



Committee News...

2018 saw us focus on establishing a strong committee with new members joining the team, dealing with GDPR, updating our banking systems, running events and fundraisers and generally re-establishing a strong and focussed DCS - **A busy year!**

We welcomed **Louise Kemp** as Treasurer, who has been an absolute star at ensuring our finances are in order and at long last successfully opening new charity bank accounts with Santander. We all heaved a sign of relief at getting rid of the archaic banking system we were struggling along with and moving to online banking. She has completed our end of year accounts for the Charities Commission and at long last managed to reclaim Gift Aid on our paper sponsorship money raised from previous years' sky dives.

We also welcomed **Nikki Bowie** as a new committee member. Nikki has BSL skills and brings great skills with her to the committee. She is both enthusiastic and dedicated. Nikki is often found volunteering at our events and is currently focussing on Health & Safety and Risk Assessments.

We also continue to benefit from the experience of our long standing committee members:



Membership is **FREE**

Make sure your membership is up to date by visiting www.swindonandnorthwiltsdcs.org - Ensure you **OPT IN** to receive emails from us.

GDPR

Make sure you have **OPTED IN** for emails on your DCS membership - You can do this by contacting us to let us know you want to receive email invitations to our great events and other relevant information.

Privacy Policy

We have revised our Privacy Policy & cleaned up our Membership List in line with GDPR - Available on our website.

Natasha Gallagher, who has been on the committee since 2013 continues as the DCS Secretary. She brings with her excellent organisational and design skills - Tasha is the mastermind behind our fabulous event leaflets and emails. She keeps our website up to date, no easy task, as well as answering correspondence and ensuring all event attendee lists are pulled together.

Barbara Anscombe remains a real asset to the DCS with her BSL skills, and enthusiasm for Deaf culture. Barbara this year has taken on the role of Safeguarding Officer and is always seen at our events volunteering.

Salim Suleman continues to support us with his audiology professional head on and ensuring the links between parents and audiology are maintained.

Sarah-Jane Fletcher brings a great relationship with The Links Centre and has successfully launched ice skating as an annual event and continues to be a superstar volunteer, along with her husband Ben, who is a dedicated and enthusiastic helper at our events.

Finally, there's myself, **Millie Green**. I've been on the committee now since 2013 and am working hard at developing our DCS further and building links with the community, raising awareness and funding. In early 2018 I was interviewed on BBC Wiltshire Radio discussing issues that our deaf children face. Again in April, celebrating the achievements of our child members, Tabitha Green and Elizabeth Lane, in successfully auditioning and being selected to go to the NDCS 'Raising the Bar' event in Birmingham for deaf, young performers. In December, I joined Radio Swindon 105.5 'Girls About Town' team where we chatted about deaf children and the challenges they and their families face, as well as celebrating the great achievements of our members.

Last, but not least, we would like to thank **Gilson Sly** who joined the committee for part of 2018, but sadly had to step down due to family commitments.



RE-AFFILIATION

We were awarded re-affiliation to the NDCS ensuring we are part of the strong network of Local Groups around the country

SAFEGUARDING

All our committee members have undertaken updated Safeguarding Training

MAX CARDS

We have purchased Max Cards for all our members which gives reduced price entry to many leisure locations -

Ask a committee member for yours.

COMING UP

We are currently working with some amazing community artists from 'no added sugar', drawing up plans for a phenomenal **art installation in Swindon**. This will be a collaborative project with our DCS children and we hope to be able to create a piece of permanent artwork that reminds Swindon residents and visitors of the importance of communication every day!

We are also currently in discussion with some very prominent people in Swindon regarding **fundraising**. More news on this when we can reveal the details, but suffice to say, . . . We are keeping busy ensuring that 2019 proves to be our best year yet!

PROMOTING DEAF AWARENESS

Maisey Sly, one of our DCS child members, hit the headlines and was a superstar in her achievements and raising deaf awareness, one of our charity's aims. Read Maisie's story below.

