

THURS 4 MAY 2023 | 6-8PM

SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS

York Deaf Services Fair



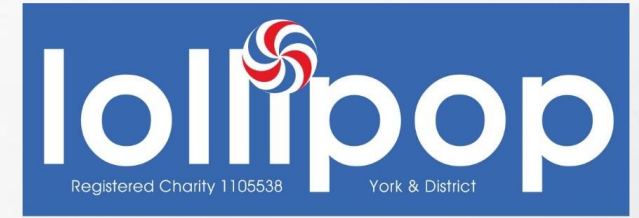
Spring 2023 newsletter

Issue 23

LOLLIPOP (YORK & DISTRICT)

Supporting children, young people and families with deafness

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Cover photo: Deaf Services Fair 2023 organised and hosted by Lollipop – see inside for details!

[**BSL VIDEO**](#)

Lottery success

If you've been following the local news and Lollipop socials, you can't fail to have heard about our recent funding success! Thanks to the National Lottery Community Fund, we've secured an amazing £285K to support our work over the next 3 years.

Acting Service Manager, Deb, was interviewed about the grant win by BBC Radio York and we even featured in [The York Press](#)



"This is such fantastic news, the funding will enable us to continue our work, providing a safe space for deaf children, young people and their families to connect and share experiences together that they may not otherwise get to have. Attending Lollipop activities creates a sense of belonging and increases the confidence of members...confidence they can then take forward into every aspect of their lives as they grow up. We are very excited about the future of the charity and aim to build upon and expand our activities as a result of the amazing support from the Lottery Fund." - Laura Walker (Chair)

The team are thrilled to be able to continue supporting you and your family, and massively excited to be planning lots of fun activities and events for the years ahead!

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Recent activities

Brilliant bowling and burger party



On 25 February, our Junior and Youth members headed to [Tenpin, York](#) to catch up with friends and show off their awesome bowling skills!

Having worked up a healthy appetite they chatted and compared scores over tasty burgers and fries.



[Click here](#) to see more photos of them in action and find out who topped the leader boards!

Wacky Warehouse

On 26 February, our pre-schoolers and parents had a whale of a time at the [Flying Legends Wacky Warehouse](#).



The little ones burnt off some energy dashing around the soft play area, with its cargo nets, ball pits and slides, whilst parents relaxed and chatted over coffee and cake. What a great way to kick off the year!

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Activity poll – the votes are in!

We LOVE to hear directly from members about the sort of activities you'd most like to do.

At our recent bowling trip we asked Juniors and Youths to rank a selection of activities to help us plan the perfect activity schedule for the year ahead. Here are the results!

Lollipop Juniors (5 – 11)

1	Lego party / Mini golf
2	Alpaca walking
3	Climbing wall
4	Archery
5	Agility
6	Axe throwing

Lollipop Youth (12+)

1	Mini golf/ Climbing wall
2	Archery
3	Axe throwing
4	Agility
5	Alpaca walking



We got some great suggestions from both age groups too. Plenty of awesome ideas to keep us busy!

Deb has already taken your feedback on board, so keep an eye out for our Junior [Lego Party](#) and Youth trip to [Puttstars](#), the home of mini golf, later this month!

Plus an [Agility](#) activity for the little ones.

See email invites for full details!

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Volunteer news

Our latest recruit

LUCY



Lucy is a Social Policy student at the University of York and has recently passed her Level 2 qualification in BSL. Huge congratulations, Lucy!

She has worked and volunteered with the Anna Freud National Centre for Children and Families and is passionate about young people's mental health.

Lucy hopes to find out more about D/deaf culture, develop her signing skills, and use her caring nature and creativity to support our work.

Please join us in giving Lucy a very warm welcome!

Skill sharing



If you came to our [Christmas party](#) you may have seen [Leah Jackson](#) with her trusty camera capturing some of the afternoon's festive highlights! Leah is a former Lollipop member who went on to complete a degree in Photography at Sheffield Hallam University.

