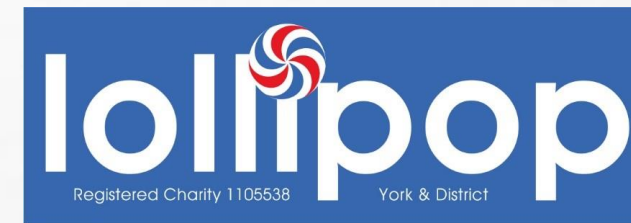


Lollipop newsletter

December 2020 - Issue 7



LOLLIPOP (YORK & DISTRICT)

Supporting children, young people and families with deafness

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- Fun & games – BSL Christmas Wordsearch
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Note: There are lots of links in this newsletter. If you want to open them in a new window each time, hold down the Control key (or Command key on a Mac) whilst clicking on the link. Otherwise, just click back in your browser to return to the newsletter.

BSL video: <https://bit.ly/2VA4fFX>

An important message...



Penny McDonald - Chair

Dear members...thank you to all those who attended the AGM and have replied to the recent poll that we sent out.

As you may be aware, our big Lottery grant finishes at the end of April 2021. This means that £60,000 (over half of our yearly funding) including most of the payment for the Minster building lease (approx. £21,000 plus on costs) will stop.

Covid-19 has made it difficult to apply for continuation funding as most new large grant funding has been given to Covid-related projects.

Since we can't guarantee that we can afford a lease after March next year, Trustees have made the difficult decision to leave the Minster building and support staff to work from home until we are clear about what we need in the future.

This is where your feedback can help....

Parent poll: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XKK9WHS

Youth poll: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XK2NSZ2

BSL video: <https://bit.ly/37m46eB>

The future of Lollipop...

When applying for funding it's important that Lollipop decides how we should support children and families in the future - all funders ask for this. We need to gather as much information as possible about what our members would like Lollipop to look like going forwards.

To date, we've only had 24 parents and 6 youths reply to the poll, but we have 175 families on our membership list. If you haven't replied yet, please do - it should only take 5 minutes. Lollipop staff will also be making phone calls to members, who haven't filled in the poll, to ask for their thoughts.

The most important question that we are asking is '**Should Lollipop continue?**' People replying so far definitely think it should but maybe in a different way. We will continue to discuss what this might look like at our Trustee meetings.

Please remember that Lollipop is still there for you, online or at the end of a telephone.

If anyone would like to contact me personally with ideas, please email chair@lollipop.org.uk

Stay safe and hope to see as many of you as possible at the Lollipop Christmas party,

Penny McDonald, Chair on behalf of the Trustees

Parent poll: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XKK9WHS

Youth poll: www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/XK2NSZ2

BSL video: <https://bit.ly/39xjnf5>

Lollipop Christmas Party

What a year this has been but we made it!!!

Can you believe it's December, and nearly Christmas already?

Just when we thought 2020 would never end, here it is like a great big treat at the end of a rubbish year.

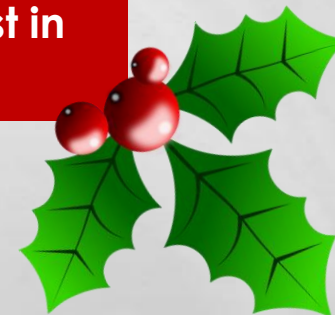
To celebrate we've planned a marvellous online Christmas Party on **Saturday 12 December at 1.30pm.**

Read on to find out what exciting things we have planned...

WE REALLY CAN'T WAIT TO SEE YOU ALL THERE!



You should have received your invitation by now, so please check your inbox and junk folder (just in case!) and book your places.



BSL video: <https://bit.ly/39w7uq0>

Festive fun for all the family!

Even though it won't be the same as our usual face-to-face parties, we can still make it good fun and have a brilliant time. This year we'll be:

- ❖ **showing off our Christmas Jumpers – or hats, socks, gloves, dresses, anything Christmassy!**
- ❖ **learning to 'Sing & Sign' a Christmas Carol**
- ❖ **making some cool Christmas tree decorations with paper (don't forget your paper, scissors and glue)**
- ❖ **entertained by an awesome magic show from the Amazing Stephen!!**

And last but not least... there'll be an appearance from a very special guest. Yes, that's right, **FATHER CHRISTMAS** himself!!! (see the back page of this newsletter for his personal message to everyone at Lollipop.)

