



Lollipop newsletter

July 2021 - Issue 12



LOLLIPOP (YORK & DISTRICT)

Supporting children, young people and families with deafness

CONTENTS



- A (final) message from our current Chair, Penny
- Upcoming activities – walking with alpacas and more!
- Rainbows – photos from our first face-to-face activity in over a year
- Deaf Minds Education – free courses for Lollipop parents
- Our Fundraising Team needs you!
- Latest on Luke Zwalf's Cyclothon
- Community donations – thanks to all our supporters!
- Fun & Games – brain teaser questions and answers

Note: There are several links in this newsletter. To open them in a new window, hold down the Control key (or Command key on a Mac) whilst clicking on the link.

Cover photo: Left to right, Penny McDonald (Chair), and Trustees Gary Martin, Helen Martin & Nathan Armstrong at Lollipop's 15th Birthday Party in May 2019.

BSL video: <https://bit.ly/3wj4O6S>

A message from our current Chair

As some of you will be aware there are four trustees retiring from the Board of Trustees at the end of July and we are also sadly saying goodbye to two of our sessional workers, Melissa and Sadia.



Penny McDonald - Chair

When I took on the role of Lollipop Chair in 2017, I had big boots to fill taking on something that Andrea had started from scratch back in 2004.

It's not always been easy, especially over the past two years with Covid drastically changing the way we do things, but it has been rewarding to see the deaf children and young people we work with grow into more confident and resilient people.

I would like to personally thank my fellow trustees for their support; Malcolm, who with his arm twisted up his back stepped in as Treasurer when he really wanted to be in his shed, and especially Helen and the rest of the Martin family for the work they have done for Lollipop over the years.

Helen has been involved from the very beginning and, like all of our trustees, has been influential in helping to shape Lollipop into what it is today.

BSL video: <https://bit.ly/36dFZ1v>

Message from the Chair continued....

Gary was the Lollipop Service Manager (prior to Heidi) and became a Trustee & Fundraising Officer when he left that post. Other members of the Martin family have grown up with Lollipop and been actively involved, more recently as Youth Activity Leaders but also as elves at the Christmas Party, helping with fundraising and much more.

We're also eternally grateful to Melissa and Sadia for their role in leading activities for our Lollipop Kids & Juniors and for their unwavering loyalty and support throughout their time with us.

Finally, thanks to the staff for all their hard work and to you as members for your contribution to the Lollipop vision. I'm now ready to enjoy more of my retirement in the garden and on the beach but will remember the people I have met and my time at Lollipop fondly and wish you all well for the future.

Penny

At the time of writing, we have four new Trustees ([Jayne Ball](#), [Laura Walker](#), [Nathan Armstrong](#) and Jason Drobig (who has also agreed to take on the role of Treasurer) but are still on the look out for a Chair and Secretary. Until these positions have been filled the remaining trustees have agreed to split the workload to make sure that everything that the Board is responsible for is covered. Office staff have also agreed to temporarily cover the work of the sessional activity leaders pending a full review of staffing in Spring 2022.

If you are interested in the role of Chair or Secretary on the Board of Trustees or would like to find out more, contact Heidi at servicemanager@lollipopYork.org.uk

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

Thank you for everything you have done for Lollipop



Penny McDonald
Chair



Helen Martin
Trustee & Teacher of the Deaf



Gary Martin
Trustee & Fundraising Officer



Malcolm McDonald
Treasurer



Melissa Johnson
HQ Kids Leader



Sadia Ghaffar
HQ Juniors Leader

You will be sadly missed but we wish you all the very best for the future and look forward to Lollipop's exciting next chapter!

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

Walking with Alpacas

We can't wait for this brand new activity for Lollipop!

Get ready for this unique experience meeting the funny, fluffy and very friendly Alpacas. Bring your own picnic and enjoy getting up close and personal with these beautiful animals – feel how soft their fleeces are and listen to them hum to each other; you may even get a kiss!