In January 2018, news came that would set the tone for Maisie Sly's entire year!

While her class mates were in school, Maisie, perhaps a little unaware of the true significance of the situation, gathered with her family, and key members of 'The Silent Child' team. All attention was on a live stream from Los Angeles which eventually, against all the odds, delivered news that everyone in the room hadn't dared to dream of. Their little film, with its huge message, had made the short list for 'Best live action short film' at the Academy Awards. 'The Silent Child' was going to The Oscars! Before heading to tinsel town a more local audience took in the film. Screening at The Swindon Arts Centre, the film sold out quickly and received rave reviews from all that attended.

Following a hurried blur of passport applications, dress fittings, and press interviews, the whole Sly family were set for the holiday of a lifetime. Maisie, remained cool through all of the A-list preparations, revealing in one televised interview, that she was most excited to go to America so that she could eat pancakes for breakfast and meet Donald Duck. Along with her older brother and younger sister, the 7-year-old took LA by storm. Visiting all the sights, as well as enjoying trips to Disneyland California, and Universal Studios. By the time Oscar's night rolled around, Maisie and her Mum Elizabeth



got to walk the red carpet along with the film's Writer and Maisie's co-star Rachel Shenton, and Director Chris Overton. In a room a little closer to the action this time, the extended crew once again watched live broadcasts with bated breath. The scenes captured and shared to social media speak for themselves of the joy, pride and disbelief shared by all involved in the making of the film, as Shenton and Overton collected the Academy Award. There was a silent recognition that this award was not only earned, and entirely deserved, but also embodied a higher message. That the issue of deafness, and the struggles deaf children often face, were finally being acknowledged on the global stage.

Returning from the bright lights of LA, Maisie's home town of Swindon was keen to welcome her as their own star. The coming months saw her receive an award from the town's Mayor, open a new children's playground, and make mascot appearances for local sports teams: Swindon Town FC, and Forest Green Rovers FC. Maisie's next on-screen adventures were also in production at this time, as she auditioned for, and secured a role in the first completely signed TV advert for supermarket giant Aldi. This advert would go on to become the centre of ITV's BSL takeover, an event marking deaf awareness week, in which Maisie and her Mother interpreted all of the advertisements during a prime-time ad break.

By the summer, it seemed as though young Maisie's year could not possibly climb to any greater heights. That was until, the young actress and her family received another very exciting invitation. They were to attend The Royal Windsor Cup, as VIP guests of Her Majesty the Queen! On a bright day in June, Maisie stood patiently in line, in a brand new dress and fit for occasion shoes, to greet Her Majesty and present her with a posy. A privilege and honour very few will ever get to experience, especially not before their 8th birthday!

As the year drew to a close, another exciting opportunity was just around the corner for Maisie. Having developed an app enabling deaf children to have their favourite story books signed to them, international technology firm Huawei began the search for a deaf actress to be the face of their advertising campaign. After securing the part in what was first billed as an online social media campaign, Maisie's performance saw that the ad progressed. Eventually it aired on prime time Christmas television and ahead of some of the year's most popular cinema screenings. Once again thrusting deaf awareness, into the mainstream media.

Somehow, 2018 still found more to give this young star, as Huawei sent the family on a festive trip to Lapland. Maisie decided this was her highlight of the year (as most 7 year olds would), spending the time playing in the snow with her siblings, meeting real life reindeer and even being granted an audience with the real Father Christmas! A well deserved treat for a young lady that has been instrumental in publicising, and giving a face to the silent challenge that many deaf children in this country face. A fact that clearly did not go unacknowledged by Prime Minister, Theresa May, who named Maisie the winner of a 'Points of Light' award, given in recognition of inspirational people making a difference in their community.

If 2018 was just the start for this young deaf actress and trailblazer, we cannot wait to see what 2019 has in store for her.

THE SILENT CHILD FILM

Set in rural England and Inspired by real life events. The Silent Child film centres around a profoundly deaf four year old girl, named Libby, who is born into a middle class family and lives in a world of silence until a caring social worker teaches her the gift of communication.

