Let’s Hear It!

Newsletter of Dorset Deaf Children’s Society
Autumn 2018

DDCS Returns to PGL for our 2nd Family Activity Weekend

On Friday 18th May 2018 seventy Dorset DCS members arrived at PGL Osmington Bay near Weymouth for a weekend of fun and activities. This was our sixth visit to PGL Osmington and our second family activity weekend and everyone was looking forward to a great time!

Families arrived on Friday afternoon from all over Dorset and once everyone had arrived it was time for a quick fire drill and then the evening meal. We met our PGL Buddies Joel and Chelsea who organised our evening activity, Wacky Races. This was a great ice breaking activity and set the ambiance for what was to come – a fun filled weekend.

Saturday morning and everyone was up early ready for the great breakfast served in the restaurant which set everyone up for the day’s activities. Our group was split into six activity groups and on the agenda for the first day was Climbing, Abseiling, Aeroball, Jacobs Ladder and Zip Wire for some groups. It was great to see everyone working together and some overcoming and conquering fears but most of all having fun! After the evening meal it was then time to play ‘Ambush’. The children had great fun putting on the camouflage face paint and finding good hiding places! Some parents relaxed by the accommodation and some made their way to the bar where children are allowed up until 10pm if accompanied by their parents. Again this year DDCS seemed to make up most of their customers!

Waking up on Sunday morning was not as brisk as the day before but everyone was soon ready for the second day of activities which included Archery, Jacobs Ladder, Zip Wire and of course the popular Giant Swing!

At the end of the day it was time for a quick get together for everyone to say goodbye and have an evening meal and return some tired children (and parents) home.

This weekend again exceeded all expectations and more! To see all the children making friends and having so much fun and the parents making friends and really enjoying themselves as a family and getting the chance to bond with other families was brilliant. Some parents came on their own with their hearing impaired child and were anxious about how it would be, but were soon at ease and making friends.

Feedback questionnaires were completed by 20 families.
20 rated the pre-organisation of the weekend Excellent.
18 rated the PGL Centre, Staff and Activities Excellent, 2 rated it Very Good.
18 rated the overall management of the weekend excellent, 2 rated it Very Good.

These are some of the comments from the children and families:
Thank you to all at DDCS for an amazing weekend. It ran faultlessly and without your hard work, determination and effort none of this would have happened.
We had a great time, thanks for all the hard work you guys put in to organising all the DDCS activities for our kids.
Shirley has gone above and beyond to ensure everyone was informed of the activities, times and meetings. The PGL staff were great. Thank you.
We all had a fantastic weekend. Met loads of new friends, amazing activities.
PGL was great. We’d love to come again. It’s a great opportunity to chat between events so a perfect mix of fun and networking/socialising. Well Done!
Child comments: “Fun and exciting” “Awesome”
Thank you for an amazing weekend.
It's been great to see the children being "hands on" with activities and to see them playing so happily with all the other children that attended. Great weekend!
Lots of great memories made.
Child comments: “My favourite was Ambush and I really enjoyed the Zip Wire”
“I liked the Giant Swing and I liked playing football with my friends”
This is such a brilliant event for confidence building and developing social skills with other children. My son felt included – he doesn’t feel as though he stands out as being different. Same goes for parents too!! Thank you DDCS.
Really Really Really good! Nice mixing with the other families. Thank you.

It was a very special weekend!
At our October AGM Yvonne Hussain stepped down from the committee and has now retired from being a Trustee. Yvonne has been a trustee for 13 years joining the committee in 2005 and became Secretary in 2008.

We would like to thank Yvonne for all the time and commitment she has given DDCS and wish her and her family well in the future.

DDCS would also like to thank Lisa Diment for the time and commitment she has given as a Trustee.

NDCS INFORMATION

There is information and support literature on many subjects relating to a child’s hearing loss available from NDCS.

You can find them on the NDCS website www.ndcs.org.uk or just call the helpline on 0808 800 8880 or email helpline@ndcs.org.uk

DDCS also has a selection of this literature available at most of our events and we also stock the Audiology waiting rooms with information.

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

KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP UP TO DATE!

