted when we discovered British Sign Language! All of a sudden communication was vastly improved – every conversation, whether it was asking if the cat had been fed in the morning, or talking about our days at dinnertime, was made much easier. It was such a big benefit and it inspired me to search for ways to help out other families with deaf members.

I found the Dorset DCS online after a few days of searching for small deaf charities benefitting local causes and doing tangible work so I could physically see where the money was going. Dorset DCS is a small, local, all-volunteer charity and has provided BSL grants and held fun-packed events for deaf children and their families ranging from Adventure Activity weekends to Christmas parties so it was a natural choice. The great stories on the website confirmed my decision.



Jocelyn with his mother Jane

Running a marathon, though very tough, I decided was the best way to fundraise large sums and as a fit and healthy then-20 year old I started my training and signed up for the Milton Keynes marathon. At the time of writing £2525 has been raised from online donations, mainly from friends and family.

As well as running the marathon I put forward an application for a grant for Dorset DCS to the company I work for, Axis Europe.

I knew that I wanted the Axis Foundation to sponsor the charity, so that was another reason for it to be small, local and without salaried officers. They have approved a grant to Dorset DCS of £3274.50 to purchase Paediatric Hearing Aid Care Kits! These kits have been provided by Dorset DCS for many years and are given to children with permanent hearing loss by Audiology when they are diagnosed.



I look forward to, and am training hard for, the Milton Keynes marathon on the 1st May and will certainly give it my all!

Thank you Jocelyn for all the effort you are putting in to raise funds and to help DDCS and good luck with the Marathon!



Jocelyn training for the marathon

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 provided 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.

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.



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.

Travel with Roger Focus

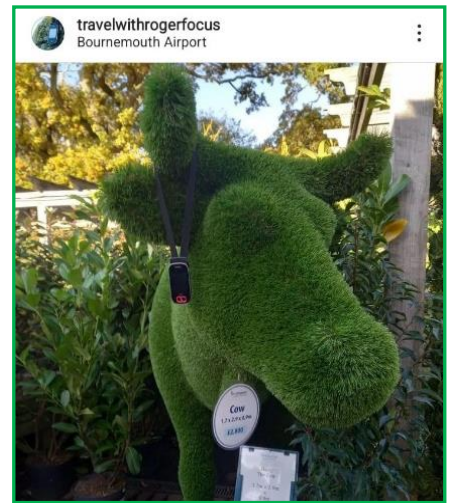
By Helena Mills Bowers



Hey! My name is Helena and I have Auditory Processing Disorder. APD impacts the way your brain sorts and processes sound, which makes it really difficult to cipher through background noise and multiple people talking at the same time. I believe that I have had this for most of my life, but never realised it, until just over a year ago, when it started to get worse.

To help me to cope with APD, I was given a Phonak Roger Focus microphone and two receiver hearing aids. As soon as I discovered that I would be given a Roger Focus, I did what any teenager did and immediately Googled and searched on Instagram. Upon my search, I found videos of people setting up the devices, but nothing about people living with a Roger Focus. In October 2022, I set up my Instagram account, called 'Travel With Roger Focus' with the aim to create awareness for APD, hearing loss in teenagers and these devices. A few months later, I decided to expand to YouTube as well and potentially Tik Tok in the future.

I want to show people how I live with hearing issues so that people with and without hearing problems can understand more and feel supported. My friends often join me in my posts, ranging from doing popular songs in BSL, A virtual sign language advent calendar, pictures of activities and my personal favourite- hanging Roger over weird statues. I like to bring comedic elements into my posts to make a topic that many people find serious or depressing, more enjoyable - especially with pictures and videos of strange things I find (like a giant Astro Turf cow). I currently reach roughly 4- 6 thousand people around the world each month!



I also love to encourage people to try and do activities that people with hearing impairments wouldn't often do. I sail in a Regional Training Group, competing in national events and series. It is challenging to compete, as Tinnitus impacts my concentration and not being able to hear start whistles, coaches or other sailors shouting has a huge impact. However, I do enjoy when my coaches or friends attempt to do sign language from a distance and say everything but what they mean! I love sailing as it gives you a feeling of being completely free and having control of things that happen to you- which I find I rarely have.

After hearing about NDCS and DDCS from my amazing friends at school (who I will now be in their good books for calling them amazing), I joined recently in hope to meet more people like me.

My YouTube and Instagram accounts are @travelwithrogerfocus and my sailing account is @Heli_48145



Welcome Helena and your family to Dorset DCS!