When fresh faced social worker, Joanne turns up we see Libby transform. This, once withdrawn, four year old suddenly feels connected to the world and over a short period of time Joanne and Libby's relationship blossoms.

Released: 2017

Director: [Chris Overton](#), Screenplay: [Rachel Shenton](#)

Awards: [Academy Award for Best Short Film \(Live Action\)](#)



The Silent Child is currently available on YouTube, Google Play & iTunes if you missed it!!!

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



SWINDON WILDCATS

SATURDAY 19TH JANUARY 2019 - 6PM AT THE LINKS CENTRE

Come along and join us for the Swindon Wildcats Ice Hockey league match against Streatham IHC. Swindon Wildcats are currently top of the league and this promises to be a great evening out. We have 40 places booked for 20 children & 20 adults.



POTTERY

SUNDAY 24TH FEBRUARY - 1PM AT EASTCOTT STUDIOS, SWINDON

Following the success of last years pottery event, we are holding this event again. There are only 15 places available so they will fill up fast!



11+ CHINESE MEAL

FRIDAY 8TH MARCH - 6PM AT HONGXIN ORIENTAL BUFFET, SN5 5EZ

A great opportunity for our 11+ members to meet up and enjoy a meal and a catch up with old friends and new - This event will be hosted by audiology professionals and Teachers of the Deaf and is a chance for the children to have some time together without the parents!



AGM

WEDNESDAY 3RD APRIL - 6PM AT THE ROYAL OAK, BISHOPSTONE

Our AGM will once again be hosted at The Royal Oak in Bishopstone. It is your chance to get involved. Stand for a committee role or just come along and support us and enjoy a relaxed meal in a fabulous location. All members are welcome, but we recommend only bringing older children who will enjoy the meal and participate. Under 18s are unable to vote.



THE JUNGLE BUS

SUNDAY 26TH MAY - 3PM AT THE BREWERS ARMS, WANBOROUGH

A new and fun event for our toddlers, pre-schoolers and younger infant-aged primary children. Also, a chance for parents to meet and chat.

There are 20 spaces available at this event.



FUNDRAISER: SKYDIVE AT REDLANDS, WANBOROUGH MAY - DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

The first of our fundraising skydives this year. If jumping out of an aeroplane from 10,000 feet is on your bucket list or in fact, if anyone you know has ever fancied doing it.. NOW is the time to pin them down to commit! We are seeking anyone who would love to do this, please email us at swindon@ndcsgroup.org.uk if interested.



FUNDRAISER: PIG RACING SUNDAY 9TH JUNE - THE ROYAL OAK, BISHOPSTONE, SN6 8PP

A great fun day out to watch hapless piggies sauntering down the Cues Lane Race Track! We are always in need of volunteers to help out on our cake stand and bake cakes for this event as well as supporters to just turn up and enjoy a great, fun day out.



TRAMPOLINE PARK SUNDAY IN JULY - DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

A popular event that is back again in 2019. A great meet up for families with a chance to not only have a bounce, but a catch up with DCS friends over food and drinks.



ICE SKATING SUNDAY 1ST SEPTEMBER - 2.15PM-5.15PM AT THE LINKS CENTRE

Back by popular demand. A final fling before going back to school, our annual ice skating event open to all our families.



FUNDRAISER: SKYDIVE SEPTEMBER - DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

If you missed the May skydive, there will be a second opportunity in 2019 to fulfil your dream of leaping from 10,000 feet, with a parachute and attached to a qualified instructor, I might add!



11+ PIZZA HUT FRIDAY 27TH SEPTEMBER - 6PM

Another opportunity for our 11+ age group to meet up without the parents to catch up with one another. This event will be hosted by our Teachers of the Deaf and Audiologists.



SWIMMING PARTY

SUNDAY 13TH OCTOBER - 12-2PM AT DORCAN LEISURE CENTRE

A fun swim session for ages 8+ with pizza and the opportunity to catch up after an hour in the pool with the inflatables.