Please let us know if there are any changes to your circumstances for example if you have moved house, changed your name, telephone number or email address. Also if you now wish to be removed from our membership list or if you have a child who had a conductive hearing loss and it has improved and they no longer wear hearing aids. One of our biggest costs is postage for our newsletters.

We cannot change your membership details without you telling us!
Email us at info@dorsetdcs.co.uk or ring Shirley on 01202 571089

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’AS SIMPLE AS THAT!

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!

Please contact us in writing or by emailing info@dorsetdcs.co.uk

Each case is considered on its individual merits.

DDCS FACEBOOK

DDCS has two Facebook groups one is for general information which anyone on Facebook can access and one is a closed group, only for members. The second group is closed so that parents can keep in touch with each other, ask for advice or get information.

If you would like to join the groups they are easy to find just type “Dorset Deaf Children’s Society” into your search bar.

PERSONAL

CD / MP3 LEADS

DDCS provides personal CD/MP3 leads for any hearing impaired child or young person in Dorset.

The leads enable sound to go straight to hearing aids by a special shoe attached to the leads. DDCS provides these through the Hearing Support Service. If your child would like some leads please ask your Advisory Teacher who can then order them through the Hearing Support Service, Educational Audiologist.

HSS Pre-School Parent Support Group

Come along and meet up with other parents and children!
Longfleet Baptist Church, 138 Wimborne Road, Poole, BH15 2EX
For more information please contact Sarah Stobbart 07824 529461 or Sarah Poole on 07393 147291

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HELP AND CONTACTS

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NDCS FREEPHONE HELPLINE 0808 800 8880 (voice & text)

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

DDCS would also like to thank Lisa Diment for the time and commitment she has given as a Trustee.
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 in Dorset 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 2018 there were a total of seventeen children nominated.

The winners were announced at our AGM held on Saturday 13th October 2018 at Bournemouth Deaf Club. The awards were presented by Keith Simmons and the two overall age group winners received shields, certificates and cheques for £100 each. EMILY RIDOUT was winner in the senior category and winner in the junior category was KENZIE MILLS. All other nominees received £20 vouchers and certificates. This year all nominees were also presented with a personalised autographed picture of Callum Wilson, of AFC Bournemouth.

This year’s winner of Bournemouth Deaf Clubs Special Endeavour Award was JAYLEIGH TILLEY who received a cash reward from Keith Simmons.

All the nominees have done exceptionally well to be nominated. Congratulations to all of them!

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**JUNIOR NOMINEES**

**LILIANA DARASZKIEWICZ** was nominated by her Dance Teacher, Yolanda Giddings for overcoming her shyness and growing in confidence and taking part in the school summer show. After starting classes later than her class friends but was able to catch up with the ballet and tap grades.

**BYRON HARROWER** was nominated by Sally Robinson, HSS Advisory Teacher, for the progress he has made over the last four years since he received his hearing aids after a late diagnosis. He has made considerable progress in all areas and is catching up with his peers largely due to his quiet resilience and hard work.

**STANLEY HOTSTON** was nominated by Elisabeth Gower, HSS Advisory Teacher, for the way he has coped and progressed since his hearing worsened and he receive cochlear implants at the age of 4. Since then he has become confident at school and is learning language at a phenomenal rate. He is very kind and caring helping his class mates and adults.

**REISS MACDONALD** was nominated by Ursula Murley, HSS Advisory Teacher, for how he has coped remarkably well with a very challenging year. He had several faults and problems with his radio aid and is now using it regularly. He attended an NDCS activity day and HSS Carey Camp which was a big step forward for him.

**KENZIE MILLS** was nominated by Sally Robinson, HSS Advisory Teacher, for the way he has coped with changes both at home and at school. He finds changes difficult but has managed these and shown a very sensible and thoughtful attitude to how his support in school is managed. He has spoken to his classes several times about his deafness. Despite other difficulties, as well, he remains upbeat. He plays a big role in helping his mum care for his two sisters, was voted sports monitor at school and played a key role in the school production being the first to speak.