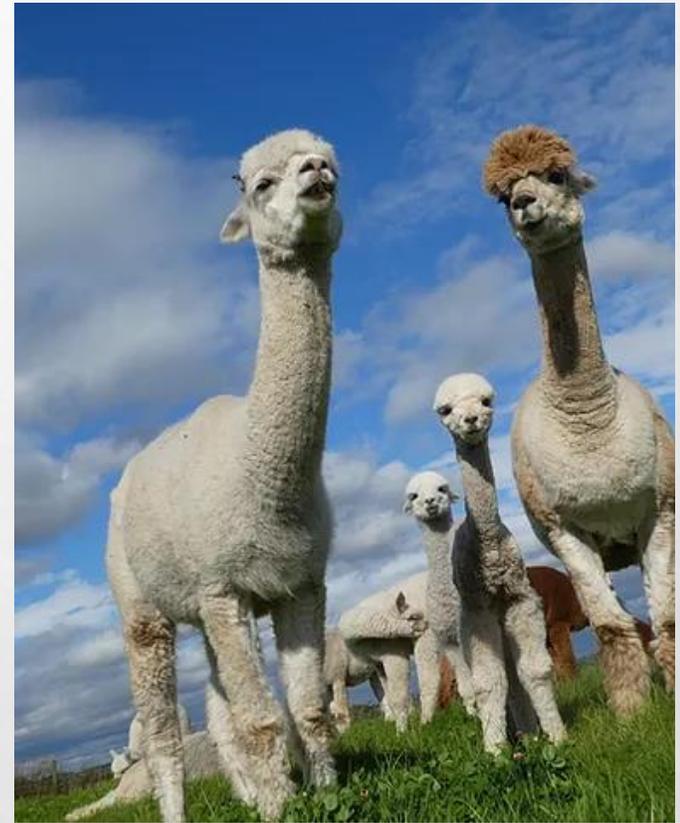
When: **Saturday 17 July** (11am-2pm)

Where: [Sheriff Alpaca Experience](#)

Goodness Farm, Sheriff Hutton Road, Strensall, York, YO32 5TP

What: Juniors (under 11s) – Alpaca picnic and crafts (11am-1pm)

Youth (11+) – Alpaca walk and picnic (12-2pm)



Keep an eye out for your email invitation and **book BEFORE Wed 14 July** to avoid disappointment!

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

Other activities...

Sparkle Jelly Tots Toddler Group



Our free, friendly toddler group will be **face-to-face** this month! Yay!
It will take place on **Wed 21 July, 10.30-11.30am** at [York CVS Priory Street Centre](#)
(15 Priory Street, York YO1 6ET). Find out more at: [Lollipop Toddler Group](#)

Monthly Virtual Quiz



Feeling competitive? Why not go head-to-head with your friends and family to win cash prizes in our monthly virtual quiz! **Next session Fri 16 July at 8pm**
Find out more at: [Lollipop Monthly Virtual Quiz](#)

The Listening Brain



On 11 June researchers from the University of York's Speech Lab gave a short talk on the role of the brain in hearing and making sense of the world. If you missed it, or want to watch it again (or share with your friends) it's available to watch on the York Festival of Ideas YouTube channel ([watch here](#)).

For further info about any of our activities email Becky at admin@lollipopyork.org.uk

BSL video: <https://bit.ly/3heq5dE>

Creative fun at Rainbows

On 21 June, Lollipop were thrilled to host our first face-to-face activity in over a year at [Rainbows](#) award winning ceramic painting studio! We got creative painting cups, plates, bowls and animals whilst chatting and catching up with old friends and new. A great time was had by all and we were mightily impressed with your unique works of art! Here are just a selection of photos from the day!



Your masterpieces are now available to collect! Just pop in to Rainbows and tell them your name and that you came with Lollipop!

BSL video: <https://bit.ly/3hwd26a>



The owner's dog was a real hit with the kids! See if you can spot little Cooper in these photos!

