



Autumn Newsletter

Welcome to Essex Deaf Children's Society new quarterly newsletter

BSL version available here:

www.essexdcs.org.uk/news2022/newsletter.html



Note from the Chair. Welcome all of you to the Essex Deaf Children's Society newsletter for Autumn of 2022. We both set out with a vision of hosting six events this year, to find our feet, and so far we are upto nine with three more planned!

With the success of project "Refresh" in terms of consistent branding and a new logo and website, we have been able to market ourselves both in-person and online to engage with both families new and old.

We have hosted a number of successful events this year. Averaging 30-50 participants at each event

– we have really been encouraged by the individual stories each of our members has brought to us.

We have also been proud to fund a number of initiatives and activities run by other organisations.

We have learnt a lot this year and intend to incorporate those lessons into our planning for next year.

Nicola Halloran & Andy Dyer-Davies

Co-chairs



Events

January Wat Tyler Walk

In January, we hosted our very first organised event, an informal family walk around Wat Tyler Park and luckily the weather was kind to us. Activities were provided for the children to complete on the walk: a QR code scavenger hunt for the older children and a colour scavenger hunt for the younger children. We had a great turn out despite it being quite muddy and it was lovely to meet so many families. The children had great fun participating in the scavenger hunts and prizes were given to all children at the end of the walk. All in all a successful first event for EDCS!

February Logo Design Workshop

In February, we were very lucky to have Martin Glover from Digitspace facilitate a workshop for the children to design a new logo as part of our project refresh. Martin is a Deaf Architect and Art Facilitator and very kindly gave up his time for free to run the workshop and produce the logo. The children did an amazing job with their designs and Martin was able to incorporate these ideas into our new logo. The logo was approved by the committee and everyone agreed that this reflects the charity perfectly.

March Thameside Walk

In March, we had our second organised walk around Thameside Nature Discovery Park. We had another great turnout and the children enjoyed following the rabbit trail around the nature park and playing together in the park afterwards. This also provided an opportunity for parents and carers to get together for a chat and catch up with a snack and hot drink. Luckily, the weather was kind to us again!



April Joint RAD Easter Party

In April, we part funded RAD's Easter party so that children from Southend and Thurrock were able to join their friends. The children were excited by an entertainer, had an amazing spread of food and all were given an Easter egg.



May Hylands Park Walk

In May, we hosted our third organised walk around Highland's Park. Again, activities were provided for children to complete on the walk: a QR code scavenger hunt for the older children and a colour scavenger hunt for the younger children. We had a great turn out despite the weather not being so kind to us this time!

June Father's Day Event

In June, we held our Father's Day walk around Westley Heights. The children had a brilliant time finding the fruits around the trail. We also bought our resources we had recently purchased so that families could take part in a range of activities and games. We had an egg and spoon race, bean bags, hoops and colouring activities for the children and their families to take part in to win points. At the end of the event we crowned our Father's Day winners who were lucky enough to receive a swag bag prize we had kindly been donated from the NDCS.

July Peaceful Pony

In July, we held an event at The Peaceful Pony in Benfleet. The children took part in a variety of activities including learning natural horsemanship, reading the ponies body language, mucking them out and providing them with a clean bed. The children also got to meet the therapy dog "Piggy" and some goats too. Everyone was very enthusiastic and all had a wonderful time!



August H4V Choir Workshop

In August, Hands 4 Voices signing choir hosted a workshop for the children to learn some songs in sign language. The children were very quick to learn the song "Brighter Days" by Emilie Sande and performed it to the adults at the end of the session. Everyone agreed how fantastic the children and the choir were, and great fun was had by all. We will again work with Carol from H4V to provide further workshops so that the children will have an opportunity to perform two songs alongside the choir at their Christmas concert! all who attended.

Animal Encounters

We were fortunate enough to be able to hold a second event in August. The animal encounters event at Swayne Park School allowed the children and their grown ups to hold and pet a number of the animals such as tarantulas and pythons. Thanks to Exotic Explorers Ltd for providing the animals and for their informative talks too. This was a great event and proved very exciting for all who attended.

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Thank you for yet another gorgeous day that could involve all the family & dog! Looking forward to the next.
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What's next for EDCS?

Stay & Play

Christmas Party

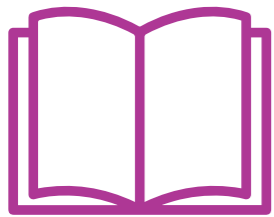
Choir Workshop

QR Code Scavenger Hunts

Watch this space!

Funds

What we funded



- RAD BSL Signed stories
- Books with deaf characters for Roding Primary School
- Workshop at Glebe school with Megan Rix, a Deaf author



- Interpreter for St Clare's Drama Department play "Hairspray" at Thameside Theatre
- Interpreter, narrator & produced a video for "Rosa & Bo" to share as part of Deaf awareness week



- Pizza & Cookie Bake off held at St Clare's School for children aged 4-11

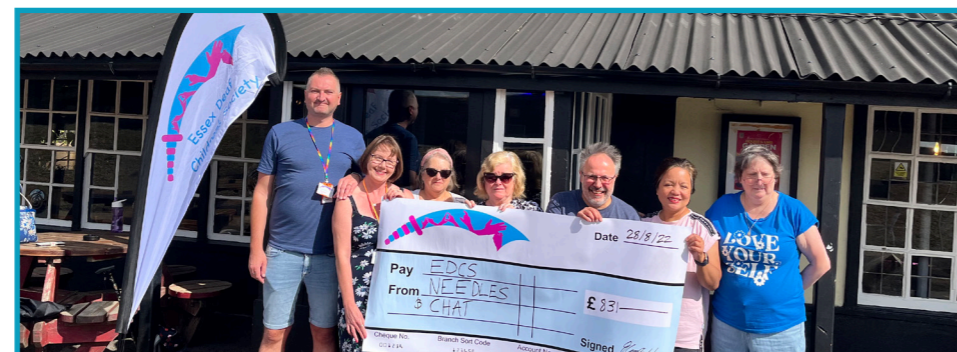
We also funded:

- Deaf awareness resources for Hiccups pre-school group
- Body Hub Obstacle Centre for pupils at St Clare's school
- RAD ski experience at the Snow Centre in Hemel Hempstead
- RAD Pioneer Sailing Residential trip
- RAD Easter party

Our star fundraiser

Julia Campbell

Julia is not only one of our volunteers - she is also a member of the local knitting group "Needles and chat". The group started to knit little chicks and animals back at Easter time, that contained a chocolate egg inside. They continued until they ran out of eggs in July, and they raised a whopping £831 for EDCS. Through her connections in the local community, Julia was able to get on board both The Wharf Pub in Grays & Little Thurrock Post office. These two local businesses not only donated some chocolate eggs, they also had baskets of the animals and sold them on their premises. A huge thank you to Cliff and Olivia at the Wharf pub and also Jimmy and Gurgit at Little Thurrock Post office.



Words (and signs!) can't express how grateful we are to Julia for all her hard work - thank you from all of us at EDCS

Activity Sheet

ANIMALS BSL Fingerspelling



WORDS

-- PONY -- SNAKE -- TARANTULA -- PARROT -- GOAT -- SKUNK --

Create your own BSL fingerspelling word search puzzles online at www.signlanguageforum.com/bsl/

Get involved

This is your newsletter - so let's make it all about you! Please let us know if you:



Received an award or trophy



Celebrated a birthday



Did something kind



Received a certificate

Let us know by email: info@essexdcs.org.uk

Our Community