BSL video: <https://bit.ly/2Vo674g>



Meet our Ambassador



Music to our ears

[Paul Whittaker](#) was born in Huddersfield in 1964 and has been deaf since birth. He knew from a young age he wanted to be a musician and, after getting a music degree from Wadham College Oxford and a post-graduate diploma from the RNCM, he founded “[Music and the Deaf](#)” to encourage deaf people to access and enjoy music. He ran this for 27 years before leaving in 2015 to pursue a freelance career.

In 1992 Paul began signing musical shows in the West End and on tour, including Les Miserables, Cats, and West Side Story. He has appeared at the BBC Proms, Edinburgh International Festival, Aldeburgh Festival and worked with The Sixteen, Rambert Dance and Opera North.



Paul Whittaker, OBE
(Lollipop Ambassador)

He has been awarded honorary degrees from the University of Huddersfield and the Open University and in 2007 was given an OBE for services to Music. Paul has known about Lollipop for many years and is delighted and honoured to support their wonderful work.

BSL video: <https://bit.ly/2l04alm>

Paul's Christmas message to our members...



Hello everyone, I'm delighted to send you this message and hope you are all safe and well.

I've been involved with Lollipop for many years but feel rather bad that recently I haven't supported you as much as I should. Forgive me!

I did join the AGM and it was great to find out what was going on. I want to say a huge "Thank you and well done" to all the staff, Trustees, volunteers, parents, children and supporters for your hard work in what has been a very difficult year. Online meetings and activities are not perfect but they mean we can still see each other, communicate and chat.

This year my work should have taken me to Germany, France, Austria and South America but, of course, I have been stuck at home. I've been out walking a lot, exploring the area where I live, and realise how lucky we are to live in Yorkshire - such a great place and a beautiful part of the world.

Paul's Video Message (Signed & Spoken): <https://youtu.be/1uPtjj6GDEw>

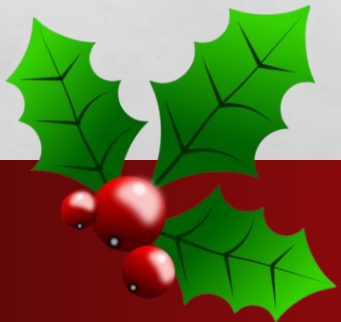
Paul's message continued...

I've also kept busy by signing and filming lots of songs for schools, music services, online choirs and different organisations. I must have done about 250 videos since lockdown started. I know a lot of people appreciate watching the videos and learning to sign songs. Music is very important socially, emotionally and mentally and being able to share that with others has been amazing.

As we approach Christmas we still don't know if we can meet family and friends and celebrate together. It is difficult but the situation will end, it's only temporary. We must keep smiling, supporting and encouraging each other, and next year we will all meet again.

I'd like to finish with a song. It feels appropriate - it's from the film "Home Alone." Remember the good times and the bad times, remember each other, stay safe and well, and a Merry Christmas to you all.

LYRICS ON THE NEXT PAGE SO YOU CAN SING ALONG!



Paul's Video Message (Signed & Spoken): <https://youtu.be/1uPtjj6GDEw>

‘Somewhere in my memory’ - John Williams

Candles in the window, shadows painting the ceiling,
gazing at the fire glow, feeling that gingerbread feeling.
Precious moments, special people, happy faces I can see.

Somewhere in my memory, Christmas joys all around me,
Living in my memory.
All of the music, all of the magic, all of the family
Home, here with me,

Memories of my childhood - I would be six or seven -
I would wake when dawn would, living in Christmas Day heaven.
Precious moments, special people, happy faces I can see.

Somewhere in my memory, all of these dreams all around me,
Living in my memory.
All of the music, all of the magic, all of the family
Home, here with me.



If you fancy getting into the Christmas spirit early, why not watch these fabulously festive scenes set to the ‘Home Alone’ soundtrack...guaranteed to make you feel Christmassy and in a festive frame of mind for the Lollipop party on 12 December!

www.youtube.com/watch?v=5kHH6LJpEbQ

Paul’s Video Message (Signed & Spoken): <https://youtu.be/1uPtjj6GDEw>

Eyes down for York Disability Week



7PM FRIDAY 4 DECEMBER 2020
REGISTER BY WED 2 DECEMBER 2020

As part of the annual York Disability Week we would like to invite everyone, young or old, to join our online Bingo Party!

