

lollipop

Registered Charity 1105538

York & District

Supporting children, young people and families with deafness

Autumn 2024 Newsletter

Issue 28



LOLLIPOP (YORK & DISTRICT)

Supporting children, young people and families with deafness

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AGM and Trustees update

Our AGM was held online on Thursday 21st November

Two of our trustees stood down, and we are very sad to see them go as they have been involved with Lollipop for a long time. We'd like to wholeheartedly thank Nathan Armstrong and Amanda Smith for all their time and support over the years! Thank you Nathan for stepping up to the role of vice-chair and to Amanda for being a valuable link between Lollipop and the BSL programme at York St John.

Lollipop parent Stacey Corr was voted in as a trustee and we are very excited to have her onboard, welcome Stacey!

We still have two remaining vacancies on our Board for a Secretary and a Vice-Chair. If you think you might be interested, pop over to our [website](#) for more details.



Welcome Stacey!

BSL VIDEO

Our impact in 2023-2024

Research shows that Deaf children and young people are more vulnerable to poor mental health*, and are more likely to experience feelings of exclusion and isolation. Lollipop provides opportunities for members to connect and grow up with each other in a **local deaf community**. We do this by organising **inclusive, deaf-friendly activities** and deliver these free to our members. Lollipop members can meet others their own age and form a deaf peer group local to them. This builds their **confidence, their sense of belonging** to the community and supports the **development of their self-identity** as a young deaf person.

**Aanondsen, C.M., Jozefiak, T., Lydersen, S., Heiling, K. and Rimehaug, T., 2023. Deaf and hard-of-hearing children and adolescents' mental health, Quality of Life and communication. BMC psychiatry, 23(1), p.297.*

Overgaard, K.R., Oerbeck, B., Wagner, K., Friis, S., Øhre, B. and Zeiner, P., 2021. Youth with hearing loss: Emotional and behavioral problems and quality of life. International Journal of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology, 145, p.110718.

Wright, B., 2020. Mental Health in Deaf Children. U Kennedy, J., Edwards, K, J. I Wright, B.(ur.), Deafness in Children, pp.8-9.



In the academic year 2023 – 2024 we ran 16 activities in York for our 157 members aged 0 - 25

BSL VIDEO

Our Impact in 2023-2024

In the last 12 months we have:

Funded **free baby-signing classes** and **messy play sessions**, deaf-friendly **swimming courses**, unstructured **social activities**, **drama workshops**, **Lego workshops** and challenging experiences like **climbing** or **go-karting** in a deaf-friendly environment.

Held monthly **drop-in sessions** for parents to come and seek advice and support at the York Deaf Society, held at the same time as York Deaf Cafe.

Provided **communications support and/or a BSL interpreter(s)** at every event.

“Enjoys joining in with other hearing-impaired children as only him in his school. Lovely to see him joining in as often struggles in larger groups”

“Lollipop has a great sense of community”

“The activities organised by Lollipop are a really lovely way to build up confidence and meet other children like her”

Parent
comments
2023/4

Lollipop was founded in 2004 and in it's 20 years has delivered long-term support to over 250 deaf families in York and North Yorkshire.

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Autumn activities

World of Their Own,
Harrogate (ages 0 – 7)



Live for today, Ripley Castle (ages 8+)



So many wonderful interactive play opportunities!
Cheryl got put in the jailhouse!

Shelter building teamwork, archery skills
and toasted marshmallow treats!

BSL VIDEO

Autumn activities

Halloween themed Love2GetMessy for our youngest members in October!



Rachel at Love 2 Get Messy had lots of spooky-themed activities for little ones to get stuck into! Our BSL interpreter was on hand to interpret for parents who wanted to chat and to explain the activities to everyone. The activities were imaginative and wonderful fun for our members to enjoy while making new friends!

