

Listen!

What's inside?



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2 year old Arlo in the new Garden Suite facilities

New facilities enhance services for deaf children

Since its official opening in September 2018, our new Garden Suite has enabled us to work with partners to provide comprehensive wraparound services for children with hearing loss across our region and from further afield.

Expanded amenities support partnership working

In the Garden Suite, we have built state-of-the-art facilities including two purpose-built, soundproof audiological testing rooms, alongside reception, therapy and consulting rooms. We have developed these new facilities to enable partnership working with other organisations. The launch tenant is the University of Southampton Auditory Implant Service (USAIS) who are using the brand new facilities to provide outreach services for clients of all ages with cochlear implants.

"As a charity supporting deaf preschool children, it was important to our trustees that we use these facilities to enhance the work that we do. Having the University of Southampton Auditory Implant Service on-board allows us to provide families with a joined-up service that benefits all involved and offers exciting opportunities for the future by way of research and development."

Julie Hughes, CEO, The Elizabeth Foundation

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New facilities enhance services for deaf children – continued

At the official launch reception on 24 September 2018, we welcomed staff, volunteers, trustees and our founders Shirley and David Metherell, alongside friends from University of Southampton Auditory Implant Service and audiology / ENT teams of Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust.

We are currently in talks with several other organisations to make the best use of these new facilities, which complement our existing on-site partnership with the Paediatric Audiology service provided by the Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust.

How children are already benefiting

In February this year, 2 year old Arlo was due to have an appointment with the USAIS on a Monday when he also attends our preschool. Previously, this would have involved a trip to Southampton and on this occasion would mean Arlo not only missing his day at preschool but also a planned school trip to the local library. Instead, he was able to start his day as usual in our preschool classroom, before popping across to the Garden Suite for his USAIS appointment, then returning to nursery to join his classmates on their library trip. Mum Juliet said:

“It’s amazing to have USAIS here as it creates a wraparound service without us having to travel all over the place for different appointments. Now on The Elizabeth Foundation’s site, Arlo can access both services and not miss out on vital learning experiences.”



Former Elizabeth Foundation pupil Chyngeta had her cochlear implants fitted recently as a teenager. Living in Portsmouth, being able to attend her USAIS appointments in the Garden Suite means her studies are disrupted as little as possible. Chyngeta’s new hearing technology is enabling her to communicate even more effectively – and in March this year she was able to call her mum on the phone for the first time.

New website celebrates our 21 years on the World Wide Web!

We first registered our website domain (www.elizabeth-foundation.org) all the way back in January 1998.

We recently celebrated our 21st anniversary with a brand new website, created completely in-house by our Digital Media Manager.

We wanted to move with the times, so our new website is now easier to view on smartphones and tablets as well as computers.

We have also refreshed all of the website content, and have added new information – such as a page of advice and guidance for parents of newly diagnosed children. You can also sign-up to receive our email newsletters, and donate quickly, easily and securely online.

Our new website is easier for us to update, so we can keep you informed about our latest news and events. And for the first time ever we have an online shop – so you can now buy a range of items, purchase tickets for fundraising events, or make sessional payments online if your child attends our nursery.

Our online presence has certainly come a very long way since 1998. We are confident our new website provides the best possible platform for our continued online success.

We hope you enjoy exploring our new website. Please let us know what you think about it – and if there is anything you feel we should change or add.

Visit our new website at www.elizabeth-foundation.org



Donate online!

To make a donation online or to set up a regular monthly donation quickly and easily through our new secure online facility go to: www.elizabeth-foundation.org and click on the 'DONATE' button at the top of the page.

Chief Executive's Message

Welcome to the Summer 2019 edition of Listen! magazine.

Over the past few years, we have seen huge changes in the work we are doing. Our services have grown and developed beyond recognition with the introduction of the 'Listen' support groups, the launch of Let's Listen and Talk, the introduction of the Summer Residential programme and the additional nursery sessions added to our core services, supporting more children from further afield.

