

Web site: [www.dudleydcs.org.uk](http://www.dudleydcs.org.uk)  
Email: [dudleydeafchildrensociety@yahoo.com](mailto:dudleydeafchildrensociety@yahoo.com)  
New Helpline number: 07951644598

Charity number: 1016532  
Website: [www.ndcs.org.uk](http://www.ndcs.org.uk)  
Free helpline number: 0808 800 888

**HELPLINE NUMBER**

**07951664598**

**Email ADDRESS**

[dudleydeafchildrensociety@yahoo.com](mailto:dudleydeafchildrensociety@yahoo.com)

**DDCS Committee**

Chairperson: Mrs. Helen Fox  
Secretary: Mrs. Karen Forbes-Chapman  
Treasurer: Mr. Nick James  
Designated Safeguarding Officer: Mrs. Dawn Bevington  
Newsletter editor: Mrs. Jan Evans.  
**Next committee meetings: Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022 via ZOOM**

DDCS held a belated AGM in February when it was agreed that the existing officers were elected to stand again for another year. Discussions were held with a view to re-starting face to face regular committee meeting and we are hoping to confirm a venue in the near future. Until then, meetings will remain as online meetings via Zoom. Our next meeting is due to take place at **7.30pm on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> April 2022**. If you wish to join in on the meeting, please email Jan and a link to join the Zoom meeting will be sent to you nearer the date.

**YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!**

Would you like to be involved with the DDCS Committee?  
Would you like to have a say in upcoming events and activities affecting your child and other deaf children in our area?

Then please come and join the DDCS Committee. We usually meet every 6 to 8 weeks in an evening. Currently we meet online via Zoom but we are hoping to restart face to face meeting soon at a venue to be arranged. It is not expected that you attend every meeting as we are aware of how precious your spare time can be but if you are only able to attend a few times a year, your input would be invaluable and much appreciated. If you are interested in joining us or would like more information, please contact us at [dudleydeafchildrensociety@yahoo.com](mailto:dudleydeafchildrensociety@yahoo.com)



Hearing/Visual Impairment Services



**Parents/Carers & Toddlers Group**



The Stourbridge Children and Families Centre,  
Forge Rd., Stourbridge, DY8 1XF

**Fortnightly Friday Sessions**

9:45 'til 11:30

See back for dates

Our group is open to all Parents/Carers, and their hearing impaired and visually impaired babies, toddlers and pre-school brothers and sisters

**Session dates 2021/2022**

March 18<sup>th</sup>  
April 1<sup>st</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>  
May 13<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup>  
June 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>  
Contact Louise Westwood on **07824598809** to confirm location.



For more information please contact: Cathryn Skidmore QTVI or Louise Westwood TOD  
The Mere Education Centre, Stourbridge, DY8 5PQ  
Tel: 01384 818003 Text: 07827873498



March	April
Devon F	Mohammad Ismail A
Ahmed I	Mu'adh E
Ella M	Joseph C
Emily M	Jack H
	Hadiqa H C
	Oscar M
	Sam G
	Louise S
	Jessica S
	Cyrus N
	Arjun D

**TERM DATES 2022**

**Spring Term**

Term ends Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April

**Summer Term**

Term starts Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April  
½ term Mon 30<sup>th</sup> May – Fri 3<sup>rd</sup> June  
Term ends Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2022

## SAD NEWS

It was with great sadness that we learnt of the passing of Deputy Leader of Dudley Council, Mr David Vickers on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> February, David was a great supporter and friend of DDCS and played a very important role in our Christmas parties for many years.

David passed away after a short illness at the age of 73 and will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Our deepest sympathies go out to his family and friends.

### **DDCS Member Beryl sent this tribute to David.....**

As a Teacher of the Deaf, it has been my privilege to work with many wonderful parents in Dudley. One Dad I remember in particular, was David Vickers, who very sadly, died recently. His son Richard was only a toddler when I first started visiting and not only did the parents have his deafness to support but Richard had a rare condition which left him without an immune system to fight infection. The family had a constant round of medical appointments, Richard in hospital and fear for Richard's survival. Bravely, Richard survived primary school and was able to attend Ashwood Park. Tragically, he died when only.....

Despite all this trauma, I was always made very welcome in the house by a warm, smiling David and his wife Daylene. All my advice was respected and acted upon and many times I was intrigued when David and Daylene, brought their own ideas into play. I learned a lot from them about bringing up a vulnerable child with complex needs. Despite all the attention which Richard needed, the parents worked hard to ensure, his sister Giverney was also at the centre of the family. When we decided to start a Dads' Group, David was one of the Dads I asked to lead the group. He was always so willing to help other parents and their deaf children.

