

Sensory Inclusion Service Hearing Impaired *newsletter*

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Who's Who?

My name is Martyn Bingham and I am currently the Treasurer for the Shropshire Deaf Children's Society (SDCS). After spending most of my adult life living abroad, I returned to the UK with my family in 2014 and settled in the wilds of Shrewsbury.

My daughter, Effie, was diagnosed as being profoundly deaf in 2013 while we were living in China, and although we loved the idea of living in Shropshire, we had no family or friend ties in the county.

I started to attend the family group with Effie pretty much as soon as we arrived and the support that we received from just a couple of hours a week was tremendous. As Effie started school and I took on a role at Harper Adams University, we could no longer attend family group but I was keen to keep strong links with the people that we had met. Both Effie and I felt a real sense of community from the time we spent there and

as a consequence, I joined the SDCS as a committee member and later took on the role of Treasurer.

It soon became clear that despite being a relatively small charity, the SDCS does an incredible amount for a huge number of children and families on very limited resources, so my only future intention is to help the charity blossom and support the quest to support an ever-growing number of children who can benefit from what the charity provides. I only have to look at how confident Effie is both socially and academically to see the need for charities such as the SDCS.



Dates for your diary

SDCS Family Night

Friday 14th September
Christ Church Bayston Hill

Pantomime

Saturday 15th December
The Place Theatre, Oakengates



Leaving after 18 years



After many years of teaching French, in January 2000 I started working for the Sensory Inclusion Service as a Teacher of the Deaf and quickly realised that this was my dream job (which has made the decision to retire a tough one)! I feel very privileged to have worked with the most amazing children and young people who have gone on to achieve such wonderful things, both big and small, without letting a hearing loss deter them. The young people I have worked with have been truly inspiring and I feel honoured to have been a part of their journey. I have been lucky to work with amazing parents and carers and to be part of the great SIS team. I will miss working with these inspirational children/young people and my colleagues and wish them all a great future.

I'm now looking forward to taking lots of term-time holidays (Dubrovnik, New York, Malaga planned so far), spending more time with my ever-expanding family, volunteering and relaxing.

Active Severn

An inclusive fun run, the first of its kind - wheelchair, frame and pushchair friendly event with stalls, culture and music activities for all ages - will be held in Shrewsbury Quarry on Saturday 1st September. The event is an opportunity for people with disabilities to work to

achieve a personal goal (100 metre, 1km or 5k run), get involved in the variety of stall activities and take part in this initial event which hopes to become an annual occurrence in the community calendar. The event is open for non-disabled people too, offering a fun-filled day for all the family. The event hopes to attract people from across Shropshire, Telford and Wrekin and wider across the region. Entrance is £10 per runner (but the family can help them for free if they are in a wheelchair or pushchair and you can raise funds for the charity of your choice if you want to) and get a medal when you finish. There will be free access to music, workshops, sensory walk, quiet area, picnic area, crafts, holistic therapies, technology, sport, arts, health food, face painters and much more.

For further information please contact june.meagher@shropshire.gov.uk or **01743 257957**. Shropshire Deaf Children's Society would welcome any runners that would like to run on behalf of the charity.

Holiday Cover Summer 2018

During the holidays a different teacher of the deaf is on duty every week.

Mark Rutter (technician) is also available for part of the holidays. If you have an issues call Darby House on **01952 385269** and ask for a message to be given to Mark or the teacher of the deaf on duty.

Family Group takes place on **Thursday 9th August 2018** between 10 -12 and Thursday 23rd August 2018 (10am-12pm) for pre-school CYP.

Ear mould impressions can be made at this time.

Ian's Hadrian's Wall sponsored walk update



Well, I'm back in Broseley all in one piece, having walked 80 plus miles along the Hadrian's Wall path from Wallsend to Bowness-on-Solway in the hottest conditions on record! I feel a real sense of achievement for having completed the walk and having suffered only one blister. If you fancy having a go yourself, I can pass on a few tips - firstly, avoid a heatwave!

Thank you so much to everyone who has sponsored me - I currently have £632, exceeding my £500 target. There is still time to donate money to the work of the Shropshire Deaf Children's Society before my Just Giving page closes by going to <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/lan-Barrett3>

Many thanks, Ian Barrett

Adderley CofE Primary

Charlie Crowshaw (mum of Oscar) organised a bake sale at Adderley CofE Primary in Market Drayton.

The school raised £57, which is amazing with a pupil count of only 41!

London Marathon

Suzanne (Nanny to Oscar Owen) took part in this year's London Marathon. Suzanne completed the distance in 5 hours and 25 minutes, raising over £300 for SDCS. Thank you Suzanne, you're an amazing Nanny!



and hold support ropes at the bottom. You had to work with your teammates to get anywhere and that meant talking to each other, which they all did, and by the end of the day, they were swapping numbers and arranging the next event. A great end to a great day!