TECHNOLOGY EVENING

NOVEMBER - DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

We are really looking forward to this exciting evening event planned for November. We will meet for a casual evening with meal and presentations from suppliers of fabulous technology for deaf children.



FATHER CHRISTMAS OUTING

DECEMBER - DATE TO BE CONFIRMED

A great event for our younger members with a day out to meet Father Christmas and have fun with friends.

HOW TO BOOK OUR EVENTS...

All of our events are shown on our website and further details will be updated nearer to the time on the website, Facebook Group and by email. So make sure your membership is up to date and you have **OPTED IN** to receive emails.

Information to book onto an event is always sent out by email nearer to the specific event time. Some of the events are limited in numbers and therefore will be on a **First Come, First Served** basis.

VOLUNTEERS...

We are always on the look out for volunteers for our events and to join our exciting committee.

If you think there is something you can offer or you can just come along and lend a hand, then please contact us by email at any time.



DEAFFEST 2019

The UK's leading deaf-led Film & Arts Festival



Deaffest supports & develops the talents of emerging and established deaf filmmakers and artists from the UK and around the world. The biennial festival showcases films and documentaries by international filmmakers. Exhibitions, seminars, workshops, parties and networking take place at the festival in Wolverhampton and everyone is welcome to take part, sharing their interest in films and the arts. The festival includes; Stalls, TV Film and Awards Gala, Performances, Events and Workshops, Art & Photography exhibits and much more...

Deaffest 2019 takes place from Friday 17th May to Sunday 19th May 2019, with the theme: 'Share Your Story'.

Visit www.deaffest.co.uk for more information and to book tickets.



Hearing Support Team

The Swindon Hearing Support Team moved to their new offices in Dorcan Academy, St Paul's Drive, Swindon SN3 5DA in January 2019.

With the move they were issued new email addresses and phone numbers. Please ensure you update their contact details as below:

Senior Advisory Teacher of the Deaf

Tamara Turchet

Telephone: 07727 197219

Email: tturchet@swindon.gov.uk

Advisory Teacher of the Deaf

Jill Nokes

Telephone: 07727 188395

Email: jnokes@swindon.gov.uk

Advisory Teacher of the Deaf

Jo Coote

Telephone: 07727 189143

Email: jcoote@swindon.gov.uk

Advisory Teacher of the Deaf

Jo Cooke

Telephone: 07727 127439

Email: jcooke3@swindon.gov.uk

Advisory Teacher of the Deaf

Nida Batchelder

Telephone: 07727 099584

Email: nbatchelder@swindon.gov.uk

Advisory Teacher of the Deaf

Jenny Wilkins

Telephone: 07727 112245

Email: jwilkins2@swindon.gov.uk

Swindon SEND Families Voice

A new group has been set up by parents and carers of children and young people aged 0 - 25 with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities in Swindon.

They help give families in Swindon the opportunity to have a say on a range of issues that impact their everyday lives. By working together with families, their aim is to feedback your collective voices and work in partnership with our Local Authority and Clinical Commissioning Group (Health) to influence and strategically shape the way SEND services are delivered.

They also organise activity days (art, craft and sensory days, mindfulness workshops, transition to adulthood days etc.) for families of children with SEND in Swindon. Check out their website or email them directly:



Visit: <https://swindonsendfamiliesvoice.org.uk/>
email: swindonSENDfamiliesvoice@outlook.com

NDCS Technology Videos



The National Deaf Children's Society have updated their informative videos to demonstrate technology that is available for deaf young people to support them in everyday life.

Vibrating watches and alarm clocks, a flashing doorbell and the home pager are just a few of the fantastic products available.

Another of our DCS superstar children, Tabitha Green, was selected by audition to star in the new videos. She tells the NDCS [how she knows when someone is at the door](#) and [how she uses technology to make phone calls](#).