[BSL VIDEO](#)

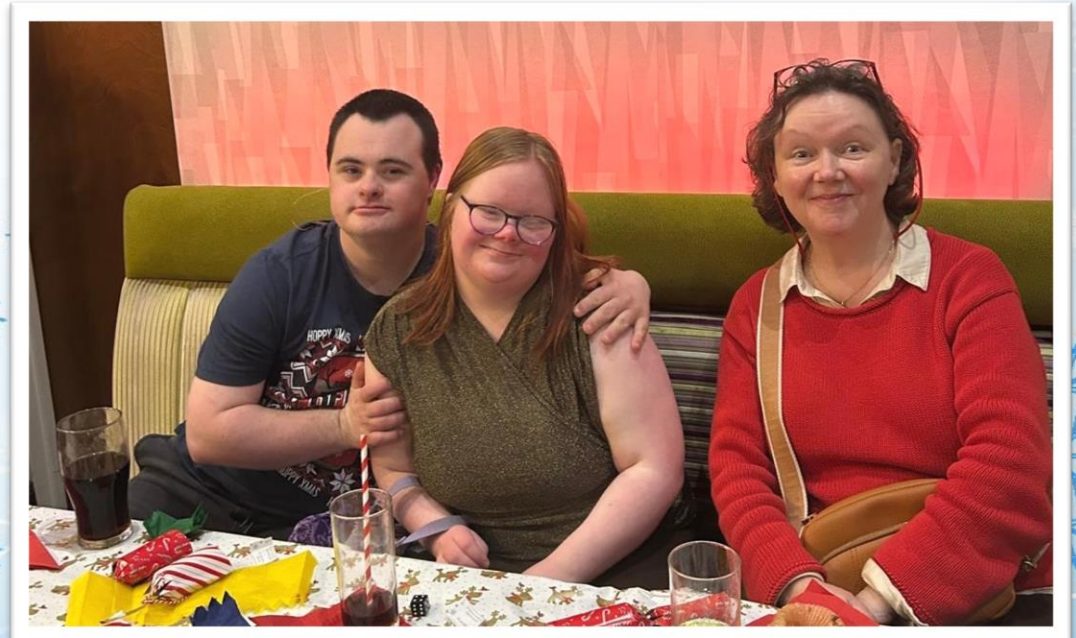
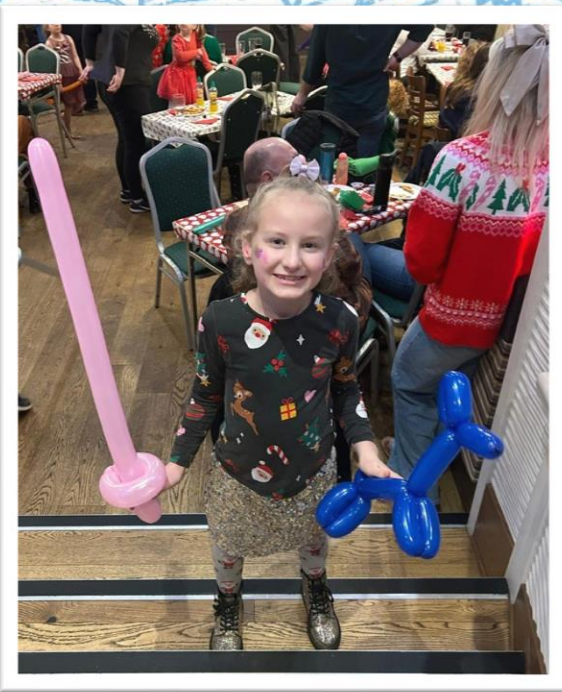
Autumn activities

Samba drums with I Can Play!



BSL VIDEO

Christmas party photos





Fundraising news and updates

We are delighted to have been successful in our funding applications to both the [Sylvia and Colin Shepherd Charitable Trust](#) and [Gay and Peter Hartley's Hillards Charitable Trust](#), who granted Lollipop £2,000 and £1,000 respectively towards activities costs.

We have been granted £4,000 this term by [Ovingdean Hall Foundation](#), also for activities costs over the next year. All our activities are free for members to attend, and these grants help to make it possible! Last but not least, we have been successful in securing £5,000 from [The Two Ridings Community Foundation](#) to contribute towards our ever-increasing running costs.



Thank you to all of these wonderful organisations for their support!

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Fundraising news and updates

Gav Young's London Marathon

Some of our readers may remember Gav was a Trustee of Lollipop for some time! He is our latest Lollipop fundraising superhero, and is in training for the London Marathon on 27th April 2025! His fundraising page will be available from early 2025 and we will share it on social media and on our website.

Thank you Gav, we'll all be cheering you on and we know you'll do Lollipop proud!

Donations!

Thank you to [Manor CE Academy](#), York who donated £250 to Lollipop in December from money raised at their non-uniform days. It was a wonderful surprise to receive the news!