(Love to Shop vouchers up for grabs - £10 for a line and £15 for a full house)

JOIN US FOR A FULL HOUSE OF FUN FROM THE SAFETY OF YOUR OWN HOME!

BSL interpreter and live captions provided.
For more info and to book visit:

<https://www.lollipopryork.org.uk/charityevent/lollipopfamilybingo/>



28 NOV – 5 DEC 2020
www.yorkdisabilityweek.org

PROMOTING AN EQUAL, INCLUSIVE & ACCESSIBLE YORK

BSL video: <https://bit.ly/36swrRj>

Ready...steady...quiz!



Lollipop now runs a monthly virtual quiz every third Friday of the month.

Staying in is the new going out, so why not make a night of it and test your knowledge at the same time? Feeling competitive? Spread the word! This is a public event - anyone can join - so you can take your friends on too!

Help support Lollipop

There's an entry fee of just £3 with cash prizes to be won. So not only will you have lots of fun, but you'll be supporting Lollipop at the same time, and in the current climate we need your support more than ever!

There's no deadline for this event. All you need to do is register to play and pay before the quiz starts, then log in for 8pm. **The next quiz is on Friday 18 December.** Please look out for reminders in your emails and on social media. Thanks and good luck!

If you have any queries, please email Anna at info@lollipoppyork.org.uk

BSL video: <https://bit.ly/36qy3uB>

Lollipop Christmas raffle



Our Christmas raffle is being held online this year!

It's easy to buy tickets on our [raffle Virgin Money Giving page](#). Tickets are just £1 each and the top prize is £100 cash, plus lots of other great prizes to be won!

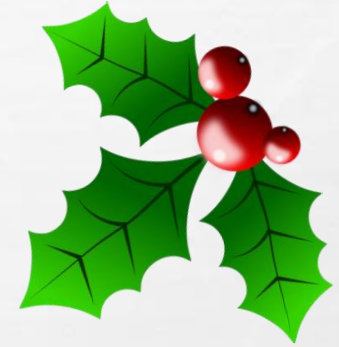
There are many Lollipop families who sell a large number of tickets to friends and family each year. We hope that you'll still be able to do this by simply sending them the link to the tickets page above. The draw will be live on Zoom on 12 December!

Read on to find out how to be in it to win it! 😊

Every ticket sold raises much needed funds for Lollipop at this difficult time and will help our Christmas raffle be full of festive fun for our members!

BSL video: <https://bit.ly/3mv9IPA>

How to enter



Enter the online raffle by donating to our raffle Virgin Money Giving page (link below).

Buy tickets: <https://virginmoneygiving.com/fund/lollipoppyorkraffle2020>

Please make sure you include your name and contact details so we can contact you if you win a prize!

The Lollipop Christmas elves will add your entries into the draw which will be held LIVE on Zoom at 3.30pm on **Saturday 12 December** so tune in after the Christmas party to see the lucky winners revealed!

Register for the live Zoom raffle draw here: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/128515913557>

Please share the links with your friends, family and on social media to help us raise as much as possible and make our Christmas party full of Christmas spirit! **Ticket sales will be open until midday on Thursday 10 December.**

BSL video: <https://bit.ly/39sd1xL>

Birthday fundraisers!

★HAPPY★
BIRTHDAY!

A massive THANK YOU to two supporters who recently had birthday fundraisers on Facebook for Lollipop!

It's support like this that makes all the difference and helps to raise awareness of the work we do among your friends and family.

Could you start a fundraiser like this one for your next birthday?

If so, please make sure you tag the Lollipop page [@lollipop.york](https://www.facebook.com/lollipop.york) so we can thank you for your super support!



BSL video: <https://bit.ly/3mmnlpb>

Shop with AmazonSmile

1. Visit 2. Login 3. Shop

smile.amazon.co.uk

Support **lollipop**



If you are Christmas shopping with Amazon in the coming weeks, why not use AmazonSmile and select Lollipop as your chosen charity?

AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices and shopping features as Amazon.co.uk. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate a portion of the purchase price from your items when you select Lollipop as your charity of choice.