You can borrow all of the products featured in these videos from the NDCS [Technology Test Drive](#) to see if they work for you before you buy them.

To watch the video - [Alerting Products](#)

Visit - https://youtu.be/YjDD_3qJIAU

To watch the video - [Streamers](#)

Visit - <https://youtu.be/QNQ246zOoMA>

2018 Events Roundup

2018 kicked off with the AGM on 11th April hosted by Helen Browning's Royal Oak in Bishopstone

Helen Browning and her team have been amazing supporters of the DCS over the past few years and they continued their support offering the beautiful Royal Oak in Bishopstone to host our AGM. This year we incorporated the meeting with a wonderful dinner and informal catchup with our members and what a great turnout it was!

The committee stood down and elections were held to vote in the new committee. We reflected on the successes of 2017 and all attendees joined in with a brainstorming session to suggest ideas and events for upcoming years.

A glorious day early in June saw the Annual Bishopstone Pig Racing Festival.

In 2018 we were very lucky to have been chosen as one of the supported charities for this fabulous fundraising event. This brilliant and fun day out in the beautiful village of Bishopstone, held by Helen Browning's Organics

and The Royal Oak, Bishopstone featured 8 happy pigs, taking part in three races - lolloping down the lane as fast (or as slow!) as their little



legs would carry them. The turnout was huge with the 'bookies' being rushed off their feet taking bets on people's favourite piggies and raising £573 with all their hard work.

Our amazing committee members and volunteers manned the cake stand selling



beautiful cakes donated to us and raising a further £257. While Tabitha Green, Milly Fletcher & Grace de Jonge ran the Teddy Bear Tombola rehoming donated bears and raising £90.



Pig sponsorship and donations to our charity tins on the day added a further **£362** to the pot and Barclays matched our cake stand funds with a further **£347**. **A total of £1,620.44 raised!**

Well done to everyone involved and the support to make this a hugely successful event. Don't forget we will be part of the pig racing again on 2nd June 2019 and will once again need volunteers to bake cakes and help out on the day. **Get in touch if you can help out in any way.**

On a somewhat hot July day, we tried out a new event, **Painting and Pottery at Eastcott Studios.**

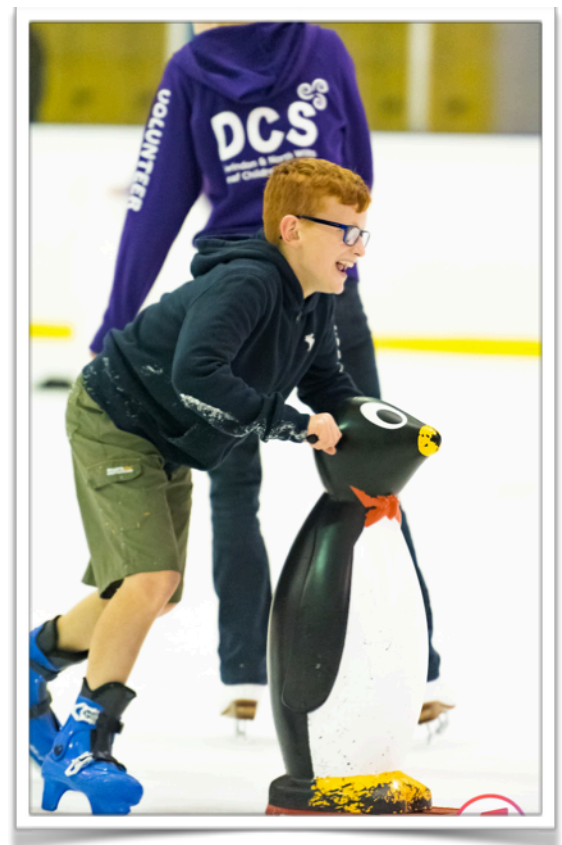
This was a brand new event for 2018 inspired by our AGM attendees. Fifteen of our primary school aged children tried their hand at making a pot on the potters wheel and creating fantastic



August saw the hugely popular ice skating event held at The Links Centre with the supportive Better team.



animals out of air dry clay with Jo, artist and founder of Eastcott Studios. The painting session was held with Martina, a mixed media artist, designer and teacher. Both activities were a huge success and the very happy children collected their masterpieces to take home and keep.