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

Deaf Minds Education



Lollipop and Deaf Minds Education – Working together to support the deaf community in York and District.

[Deaf Minds Education](#) is a Deaf-led organisation established in early 2020 by Shaun Fitzgerald, who has been profoundly Deaf since birth.

Their mission is to improve the mental health of Deaf children all over the UK, by supporting Deaf adults and children and providing early intervention training courses to teaching professionals and SENDCos (Special Educational Needs Coordinators).

They aim to:

- provide support to primary, secondary and college educated Deaf children, who are being educated in mainstream schools;
- help the entire school community, including parents, teachers, and students, to understand the barriers facing Deaf children in mainstream educational settings.

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

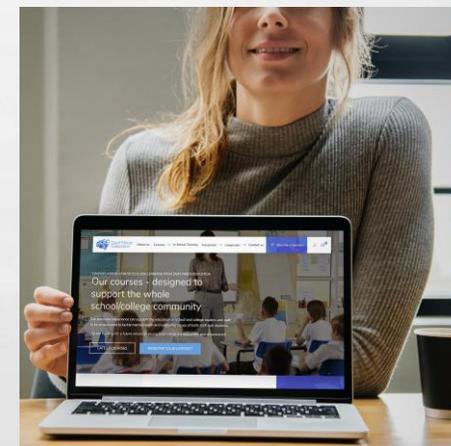
Deaf Minds Education are delighted to be working closely with Lollipop and its members in 2021.

Their goal is to bridge the gap between the hearing and the Deaf worlds to reduce the frequency of mental health conditions and suicide within the Deaf community.

With that in mind, they have developed a suite of pre-recorded online courses which can be streamed and completed at any time. All courses are captioned and many are also delivered in BSL.

Lollipop are proud to be working with Deaf Minds Education to provide our members with **FREE access** to the following courses:

- [Transition to Deaf Adulthood](#)
- [Stress Reduction & Mindfulness for Parents](#)
- [Deaf Awareness for Parents](#)
- [Online Safety](#) (scroll down to relevant course)



To help us prioritise which of these courses to offer first, we invite parents of Lollipop members to complete this short poll by **Tuesday 20 July**: <https://forms.gle/YQAm9EsG2AqP5XJm6>

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

Our Fundraising Team needs you!



**Do you have a few hours a month to spare to volunteer on our fundraising team?
If so we'd love to hear from you!**

It's a great time to join us as we emerge from the challenges of the past year towards exciting times ahead. As a fundraising team member you would attend meetings once per half term (usually on Zoom) and work with others to share ideas and help organise some of our fundraising events.

Past activities have included a monthly online quiz, a Zoom family bingo night and, in the coming months, we will be planning our Christmas raffle and prize draw. We also receive donations from our amazing community fundraisers and our meetings keep track of these and acknowledge their great work!

Not much time to spare? Don't worry every little helps.

We need creative and talented individuals to produce quality items for future stalls – do you bake, knit, sew or are you able to promote our fundraising campaigns among your friends, colleagues, work or university?

With just a small time commitment you would be making a huge difference to a small local charity.

To find out more and to join our September meeting please contact Becky at admin@lollipopYork.org.uk

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

Luke's story to date...



