

Spring 2024 Newsletter

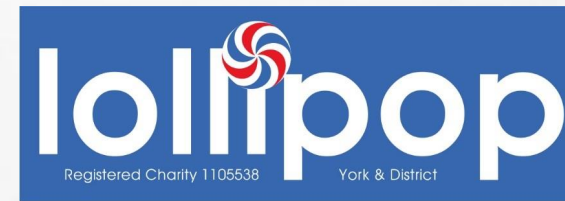
Issue 26



LOLLIPOP (YORK & DISTRICT)

Supporting children, young people and families with deafness

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Image: vecteezy.com

Cover image: Point Zero, 27th January 2024

BSL VIDEO

Trustees Update

A massive thank you to out-going Secretary Jayne Ball

Jayne has served as Lollipop Secretary since 2021, time flies! We are of course very sad to see her go but we all send our best wishes and a huge thank you for the commitment and time she has put into the role.

Welcome to our new Treasurer, Rebecca Bowes!

Rebecca Bowes has replaced Jason Drobig as Lollipop Treasurer, but we are very happy to say that Jason is staying on the Board as a trustee.

This means there is a **vacancy for a Secretary** which we will be working to fill in the coming weeks. Details of what the role involves can be found [here](#). We would love to welcome you to our friendly team if you think you have the skills required!



Thank you Jayne!



Welcome Becca!

If you have any questions about the Secretary role please email Heidi at servicemanager@lollipop.org.uk

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Welcome to all our new members!

Over the past year, with funding support from The Lottery Community Fund we have welcomed 11 new families to Lollipop! These are some of the comments from members and parents from our recent survey...

"Made friends with another's child in our area. They now play on same football team, go to each others houses to play. Walks in the woods etc. Parents have also made friends."

"Opportunity to feel normal and equal to everyone else for a while."

"This is the time for our daughter to spend time in a caring safe space with other deaf people."

"Both us and our daughter have made friends at Lollipop, through drop in sessions in the past and activities later on. Sharing experiences, supporting each other and at the same time have fun."

"My son made friends with a boy and was happy because "he is Deaf like me"

"Able to talk to other parents with deaf children and gain peer support."

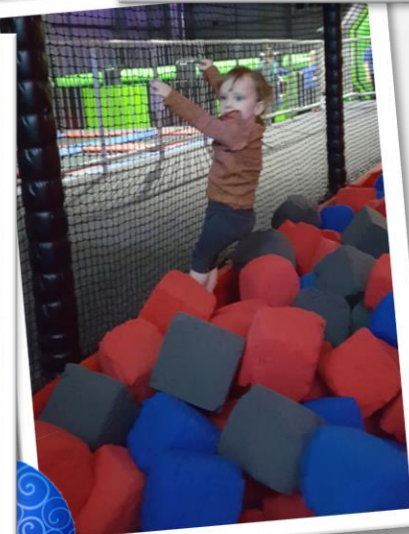


94% of parents who responded to our survey said they either 'strongly agreed' or 'agreed' that Lollipop activities support their child's mental and emotional wellbeing 😊

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Action Packed Fun!

Early in the Spring term members of all ages were invited to [Point Zero \(now called Flip Out!\)](#) for an evening exclusively for them! The lights were turned up and the music turned down so everyone could enjoy an inclusive session, followed by pizza and chips afterwards!



Over sixty members and siblings came to our Point Zero activity!

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Hollywood Bowl

Older members (age 8+) teamed up for bowling in February. There were new friendships made and we welcomed back some members who hadn't attended for a long time!



[Click for more photos!](#)

York Theatre Royal

Younger members (age 0-7) saw a show, Can Bears Ski? at the Theatre Royal. After the show they were invited on stage to explore the set together! A big thank you to both venues for being such brilliant hosts!



[Click for more photos!](#)

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Coming up soon... dates for your diary!

Saturday 20th April | Ages 5 – 11 and 12+

Pottery painting and delicious donuts at [Doe Bakehouse](#), in Layerthorpe!

Saturday 27th April | Age 0-4

Messy Play at St Mary's Church Hall, Haxby with [Love 2 Get Messy!](#)

Saturday 11th May | All ages

Alpaca walking and picnic at [Sheriff Alpacas!](#)

Saturday 29th June | For the whole family!

Lollipop's 20th birthday party at The Homestead (next to Homestead Park). Join us for an afternoon of entertainment and family fun to celebrate the 20th year since Lollipop was founded!



Image: vecteezy.com

Do you know who founded Lollipop in 2004?

Answer on the next page... 🥚

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Fundraising news



Bake sale goodies!
Olivia Smith with Cheryl McBride



YSJ Bake Sale Takes the Cake!

On 28th February our Parent Liaison Officer, Cheryl visited York St John University to meet the leaders of the BSL Society at their first fundraiser. It was organised by Olivia Smith, Vice-Chair of the Society and was a successful afternoon, raising £128.02 for Lollipop!