We're really grateful to her for volunteering her skills and have invited her back for our **[Deaf Services Fair in May!](#)**

Fond farewell



Student Zoe is taking a step back from volunteering to focus on her degree in Social Work at the University of York. She will be sadly missed but we'd like to say a huge thank-you for all her support over the past year and wish her good luck for the future!

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Sign Language Week

13 -19 March is [Sign Language Week](#), an annual event run by the [British Deaf Association \(BDA\)](#). This year marks the 20th anniversary of British Sign Language (BSL) being acknowledged as a language in its own right by the UK Parliament and almost a year since it was finally recognised in law by the BSL Act (2022).

The theme for this year's campaign is: **“Protecting BSL”** and the aim is to encourage people of all ages to find out more about Deaf language and culture and take up the challenge of learning BSL for themselves.

Help support the BDA's mission to protect, preserve and promote this beautiful, unique, visual language for future generations to come:

- Ask your primary school to [complete this form](#) to take part in a FREE BSL lesson hosted by Signature at 10am on Wed 15 March - the UK's largest BSL lesson online!
- Support the campaign for free BSL classes for parents and carers of Deaf children by [signing this petition](#).
- Whether you are deaf or hearing, a parent, a young person, or a teacher, please show your support for a BSL GCSE by [completing this survey](#).



[BSL VIDEO](#)

Our Deaf Services Fair is back!

All the support and opportunities available for D/deaf people living in and around York, in one place!

Following the success of our first Deaf Services Fair in 2022, preparations are underway for 2023 and we're aiming to make this year even bigger and better! The event is open to the public, FREE to attend, and BSL interpreters will be on hand to help. What better way to celebrate Deaf Awareness Week!

- *Do you have any degree of deafness from mild to profound?*
- *Do you have a D/deaf friend or family member?*
- *Perhaps you work with or support D/deaf people?*

Whatever your connection, we'd love to welcome you!

Come along to find out more about the support and opportunities available to the local D/deaf community. Visit stands from local charities, organisations and services to discover what's on offer, ask questions and perhaps share your own experiences and ideas for improving access and support for D/deaf people.



[BSL VIDEO](#)

Here are the charities, organisations and services who have confirmed their attendance so far!



DEAF
IDENTITY

EWING FOUNDATION
for deaf children

Harrogate Deaf Society

healthwatch
York



Sign With
Sarah-Jade



York & District Deaf
Society (YDDS)



There are still a few places available so if you or an organisation you know would like to host a stand or display resources at the Deaf Services Fair, please contact Abi at: mentor@lollipopyork.org.uk

[BSL VIDEO](#)

YorSensory Hub relaunch

It's been all go since for the **YorSensory** team since they moved into their new base in Wilberforce House last summer. Their brand-new demonstration Hub showcasing equipment designed to support people living with hearing loss, sight loss or both officially opened to the public on 20 February.

Having worked through the effects of the pandemic, the service has continued to see a rise in the level of enquiries and support required.

In the last six months it has:

- dealt with 247 enquires, 26% relating to deafness;
- completed 50 Community Sensory Assessments;
- given out 761 pieces of advice or information
- designed, reviewed, and expanded the requirements of their brand-new demonstration Hub.



[BSL VIDEO](#)

YorSensory equipment demonstration

With many pieces of equipment being discontinued or updated since the old Hub in Huntington closed, the YorSensory Team have taken the opportunity to update their selection of telephones, alerting devices, tinnitus relieving devices, daily living aids, technology and much more. This has included working with suppliers nationally to source the most modern and practical solutions.

They have also welcomed the opportunity to develop a relationship with [SignVideo](https://signvideo.co.uk) to improve accessibility for the BSL community. The team have a subscription to the Video Relay Service and Video Remote Interpreting service enabling people to call them or drop in!

Drop In: **Mon-Fri 10-3pm*** at Wilberforce House, The Grove, York, YO24 1AN or contact them at:



01904 202292

07580 750346 (Text)



enquiry@yorsensory.org.uk



<https://signvideo.co.uk/sign-directory/>
and search 'Wilberforce Trust'. Or scan this QR code:



YorSensory will also have an information stand at our [Deaf Services Fair](#) on 4 May so why not pop down to say hello!