**JENNIFER-MARIE ROE** was nominated by Ursula Murley, HSS Advisory Teacher, for being such a model pupil. She always wears her radio aid in lessons and manages all her equipment. She prepared a power point presentation for her new class and talked confidently about her hearing loss. She has learnt some sign language and she is always polite, positive and works to the best of her ability.

**SENIOR NOMINEES**

**ETHAN DREWETT** was nominated by his parents, Chris and Davina Drewett, for always giving 100% at school despite some areas being very challenging and he never gives up. He was in top10% in his year to make greatest progress since Yr2. He represents the school at Cross Country and received the Year 9 award for Food Technology. He attend AFC Bournemouth disability hub attending a two day trip with an overnight stay which he was extremely nervous about.

**COBIE GAWLER** was nominated by Elisabeth Gower, HSS Advisory Teacher, for his fabulous pitch to his school on Enterprise Day which resulted in his group winning the prize with his idea of ‘waterproof hearing aids’. After finding secondary school a challenge this started a spark of confidence. He was one of two students who gave a presentation to staff at school about what life is like when you cannot hear the same as your classmates and teachers.

**SEBASTIAN HARVEY-TKACHUK** was nominated by Sally Robinson, HSS Advisory Teacher, for the huge strides he has made in his ability to listen on his implanted side and overcoming other difficulties in processing information. Despite this he worked hard and he had a successful placement at the Met Office and has acquired the GCSE grades needed for his course at college.

**LYDIA KELSON** was nominated by her mother, Sally Kelson, for overcoming so many difficulties in her life. Despite her hearing loss being diagnosed late and finding school difficult as her hearing loss was not acknowledged she has blossomed and passed her practical driving test first time, completed a Level 3 Beauty Therapy course and also passed BSL Level 1 and 2 at night class.

**LUCY MORRIS** was nominated by Sue MacDermott, HSS Advisory Teacher, for her achievement in settling into a new school and having the confidence to make other people more deaf aware. After moving to the area and her first school not going well which resulted in a change of schools and home tutoring she has now settled into a new school. She has flourished and now has new confidence and resilience. She is learning BSL and gave a presentation on deafness to her class.

**CHLOE NORTHOVER** was nominated by Elisabeth Gower, HSS Advisory Teacher, for her determination to succeed after finding it difficult to approach teachers with her radio aid. She was one of two students who gave a presentation to staff to get them to understand what it is like when you cannot hear the same way as your classmates or teachers.

**SAUL PEARCE** was nominated by his mother, Sandra Mackrow, for how he overcame his anxieties when he attended the Dorset DCS PGL Activity Weekend and determinedly climbed to the top of the tall outdoor climbing wall when on a previous weekend he was adamant that he could not do it.

**TAYLA PLOWMAN** was nominated by Sue MacDermott, HSS Advisory Teacher, for the way she has coped with the transition into secondary school. She transferred from a small school to a large school of 200 pupils in her year alone and despite her sight and hearing loss she was not overwhelmed and impressed everyone with her determination and strength in a new situation. She continues to impress.

**EMILY RIDOUT** was nominated by Sally Robinson, HSS Advisory Teacher, for her self-motivation when no matter how challenging things became for her she continued to work hard and do well in her GCSE’s. Despite other difficulties and finding school challenging she continued to work hard at home and at school when she felt she could attend. She gained the GCSE grades to enable her to get a place at Weymouth College. She is admired for her self-motivation and hard work.

**MOLLY STAGG** was nominated by her mother, Gemma Stagg, for taking part in the AFC Bournemouth Community Sports despite being very nervous and shy. She has grown in confidence and spent a night away from home. She is part of the BT Disability Hub which has led to her having trials for England and was recently filmed by BT Sports.