After I retired, I usually met David sitting behind a table selling Christmas cards for the Dudley Deaf Children's Society. He continued to support the society and was a wonderful Father Christmas who came to the DDCS Christmas party year after year.

David will be remembered with affection, by many parents and children in the Dudley Deaf Children's Society. We send our condolences to David's daughter, Giveny and his partner Andrea.

Beryl Rayner ( Retired Teacher of the Deaf)

## COMING SOON



## EXHIBIT AT DEAFFEST 2022

### Exhibit your work



The UK's leading Deaf-led Film & Arts Festival *Deaffest* is looking for deaf artists and photographers to exhibit their creative work at our 14th Festival. Deaffest will be hosting an Art & Photography Exhibition throughout May 2022 in the Main Gallery at [Light House Media Centre](#), Wolverhampton (the exhibition will run throughout the Deaffest weekend 6th to 8th May 2022). The fee to exhibit is £25.00 (non-refundable). See Deaffest website for full terms and conditions.

There are limited spaces for the exhibition. If you wish for your work to be considered for the exhibition then please get in touch with PR Liaison Officer Lou Parrott at [Lou@zebra-access.com](mailto:Lou@zebra-access.com) for the application form and the gallery floor plan.

## DDCS UPCOMING EVENTS

Following on from the DDCS AGM, the Committee have discussed the possibility of holding more family events this year.



As a Dudley society, we are keen to support our local amenities and therefore we are arranging to visit the **Black Country Living Museum on Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> May 2022**. BCLM are supporting Deaf Awareness Week and on that day, they are holding a BSL signed tour from 2pm – 3.30pm as well as an exhibition in Hall 2 in association with the British Deaf History Society. As part of the tour, a talk will be given by Mr Peter Jackson CEO of the British Deaf History Society.

DDCS are offering a free entry to BCLM for any deaf children and a parent/ carer along with a reduced price ticket for one other parent/carer at a cost of £10 instead of the usual £19.99 entry fee. Any hearing siblings wishing to attend will be charged at the usual child entry fee of £9.99. You can of course make the most of the day and enter the Museum any time after opening at 10am and return to the main visitor reception by 2pm to join in the signed tour.

Application forms for tickets are included with this newsletter. Please complete your requirements and return the forms with any monies due to Jan Evans at the address shown on the application form. Deadline for applications is Friday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2022.



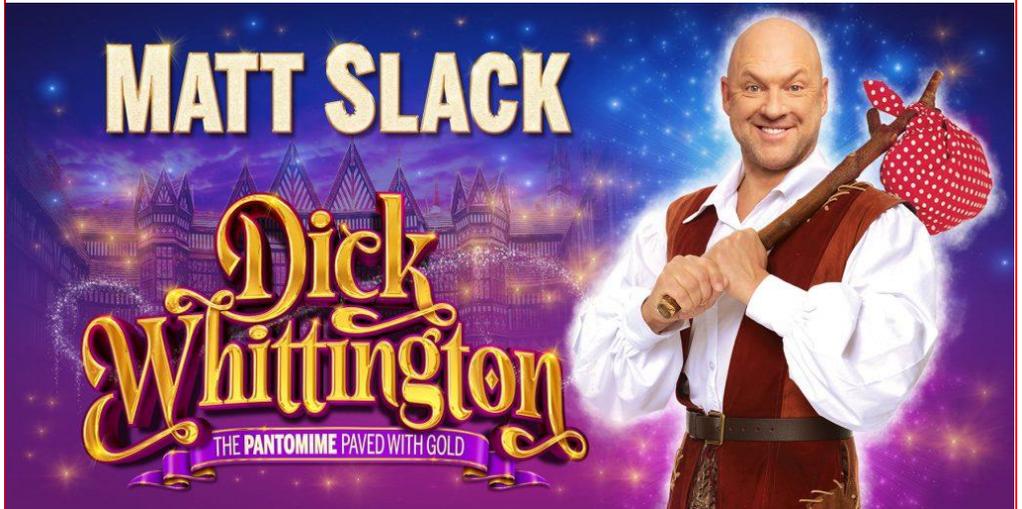
DDCS are also hoping to arrange a family day out for this summer with the possibility of a day at Dudley Zoo. Talks are ongoing with the Zoo at the moment and as soon as there is any further information, we will of course let you know.