* On the last Wednesday of each month, the Hub will be open 9am-1pm to allow for team meetings and training.

[BSL VIDEO](https://signvideo.co.uk)

Local D/deaf club and charity unite

Jorvik Deaf Connections (JDC) has recently merged with **York & District Deaf Society (YDDS)**. The combined Deaf social club is now chaired by Albert Thompson with Tom Bell as Vice-Chair. It meets at [Oloman House 376A Huntington Road, York, YO31 9HP](#) (next to the Tesco Express) and is open to D/deaf adults, teens, children and anyone with a connection to the deaf community.



Friday socials

Last Friday of every month,
6-10pm:

- 31 March
- 28 April
- 26 May
- 30 June

Members: FREE + £1 contribution (optional)

Non-members: £2 visitor fee + £1 contribution (optional)



Saturdays

Second Saturday of every month.

Doors open at 2pm, eyes down at 3pm:

- 11 March
- 8 April
- 13 May
- 10 June

YDDS and JDC are in the process of merging their social media channels so if you would like more info in the meantime, please contact jorvikdeafconnections@gmail.com

[BSL VIDEO](#)

NEW monthly drop-in for parents

On 7 March we launched our NEW monthly drop-in at York & District Deaf Society (YDDS). We will be there every month alongside Deaf Café for you to drop in with your questions or simply pop by for a chat.

Lollipop drop-in

Open to Lollipop parents, family members, carers and friends, plus older members of Lollipop.

Cheryl, our Parent Liaison Officer, who is both an English speaker and BSL user will be on hand to help.

Come along to ask Lollipop any questions, or simply relax with a hot drink and enjoy a chat with others who might share similar experiences.

For more information email Cheryl at: parentsupport@lollipop.york.org.uk



WHEN: Monthly on Tuesdays

18 April | 16 May | 13 June | 11 July

Lollipop drop-in: 9.30am – Midday

Deaf Café: 10am – Midday

WHERE: York & District Deaf Society
[376a Huntington Road, York, YO31 9HP](https://www.york.gov.uk/council/council-office/376a-huntington-road)

Deaf Café

Deaf Café is a monthly group organised by the [Deaf and Hearing Support Team](#) at City of York Council.

It provides opportunities to meet and spend time with other people who are Deaf or have hearing loss and attend talks on everything from local deaf services to fire safety, staying safe online and much more!

For more information email Annalee at: annalee.green@york.gov.uk

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Fundraising news

The BIG news, of course, has been our successful bid to the National Lottery Community Fund but that's not all!

- Last year's Christmas prize draw and raffle was an absolute cracker, with prize donations and ticket sales raising over **£1,200**. Thank-you to everyone who helped to make this such a success!
- Lollipop continues to be part of the [Co-op Local Community Fund](#) until 21 October 2023 – the scheme has already raised over **£360** for us so huge thanks to all the Co-op members who have chosen to support our cause.
- Amazon ended its AmazonSmile customer donation programme on 20 February to pursue and invest in other community projects. We're immensely grateful to everyone who supported us by shopping with AmazonSmile in recent years. Together you raised over **£110**.
- We've since found an even easier way to support Lollipop for FREE whenever you shop online. Read on to find out all about [Easy Fundraising](#), our latest community donations and more fun ways you can get involved!



[BSL VIDEO](#)

Supporting Lollipop is easier than ever!

Easyfundraising



Lollipop has registered with [easyfundraising](#), the UK's biggest charity shopping site!

This means that over 7,000 brands will now donate to us for FREE every time you use #easyfundraising to shop with them.

Turn your daily shopping into everyday magic!

Signing up to support Lollipop is quick, easy and completely FREE. We've raised over **£275** already! Just visit our cause page and follow the steps to get started.

<https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/lollipopYork/>

PayPal Giving

It's now even easier to make a one-off donation to Lollipop or set up a regular monthly payment of your choice to show your support.