**JAYLEIGH TILLEY** was nominated by her mother, Lynne Tilley, for her determination to complete her art portfolio and gain a place at art college and having her work picked for an exhibition in London. She took extra classes to gain her place to do a two year Art and Design course and came top in her first year.
On 14th October 2018 six amazing DDCS supporters woke up in London at 6:30 am to promises of cold weather and downpours from their phone weather apps, sighed out loud but still jumped out of bed, pulled on the lycra and trainers and headed off to the start line of the Royal Parks Half Marathon. There our team of Lisa & Jodie Forbes, Adam & Nicola Foley, Kelly Hennessy and Nicky Findley joined the other 16,000 entrants (all of whom seemed to be queueing for the loo’s) as we nervously tried to work out where we were supposed to go. Just before we made our way to the start the heavens opened (for the first of many times during day) and we all got a proper soaking! At this point I was wondering to myself how much trouble I might be in for cajoling them all into this and from all the hours of training I had seen them all putting in, I knew I wouldn’t be able to outrun any of them if they turned into a baying mob armed with pitchforks and torches and came after me. But, I was glad to see, the Team remained in great spirits. “Think about how much money you are raising for the kids” was my repetitive mantra every time I sensed one of them gritting their teeth as more rain ran down their backs…

But, in spite of the rain and an injury to Jodie’s foot on a discarded cup at a drinks station, everyone did magnificently. I watched as a proud Chairman, friend, husband and father on my tracker app. The course was magnificent, taking in four of London’s eight Royal Parks, Hyde Park, Green Park, St James’s Park and Kensington Gardens, 10 Downing Street, passing Buckingham Palace to wave at the Queen, thundering through Admiralty Arch and Trafalgar Square and many other famous landmarks. The whole way round the course was magnificent, taking in four of London's eight Royal Parks, Hyde Park, Green Park, St James’s Park and Kensington Gardens, 10 Downing Street, passing Buckingham Palace to wave at the Queen, thundering through Admiralty Arch and Trafalgar Square and many other famous landmarks. The whole way round the route was filled with tens of thousands of supporters cheering everyone on, steel bands, cheerleaders and DJs were blasting out motivational music and terrific tunes, the atmosphere was incredible, in spite of the conditions.

It was an inspirational event!

Post run and after warm showers, I asked some of our team for their thoughts on the day, this is what they had to say.

“Perhaps it was the weather (it was a wee bit wet!) but the camaraderie between the runners was particularly outstanding. Everyone was keen to encourage one another in a way I’ve not noticed at other events, and the support from the crowds along the route was exceptional too - you could have been forgiven for thinking you were taking part in the London marathon!”

“On another level, there’s something about running for a worthy cause with thousands of like-minded people that brings out the best in us - and Madeline is such a little star, it’s not hard to be inspired to get up early on a dark Sunday morning and run 13.1 miles in the rain!”

“Loved every single minute- the support was phenomenal all around the course and imagining the vast sums of money being raised by so many for such worthy causes was very humbling. A wonderful experience”

“I’ve wanted to run this half marathon for a few years now and the day was beyond any expectations. Thousands of runners who has committed to the training and fund raising come together to raise money for charities close to their hearts. I ran for a while next to a man named Ed who was raising money for a Parkinson’s disease Charity. Ed has Parkinson’s himself and shuffled a little but he was strong and determined 10 miles in. I don’t know Ed but I was inspired by him for making this huge effort, which must have been 100 times more than any of our efforts. What a great man. This is my biggest memory of the day and I know will stay with me. … We’ve all got the running bug now and it won’t be too long before we are all running again together.”

I would like to thank all the runners and their supporters again for attending and raising so much money for our charity, as at the last count the figure was at just over £3000 including gift aid and that money will benefit so many children and their families.

If anyone else has any ideas for fundraising, please let us know, every bit helps!

Last summer saw the retirement of Pat Saunders, after more than 26 years working for the Hearing Support Service. Pat started working for the service in the resource base in Sylvan School. After eight years there and a further year in the secondary base at St Edward’s, she was then based in a succession of schools in turn, supporting individual pupils who needed her specialist experience and skills. Without doubt, Pat’s abilities, her sunny disposition and her ‘can do’ attitude have made her a huge asset in every setting that she has worked in. Many pupils have benefitted from her expertise and her support. She will be missed!

But the plus for Dorset DCS is that she has joined DDCS as a Trustee and will be a great asset to the team!

Welcome to DDCS Pat!

If anyone else has any ideas for fundraising, please let us know, every bit helps!

Michele Touye Advisory Teacher with the Hearing Support Service for 16 years also retired at the end of August. All the Trustees, children and families would like to wish Michele a happy retirement!