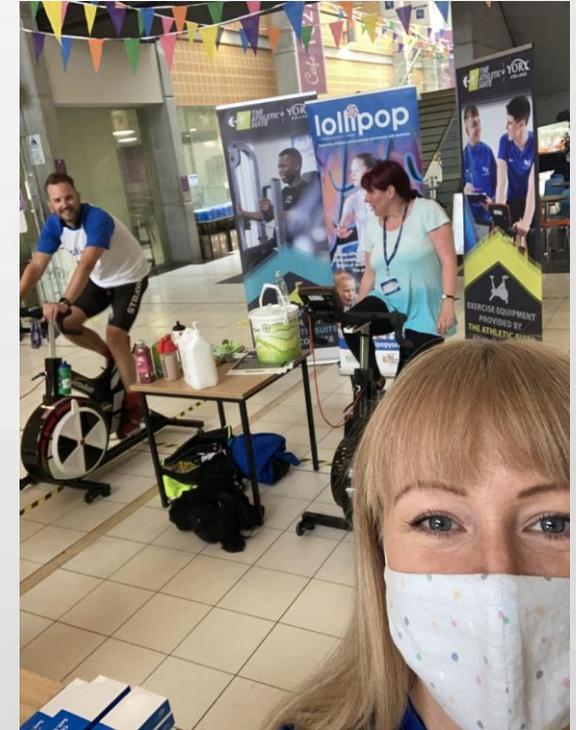
In our last newsletter we told you about Lollipop parent, Luke Zwalf, and his fundraising plans to compete in IRONMAN Wales in September.



Luke chose this challenge to raise funds and awareness for Lollipop because his daughter, Freya, has been a member of Lollipop since she was 4 months old - she's now 15!

As part of his Ironman training he organised a static bike cycling event at York College where he is the Head of Humanities and Social Sciences.

We visited the college to catch up with him and show our support...



BSL video: <https://bit.ly/3wj6Nb9>

Luke's Awesome Cyclothon

Luke's day started at 8.30am and he got off to a great start! By the time we arrived at 9.30 he'd already clocked up 20 miles! The aim was to cycle 112 miles, which is the length of an Ironman cycle course, but it was clear early on that he was going to exceed this target. He decided to keep going until 4pm, no matter how many miles he had cycled.

Luke was joined by colleagues who had signed up for 15 or 30 minute sessions and he had someone cycling with him throughout the whole day. Staff and students stopped by to chat and donate, and Luke did an amazing job of keeping going when the bike was no longer a comfortable place to be!

Thank you Luke! You did an amazing job and we're so proud of you!



Luke is yet to complete the Ironman competition in September
Click here to sponsor him! <https://uk.virginmoneygiving.com/LukeZwalf>

BSL video: <https://bit.ly/2TzB7AY>

Community donations

Lollipop member, Holly Whittle, was recently joined by her dad and Helen Martin, Teacher of the Deaf, for a lovely afternoon at [Hollicarrs Holiday Park](#) where they were presented with a fundraising cheque for **£1000!**

This included money raised by Hollicarrs holiday homeowner, Lesley Hutchinson, who nominated Lollipop for the donation and also completed a 250km cycle ride around the Hollicarrs estate.

“We were treated to a wonderful afternoon tea, sitting out in the sunshine, with live music and a raffle – which Holly helped out with. All in all a lovely day!” –
Helen Martin, Teacher of the Deaf



Lesley Hutchinson presenting Hollicarrs cheque to Trustee, Helen Martin and Lollipop member, Holly Whittle



[Queen Ethelburga's School](#) have also donated **£160.92**, raised through school activities over the past year and we received another generous donation of **£100** from J Wood.

Thank you from all the Lollipop staff, trustees, parents and members!

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

Fun and games

We have some more brain teasers for you this month! Can you work them out?
We'll reveal the answers in our next newsletter. Good luck!



1

How many months of the year have 28 days?

3

If you don't keep me, I'll break. What am I?

2

Kate's mother has three children: Snap, Crackle and ___?

4

I have a tail and a head, but no body. What am I?

5

I have keys, but no locks. I have space, but no room. You can enter, but can't go inside. What am I?

Answers to the riddles in our June edition are on the next page....

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

Answers to last month's riddles

QUESTION	ANSWER
I have two hands but no fingers. What am I?	A clock
What gets wetter the more it dries?	A towel
What is lighter than a feather but difficult to hold?	Your breath
What kind of room has no doors or windows?	A mushroom
If a blue house is made of blue bricks, a yellow house is made of yellow bricks and a pink house is made of pink bricks, what is a greenhouse made of?	Glass



Well done if you got them all right!

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