It really is that simple, just visit AmazonSmile, login to your Amazon account as usual and start shopping!

www.smile.amazon.co.uk

BSL video: <https://bit.ly/3fRxQnw>

Giving Tuesday

Giving Tuesday is on 1 December and is a global day of giving where everyone, everywhere can do something to support the good causes that mean the most to them!

You can find out more at:

<https://www.lollipoppyork.org.uk/fundraising/giving-tuesday2020/>

Text LOLLIPOPTWO to 70450 to donate £2

Text LOLLIPOPTEN to 70450 to donate £10

message costs the donation amount plus a standard rate message

**Make a
#GivingTuesdayPledge
to support us by...**

...donating the cost of
your office Christmas
jumper day...

Text LOLLIPOPTWO to 70450
to make a one-off £2 donation

... or sending e-cards
instead of Christmas
cards and donating the
money saved.
(Good for the planet too!)

Text LOLLIPOPTEN to 70450
to make a one-off £10
donation

**THANK
YOU**

#GivingTuesday

BSL video: <https://bit.ly/3loOpZa>

BSL CHRISTMAS WORD SEARCH

Fun & games

BSL Word Search

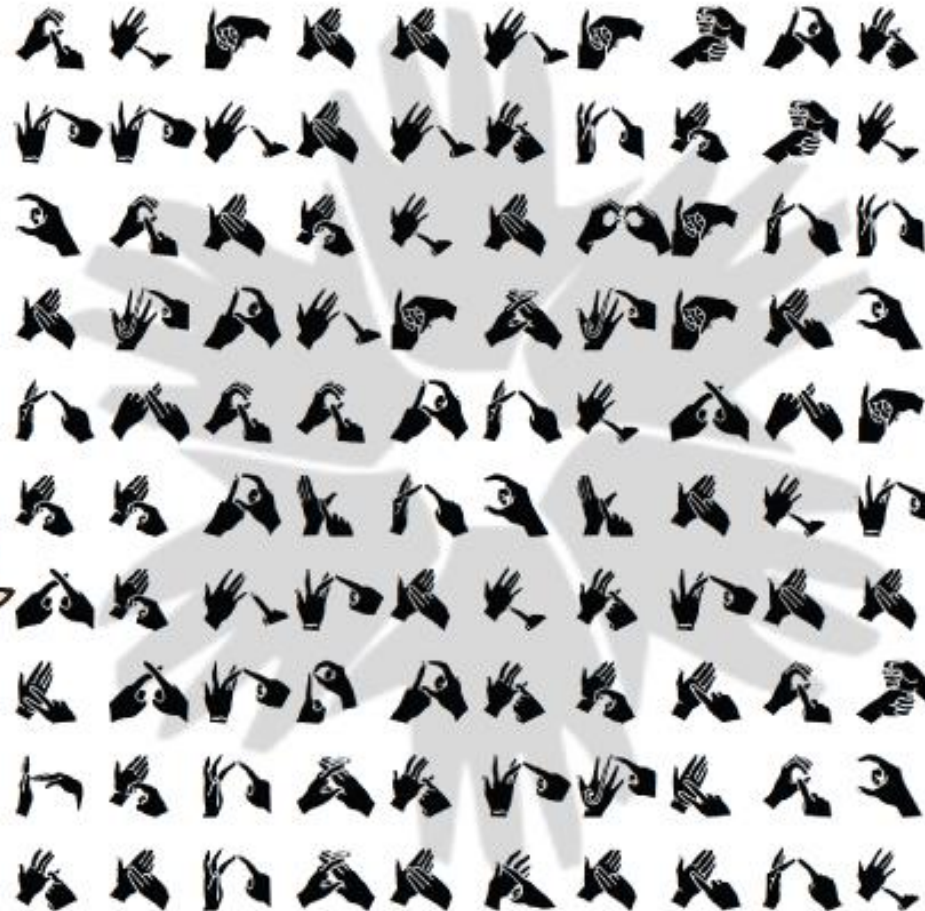
We've got a festive puzzle for you this month courtesy of www.british-sign.co.uk

Can you see the fingerspelled signs for 'stocking', 'turkey', 'snowman' and 'elf'?

Can't sign? Don't worry.

The BSL alphabet is at the back of our [November newsletter](#).

Why not give it a go?!



Solutions to last month's word search on the next page...