Transition Day Summer 2018



This was held at The Lantern in Shrewsbury and was attended by hearing impaired pupils in Year 6 and 7. It was a great opportunity for the Year 7 pupils to share their positive experiences of the transition to secondary school and for the Year 6 pupils to have some additional preparation for transition. The students all enjoyed spending time with each other.

These events help children and young people to feel included in a group of hearing impaired students and we are very grateful to the SDCS for continuing to fund these days.

Deaf Awareness Week success

A number of children and their families organised fundraising events during Deaf Awareness Week in May. We have had some lovely feedback from all of these events. Thanks to all who got involved and baked their hearts out.

Emily Hanlon and Eisa Muhammad

Emily and Eisa organised a cake sale at Millbrook Primary. Their Teaching Assistant, Amanda Ball reported that, "It was a fabulous day. Emily and Eisa did an excellent job of organising the sale and they raised over £260! It was brilliant, not only for raising money and awareness, but in raising the self-esteem and confidence of



both children." Millbrook Primary have chosen to support Deaf Awareness Week annually in the future.

Stottesdon CofE Primary

Florence Giles (who attends Family Group regularly) and her brother William held a cake sale at Stottesdon CofE Primary, along with lots of friends and family members busily baking!

The event raised a total of £150 with half of the money going to SDCS and the other half to the Friends of Stottesdon Primary fund.

This is a huge achievement for such a small school.



Primary Day



This year's primary day was held at the Arthog Outreach Centre in Wellington. What an amazing young facility! And what amazing young people turned up to use it! Everyone (including the staff) threw themselves into the challenge games (how hard can it be to get a ball from one end of a hall to the other?) Everyone threw themselves at the climbing wall, and the orienteering, well that threw everybody! The markers were really well hidden and only the most determined competitors found them out, while some just wandered around in the sunshine chatting and looking vaguely at the grass, which was fine too! We stopped for a well-earned lunch break and somehow managed to eat in between telling jokes and comparing stories, before it was back to the fun! It was lovely to see the teams work together and encourage each other on the climbing wall and the ropes course, taking it in turns to climb

No more paper newsletter copies

The Sensory Inclusion Service has been requested to only send out this newsletter via email in the future. If you would like to continue receiving this from September and we currently post it to you, can you please inform us of a valid email address to ensure you don't miss out on the latest information.

Send an email to dawn.ball@telford.gov.uk to confirm your current email address and that you are happy to receive correspondence electronically from The Sensory Inclusion Service.

Achievements

Alexia Protic

Alexia has been chosen to be prefect at Shrewsbury Academy. She was the choice of both staff and fellow students, and is extremely proud to be taking up her responsibility in the next school year.



She has also just been awarded an Outstanding Achievement Award for her work in Hair and Beauty, having completed most of a 2 year course in one academic year.

She hopes to combine her work with photography next year so that she can create make up looks for the photography students to film and begin creating a portfolio for college interviews.

She was presented with the award at the school's Oscars Ceremony,

Achievements

Well done to all of you



and her tutor commented that, "She really is a wonderful young lady and a pleasure to teach!"

Outstanding Young Citizen Award



We are highly delighted that three students with a hearing impairment received an Outstanding Young Citizen award from the High Sheriff of Shropshire. The award ceremony was held at Telford College in March 2018.

Antonia Hassall received the award for her work with family activities in the community and for joining the Donnington and Muxton Youth Council.

Rhian O'Toole received the award for being a peer mentor and role model for younger students with a hearing impairment. Rhian has also spoken to staff from mainstream schools about how they can best support children and young people with a hearing loss.

Sophie Turner received the award for giving presentations to professionals about the impact of her multi-sensory impairment and useful strategies which teachers and TAs can use to facilitate inclusion.

Sion Smith

Sion recently took part in his first mountain bike race as part of the Pearce Cycles downhill



series at Rhydyfelin in Llangynog. Sion's mum Beth said, "He came back buzzing, with a big smile on his face!" Sion hopes to compete again in the future.

Carina Proferian



Carina has overcome many challenges over the last two years. She arrived in the UK with no English, but she has embraced a new culture and has thrown herself into learning English. As part of this Carina has attended activities organised by SIS such as the secondary day at Conover, by the SDCS such as the Family Day at Much Wenlock and went on a residential trip to Dukes Barn with the NDCS. This participation has required courage and support, but she has both enjoyed them and benefitted from them (and is now supporting a profoundly deaf student with English as a second language to do the same).