We are also planning to reinstate our fabulous DDCS Christmas party this year with the provisional date being Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2022 so keep your diary free! Again, more information on all planned events will be sent to members as soon as possible.



Following the success of this year's Panto, we are delighted to announce that we have secured tickets for the signed performance of the 2022/2023 Panto, Dick Whittington, at **Birmingham Hippodrome on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023**.

Application forms for tickets will be issued late summer. Keep an eye on your inboxes/letterboxes!



Birmingham Hippodrome's panto will be paved with gold!

Join our hero Dick Whittington (and his trusty cat!) as he seeks fame, fortune and happiness journeying to become the Lord Mayor.

Guided by the magical Fairy Bow Bells on an adventure that sends him from London town to the High Seas headed for Morocco don't miss the action-packed pantomime full of laughter, music and dance. Can he outwit the evil rodent King Rat, free the city from his team of revolting rodents and win the beautiful Alice's hand in marriage?

Find out in the ultimate magical pantomime adventure!

Featuring special effects, plenty of audience participation and a chance for audiences to come together and share the magic of live theatre.

**WELCOME!**

DDCS sends a warm welcome to Eamon Mohammed Fiaz and his family. We look forward to seeing you all at one of our events very soon.

## DUDLEY DEAF YOUTH CLUB (DDYC) UPDATE

Meetings of the Dudley Deaf Youth Club (DDYC) are still currently on hold due to staffing issues. We are in need of a volunteer member of staff with some BSL training, to join us in order to provide a Youth Club where Deaf/Hearing impaired young people can meet each month to chat, craft, cook and generally have fun.

Meetings are held once a month, (usually on a Thursday evening for approx. 2 hours at a cost of £3.00 per session) at Queens Cross Network, Dudley. If you would be interested in becoming a volunteer with DDYC or would like more information, please contact Jan at [jaevans63@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jaevans63@hotmail.co.uk)

We are also keen to attract new members to the Youth Club as well as hoping to reconnect with previous members. If you have children aged 10 – 18years (up to 25yrs with additional needs) who would like to meet other young people within the deaf community, or if you are a previous member and are still interesting in coming along to Youth Club, then please let me know at the email address above and I will add names to our contact list for when the Youth Club restarts.

## NDCS NEWS

At the end of January the British Sign Language Bill passed its second reading, completely unopposed. This was such an important day for deaf children, young people and for all users of British Sign Language. It is a fantastic step towards the Bill becoming law.

This Bill has now been sent to a Public Bill Committee which will scrutinise the Bill line by line and is expected to meet on Wednesday 23 February 2022.

NDCS are grateful to Rosie Cooper MP for introducing the Bill and to all the other deaf charities and MPs who have supported the bill so far.

## Become pen pals with other deaf children and young people

NDCS Pen Pals Project aims to support deaf children and young people (ages 6 to 18) to keep in touch and make new friends. Those who take part will be matched with another young person of a similar age and communication preference. More information can be found online at the NDCS website :

<https://www.ndcs.org.uk/our-services/our-events/events-for-children-and-young-people/become-pen-pals-with-other-deaf-children-and-young-people>



Thanks to Covid-19 Next Steps funding from BBC Children in Need, earlier this year BID services have launched a brand new online provision for young people to join our fun activities from home via Zoom. This is an expansion of the existing youth provision and open to young people aged 4 – 18 from across the UK.

With two sessions a week for different age groups, the activities are led by two Youth Project Staff, Kiran and Jessie, both Profoundly Deaf BSL users with a wide range of skills and knowledge to share with young people. All sessions are voiced over by an Interpreter and live captions are available on Zoom. We post art and craft packages for 4-7 years old so they can create their art and craft activity at home.

Sessions are attended by young people who are D/deaf, hard of hearing and some CODAs, we have children coming to sessions from all over the country: from Essex to Doncaster, Birmingham to Scotland.

We have done a bit of everything! From Life Skills, College/Uni Life, Employability to Fitness (including Zumba, Street Dance, Parkour, Yoga & Pilates). Art and Crafts, Cooking/Baking, Circus skills, Bubbleology, Escape Rooms, and we've even 'met' some live animals.

We think it's really important to showcase Deaf role models who can inspire the younger generation and are always on the lookout for new facilitators to lead engaging workshops and activities. Please get in touch if this is you.

For more information, contact:

Jessica Shepherd by email at [Jessica.Shepherd@bid.org.uk](mailto:Jessica.Shepherd@bid.org.uk)

or visit the BID website [www.bid.org.uk](http://www.bid.org.uk)