Simply scan the QR code above or click on the red donate button (also featured in the top right corner of [our website](#))

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Community donations

Whilst the majority of our funding comes from grant applications, we still have to raise **20%** of our budget every year. Some of this is done through our own fundraising events, but regular donations from friends, supporters, and members of the local community make a HUGE difference!

Sporting heroes



Last October, Luke Zwalf (left) and Sam Walker (right) conquered the London and Yorkshire Marathons respectively – between them raising a whopping **£1630** for Lollipop.

School support

We love it when local schools get involved! Massive shout-out to the children, teachers and parents at Manor School and Copmanthorpe Primary for raising over **£500** between them with their non-uniform days on 3 Jan and 11 Feb.



Family fundraising

Last but not least, a huge thank-you to Ann-Marie Field for her surprise **£500** donation!

And to Deborah White who knitted and sold this wonderful array of toys, hats, gloves, scarves and baby clothes at her local church Christmas Fair raising **£305**.



Thank-you so much to ALL our supporters. We couldn't do what we do without you!

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Upcoming fundraisers

There are LOADS of ways you can raise money for Lollipop – here are two that might take your fancy!

ST CRUX – SAT 24 JUNE

Our pop-up sale and café at St Crux Parish Hall has become a regular fixture in our fundraising calendar!



As always, we'll be looking to our generous supporters to help make, bake or donate items for sale or help out on the day, be that manning a stall or serving delicious refreshments!

DRAGON BOAT CHALLENGE – SUN 9 JULY

Lollipop have officially entered the [York Rotary Dragon Boat Challenge](#) and we're looking for team members to paddle the good ship Lollipop to victory!

If you fancy dressing up in something silly and racing down the river for a great cause, [click here](#) to find out more!



We need

YOU!



If you'd like to **HELP OUT AT ST CRUX** or **JOIN OUR DRAGON BOAT RACE TEAM**, we'd **LOVE** to have you on board! Please get in touch with Anna at info@lollipopryork.org.uk for more info.

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Fun and games

Ready for some more seasonal fun?

Spring is the perfect season to spot rainbows, so why not take the opportunity to learn the colours of the rainbow in BSL!

If the pictures to the right are a little hard to follow, this short sing & sign YouTube video should help (simply click the icon below to watch)