BSL video: <https://bit.ly/3mxA1il>

HALLOWEEN WORD SEARCH



Witch



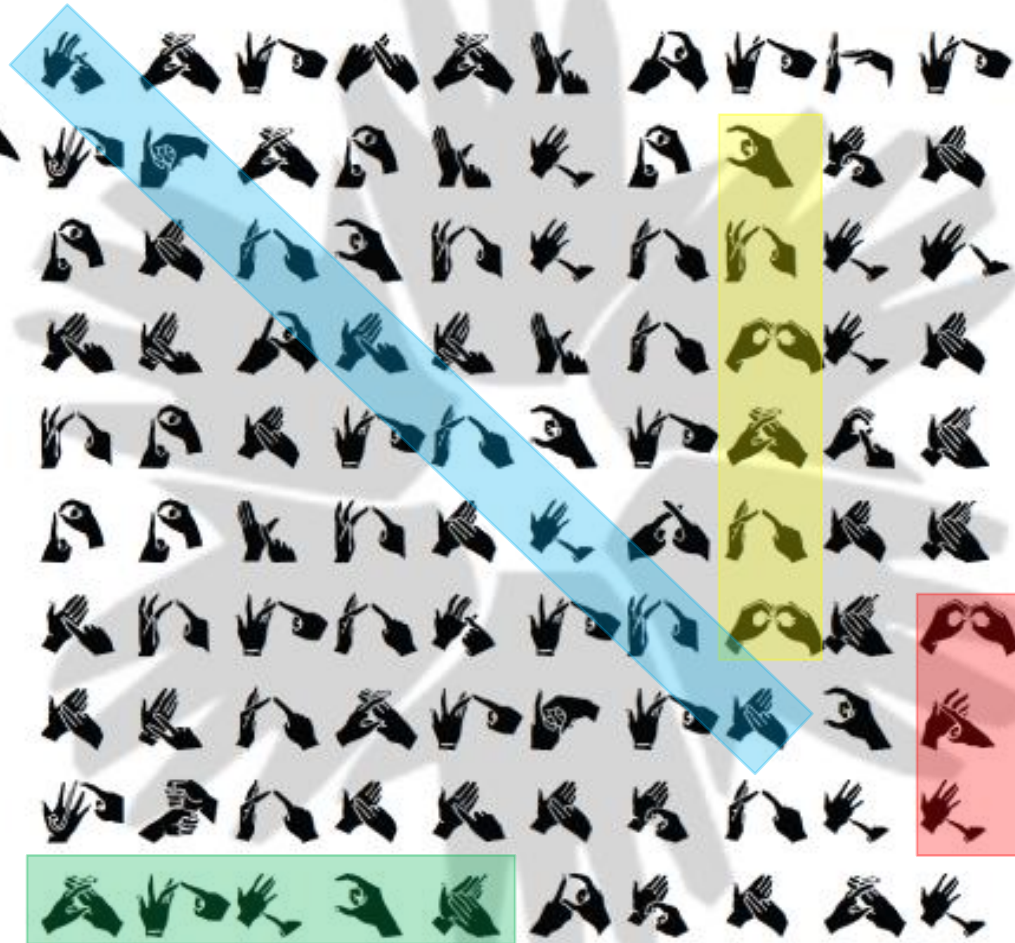
Bat



Skeleton



Cobweb



HALLOWEEN WORDSEARCH ANSWERS!

Special message from Santa



Father Christmas (AKA Santa)
Coming soon to the Lollipop
Christmas Party on 12 December!

Ho! Ho! Ho! Lovely to see you all.

My home in Greenland is waking up to Christmas!

Me and my lovely team of mischievous elves are working hard to bring you an amazing Lollipop Christmas party on Zoom.

I will be taking part in the carol sing-and-sign (after some much needed practice with Elf Cher!)

Please do join us if you can!

So looking forward to meeting you all at the Christmas party to give your well-earned presents after a difficult year.

Be good and help along with the Christmas spirit.

See you soon Ho, Ho, Ho!

You should have received your invitation to the Lollipop Christmas Party on Sat 12 Dec so please check your email and book your places.

BSL video: <https://bit.ly/33A0XXk>



WE WISH ALL OUR VALUED MEMBERS AND SUPPORTERS A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY,
PEACEFUL NEW YEAR!