Acaster Malbis May Festival

We are thrilled to announce that **Lollipop has been selected as the chosen charity for this year's Acaster Malbis May Festival**, taking place on Saturday 18th May. Pop it in your diary and give yourself something to look forward to, we can't wait to see you there! 🍪🍪

Scan with your smart phone camera/QR code reader for tickets!



Answer: Lollipop was founded by Andrea Gitsham. She will be at our 20th birthday party in June!

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Fundraising news: Festive Fundraising Hat-Trick!

Our Christmas party was some time ago now, but this is the first newsletter since the big day and we are excited to report that **we smashed our fundraising target for our Christmas Prize Draw and Raffle, raising a whopping £1360!** MASSIVE thanks to all the local businesses who donated prizes and to everyone who bought tickets.

If that wasn't AMAZING enough, we were also successful in receiving two grants:

•£5000 from the [Whitwam Family Charitable Foundation](#)

•£2500 from the [Birkdale Trust for Hearing Impaired](#)



THE WHITWAM FAMILY
CHARITABLE FOUNDATION



[BIRKDALE TRUST FOR HEARING IMPAIRED LTD](#)

All of this money is helping to fund our programme of exciting activities to encourage our members to try something new, express themselves freely and realise their true potential!

We are SO incredibly grateful for everyone's support!

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Fundraising Heroes!

The kindness and generosity of loyal Lollipop supporters and the wider local community really help to support our work and raise awareness of what we do!



Emma Moore continues to fundraise for Lollipop (and The Island) by running over 200 miles in the GB Ultras 'Race across Scotland' later this year.

Click below to read her story and show your support. She's already raised over £400!

<https://www.givewheel.com/fundraising/1378/just-a-few-moore-miles-and-worth-every-step/>




Huge thanks to Manor Church of England Academy for their fundraising activities which resulted in a donation of £495 in November 2023!



And also to the fabulous group leader of Slimming World in Haxby, Corinne Tarbuck who has been fundraising for Lollipop for the last couple of months. The total is yet to be counted!

[**BSL VIDEO**](#)

New 18-25 Deaf Mental Health Service



A 2-year pilot service is to begin in York in early Summer, offering specialist mental health assessments and recommendations for D/deaf adults aged 18 – 25.

Image by rawpixel.com on Freepik

Recruitment for the service is currently on-going, and the specialist team will cover the Yorkshire and Humber areas as part of the existing CAMHS. Deaf adults aged 18-25, with a severe or profound hearing level, or problems with speech can be referred to the service by Health or Social Care professionals. In the 2 year period they aim to help up to 80 individuals.

[BSL VIDEO](#)

Deaf rugby player Jodie Ounsley in the new line-up of TV Gladiators



Jodie is an incredible role model for deaf children and young people to aspire to. We know many of you have tuned in to the show!

Jodie is no stranger to sporting challenges and accolades. Not only was she the first deaf player to represent England's sevens side in 2019, she's also:

- a former British Open Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu champion
- winner of the Deaf Sports Personality of the Year 2020
- currently Honorary President of [UK Deaf Sport](#).

If you have missed her in action so far, a link to her debut is below!

[BBC iPlayer - Gladiators Episode 1](#)

Sign Language Week 2024



British Deaf Association
SIGN LANGUAGE WEEK

Promoting BSL & ISL
18 - 24 March **2024**

[Sign Language Week](#) commemorates the first time BSL was acknowledged as a language in its own right by the UK Government on 18 March 2003.

There are a number of ways to get involved - [Signature](#) will be hosting the UK's largest British Sign Language lesson online with primary schools - [sign up here!](#)

There will be also be an opportunity for companies to receive free BSL lesson. Click to [register interest](#).



[BSL VIDEO](#)

Fun and Games!

How many Easter eggs are in this newsletter?
(answer at the bottom of the page!)



Image: vecteezy.com

Easter Word Scramble



Can you unscramble these Easter-themed words?

aster geg
tnhu

rotcars

atecohloc

tarese sgeg

kichc



Easter Word Search

T K L S S F Z K C R L Y Q Y E
 G N Y N N U B R E T S A E N A
 J F U T L D E C O R A T E N S
 S M P H O I C P V E L T T U T
 N Q C S G K R O P C C U E B E
 A I S F C G M P N S Y C N E R
 E K W I U H E T A I I N N T B
 B F H C T H Q R G P D M O A A
 Y C D Y E I N G E G G S B L S
 L E P T C F G A B T J C O O K
 L V D A S E Q I N W S H A C E
 E D N H S T O R R A C A G O T
 J D E A S T E R L I L Y E H Y
 Y P R E T S A E Y P P A H C D
 Y A D N U S R E T S A E K L F



APRIL
 CARROTS
 DECORATE
 EASTER BUNNY
 EASTER SUNDAY



BONNET
 CHICK
 DYEING EGGS
 EASTER EGG
 HAPPY EASTER



CANDY
 CHOCOLATE BUNNY
 EASTER BASKET
 EASTER LILY
 JELLY BEANS



Number of Easter eggs hidden: 54! Email admin@lollipop.org.uk if you get stuck!

Answers to Easter Word Scramble: easter egg hunt, carrots, carrots, easter eggs, easter eggs, chick, chick,

BSL VIDEO