SING A RAINBOW



Red and yellow and pink and green, purple



and orange and blue. I can sing



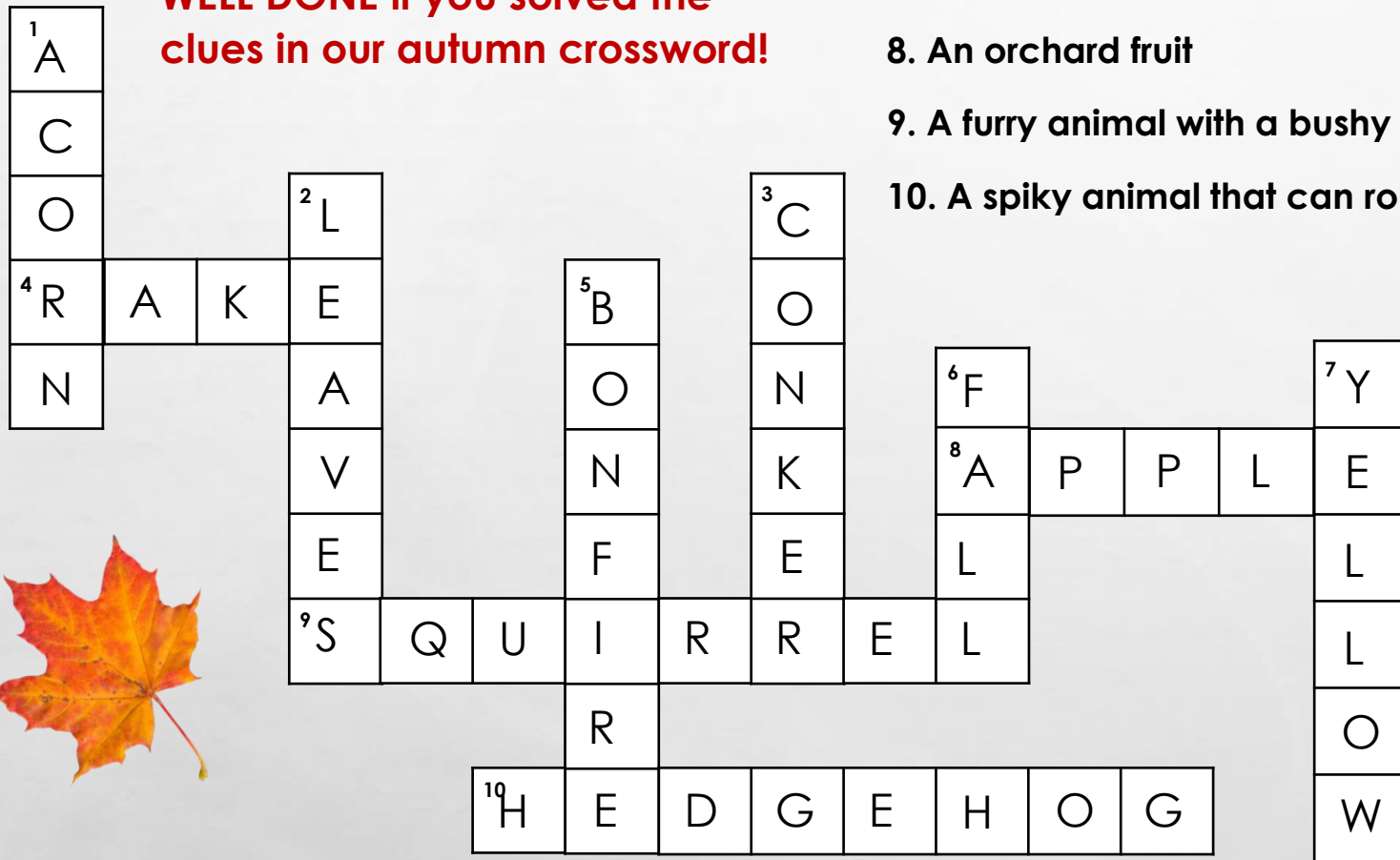
a rainbow, sing a rainbow, sing a rainbow too.

Answers to our autumn crossword on the next page...

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Puzzle answers

WELL DONE if you solved the clues in our autumn crossword!



Across:

- 4. Use one of these to tidy up fallen leaves
- 8. An orchard fruit
- 9. A furry animal with a bushy tail
- 10. A spiky animal that can roll into a ball

Down:

- 1. The seed of an oak tree
- 2. They fall from the trees in autumn
- 3. It falls from a horse chestnut tree and can be used to play games
- 5. You might light one of these to burn leaves and twigs
- 6. Another word for autumn
- 7. A colour you might see autumn leaves change to

Useful resources

NDCS support



Did you know that Lollipop is an affiliated member of the NDCS?

As such we REALLY encourage you to make the most of their amazing resources:

- [Services for families](#)
- [Deaf children & young people \(8-18\)](#)
- [Deaf young adults \(19-25\)](#)

[Become a member](#) and you can unlock FREE access to even more great benefits!

Childcare choices

Over a million families in the UK are entitled to some form of government childcare support.



But many are missing out because they aren't aware of what's available or don't realise they are eligible.

Visit the [Childcare Choices website](#) to see what help YOU could get.

Sign with Sarah-Jade



A former Lollipop member (whose children are now members!) is running a 4-week sign language course in Selby on Tuesdays (10am-Midday) from 18 April to 9 May.

The course is perfect for beginners or anyone wanting to brush up on their skills and practice in a relaxed and fun environment.

She is also launching a 6 week 'introduction to baby-signing' group in Brayton on Thursdays (10-11am) from 20 April to 25 May. For more information about any of her classes, visit her [Facebook page](#) or email her at: signwithsarah-jade@hotmail.com

That's all for now. Hope you enjoy the rest of the Spring Term! Our next newsletter will be winging its way to you just before the summer hols!

[BSL VIDEO](#)