This year we decided to try combining the event with trampolining all on one day! Maybe a little over ambitious!

The amazing team at 'The Links' allowed us private hire of the ice rink and the trampoline park and once again the Swindon Wildcats ice hockey team volunteered to support our children on the ice.



A great time was had by all, with a fabulous buffet and a raffle on the day with tickets to the signed performance of Aladdin up for grabs.



It was agreed that this event should continue as it's one of our biggest events of the year with a huge turnout of members, nearly 100 attendees and very happy, smiley faces.

In October we tried out a new event suggested by our Junior attendees at the AGM - A Fabulous Pool Party and Pizza for lunch.

What a great suggestion this was. Thirty of our Junior and Secondary school children had a fabulous time with exclusive hire of the pool at Dorcan Leisure Centre. Floats were in the pool for playing on and the session was supervised by Vicky Hunt, a fully qualified swimming teacher with BSL who teaches some of our DCS kids through the Level Water programme. Plus Nikki Bowie and John, qualified volunteers and lifeguards who were a huge support on the day.

The pizza party after in the party room gave members an opportunity to catch up with one another and make new friends. Ben Fletcher and Tom Green, our ace volunteers, rushed around



serving up pizza and hot and cold drinks - What superstars!

As the event was so much fun, we have decided to run it again in October 2019.

A HUGE THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS, FUNDRAISERS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS WHOSE EFFORTS MAKE THESE FABULOUS, FUN EVENTS HAPPEN.

YOU ARE ALL TRUE SHINING STARS AS YOU PROVIDE AN OPPORTUNITY FOR OUR CHILDREN TO MEET WITH THEIR DEAF FRIENDS AND ALSO A SUPPORT NETWORK FOR OUR FAMILIES.

We need your help!

We have planned two skydives for 2019 - The first in May and second in September. Hurling through the air from 10,000 feet seems to be on many people's bucket list!

PLEASE, PLEASE FIND THESE PEOPLE!!!

They do not have to be DCS members, they could be friends, family, work colleagues or mere acquaintances - The minimum amount to raise is £350 and the skydive is free. We help our brave skydivers to fundraise using Just Giving, Just Text Giving and paper sponsorship forms, where required.



All we need is their name and email address in the first instance and we will provide all the information for them to decide if they want to go ahead. Just send this information to us at any time and we will be in touch.



A brief summary...

OUR DCS COMMITTEE

Chairperson: Millie Green
Secretary: Natasha Gallagher
Treasurer: Louise Kemp
Safeguarding Officer: Barbara Anscombe
Professional Member: Salim Suleman
Committee Member: Nikki Bowie
Committee Member: Sarah Jane Fletcher

THERE ARE OVER 100 LOCAL GROUPS AFFILIATED TO THE NDCS, ACROSS THE UK, RUN BY PARENTS AND CARERS OF DEAF CHILDREN.

Our DCS was established by parents who have children with a hearing impairment over 25 years ago. It is still run by volunteer parents today. We organise fun events, provide a great network of families, hold fundraisers and offer information and support to deaf and hearing impaired children and their families in the Swindon & North Wiltshire area through our free membership scheme. We also work closely with audiology and other professional organisations involved in the day to day care of our children. We advise and provide feedback on the services they offer.

CONTACT DETAILS

Registered **Charity Number:** 1026682
Registered **Address:** Hergest Ridge,
Bishopstone, Swindon SN6 8PP
Website: www.swindonandnorthwiltsdcs.org.uk
Email: swindon@ndcsgroup.org.uk
Facebook Group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/swindonandnorthwiltsDCS>
Telephone: 07425 604021

Thank you for your help & support and we are looking forward to seeing you at an event soon!