We have also had an **anonymous donation of £100**. We'd love to properly thank the donor, so if they'd like to let us know who it was it would be great to hear from you!



Our Christmas prize draw and raffle raised £760 this year – thank you so much!

BSL VIDEO

Fundraising: Deaf Lottery UK and Free Wills



[Deaf Lottery UK](#) is a new weekly lottery that raises money for Deaf organisations in the UK. All the organisations that benefit from the lottery support Deaf and hard of hearing people in the UK. **There is a top prize of **£25,000**** in the weekly draw which takes place every Saturday at 8:00pm

Find out more and buy your tickets here! Good luck! 🍀

[Support Lollipop \(York & District\) when you play Deaf Lottery UK – Deaf Lottery UK](#)

Lollipop has partnered with [Free Wills](#), an online or over the phone, service that allows you to write a legally binding Will for free, in plain English, that will be checked by a solicitor before completion. It is a quick process, for most people it takes around 15 minutes.



As part of the process you will be asked to decide if you would like to leave a gift or donation to Lollipop in your Will. After the Will is written you can also access it and make changes free of charge at any time.

For more information on either Deaf Lottery UK or Free Wills visit our [fundraising webpages](#).

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Upcoming activities in 2025!

The results of our activities polls are in, and our members have spoken! We will plan to do as many of these top-requested activities in 2025 as possible, and more!

Messy play Trampoline party Soft play
Ages 0 - 7
Train party

Pizza party Chocolate workshop Go Ape
Ages 8+
Roller-skiing



January activities will take place in Harrogate.

Saturday 18th January Ages 0-4 Soft play at [Kidzplay](#)
Sunday 19th January Ages 5 – 11 Pizza party at [Pizza Express](#)
Saturday 18th January Ages 12+ [Clue HQ](#) escape rooms and lunch at [Nandos](#)

February

9th February All ages Flip Out, Poppleton

The Deaf Services Fair is back! It will take place in Deaf Awareness Week (5th – 11th May 2025).
More information will be available in Spring 2025 in the [Upcoming Activities](#) pages of our website.

BSL VIDEO

York Disability Week 2024



YorkDisabilityWeek.org

Each year a group of individuals and organisations from across York organise [York Disability Week](#). It is a wonderful programme of diverse events across the city! The programme of over 40 events is [available here](#) and it includes the Lollipop pantomime trip to the Joseph Rowntree Theatre to see a signed and captioned matinee performance of [Mother Goose](#) on 7th December.

Lollipop members and their siblings were able to attend for free due to a combination of our successful applications for activities funding this year and the support of the Joseph Rowntree Theatre who arranged match funding to cover the cost of captions for the performance. Friend of Lollipop, [Dave Wycherley of Wychsign](#), donated his time and skills to rehearsals ahead of the show which he interpreted into BSL.

Throughout the week-long run of the panto, the theatre also ran a [fundraising collection](#) for Lollipop!



Thank you so much everyone for your incredible support!

BSL VIDEO

New mental health service in York for 18 -25's

This is a new NHS mental health assessment service for deaf young adults aged 18-25 years, who live in Yorkshire and the Humber. It is a pilot service which will initially run for two years. Links to the service leaflet and **BSL** version of the leaflet are both below.

The service can provide assessments for autism, ADHD, language and communication difficulties, or social and emotional difficulties, for young adults with a severe or profound hearing loss or who prefer to use BSL. Referrals will be able to be made through Health and Social Care professionals only.

[Download leaflet here](#)

[BSL video here](#)



**Yorkshire and Humber
18-25 Deaf Mental Health
Assessment Service**

For more information about all services for the D/deaf community in York visit our [signposting webpage](#) which is full of helpful resources!

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Festive fun and games

Very best Christmas wishes to all our members and supporters! We hope you have a happy New Year and we look forward to seeing you in 2025!

We will leave you with this codebreaker puzzle to really test our members' puzzling skills! Start with the picture clues numbered 1, 2 and 3. When you work out which number corresponds to each letter fill in the table below to help you keep track!

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

The crossword puzzle grid is 15x15. Clue 1 (snowflake) is at the top left. Clue 2 (candy cane) is in the middle right. Clue 3 (gingerbread man) is at the bottom right. The grid contains numbers indicating the start of words.

Download a printable copy of the codebreaker puzzle (and answers) [here!](#)

BSL VIDEO