We have also improved our HR practice, introduced additional policies and procedures to guide and safeguard our staff and beneficiaries and improved safety measures for cyber-safety. We have formalised our Volunteers' programme, with policies and procedures in place to guide us. We have completed a huge building project and are working in partnership with 'like-minded' charities. We have rebranded our printed materials and launched our new website to give us much more of a national and professional presence as a centre of excellence. And we have actively recruited new Trustees to ensure best-practice in governance. But our work is not finished!

In our last Listen! Newsletter, we announced the launch of our new national online home learning programme called Let's Listen and Talk. Ewa Guscott, Teacher of the Deaf at The Elizabeth Foundation, is busy supporting families from across the country with this new resource. Additionally, we have recently initiated a pilot programme (see page 10) to use the resource in a triangulated way, with the family, local Teacher of the Deaf and The Elizabeth Foundation all working together to provide support around listening and spoken language development.

Henry Ford once said, "Coming together is a beginning, keeping together is progress, but

working together is success." Collaborative working with other professionals, other authorities and other charities is definitely a very positive step forward for providing the best possible family-focused intervention. We are delighted to be working with a number of local authorities on this project across the country. We will report back with our results once the pilot is complete.

In addition, we are delighted to announce the official opening of our new on-site testing, consulting and therapy facilities called 'The Garden Suite' (see cover story). We are so pleased to have formed a partnership with the University of Southampton Auditory Implant Service so that we can host their outreach cochlear implant support here on-site at The Elizabeth Foundation. Alongside our partnership with the Audiology Department from Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust, this allows parents to receive a complete joined-up service from the time of diagnosis, through to receiving hearing aids / technology, cochlear implant assessment (and device choice and eventual switch-on if appropriate), nursery provision for listening, language, speech and communication and family support – all on one site, with everyone working together.

This is a unique service and we feel very proud and privileged to be able to offer this level of support in such an innovative way with our partners.

I feel really excited about the future of the charity and the direction in which we are going. The charity is in a strong place at the moment, and that is down to the hard work, dedication and effort of everyone on the team. That is not to say we can take it easy. There is still a lot of work ahead. But just for a few minutes, I would like to sit back, relax, and reflect on all that we have achieved together!

Julie Hughes,
Chief Executive



Julie leading a Baby session

Collaborative working

We are committed to working together with other organisations that support deaf children and their families, to provide the best possible support.

Over the past year we have:

- Hosted an Information Day by Advanced Bionics
- Attended the Cochlear Implanted Children's Support Group (CICS) Family Information Day and provided regular articles for the CICS magazine
- Attended the National Sensory Impairment Partnership (NatSIP) Working Day, with professionals from across the UK
- Presented to the Cochlear Implant Team at St Thomas' Hospital in London about our work
- Presented lectures to psychology students at the University of Portsmouth
- Presented at the Special Educational Needs Cluster Meeting for Portsmouth
- Presented at and attended the Children's Hearing Services Working Group (CHSWG) for Hampshire
- Presented at Pan-Sussex Newborn Hearing Screeners' – Meeting the Varied Needs of Families
- Presented to Training Teachers of the Deaf, University of Hertfordshire, Mary Hare
- Benefited from the expertise of Claire Simons from Ovingdean Hall Foundation, who gave us support for using Raiser's Edge software.

In addition to collaborations with other organisations and charities, we hosted a number of visits, including:

- Paediatric ENT Consultants from QA Hospital
- CEO Ewing Foundation – visited with Shirley Metherell
- Cllr Gerald Vernon-Jackson, Head of Portsmouth City Council
- Suzi Horton, Cabinet Member for Education, Portsmouth City Council
- Stephen Morgan, MP for Portsmouth South
- Penny Mordaunt, MP for Portsmouth North
- Paul Harris, Ewing Foundation
- Staff from the National Deaf Children's Society.

We also welcomed Teachers of the Deaf, Nursery Assistants, Speech and Language Therapists, Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists, Educational Psychologists and Audiologists.

Little stars

In this brand new feature for Listen! we want to celebrate our children's wonderful achievements. If you would like us to feature your child next time (space permitting) please get in touch.

Kyle

"Kyle really loves playing football for our local children's team on a Saturday morning, and loves to wear his favourite Chelsea kit. Kyle started football training a couple of months ago and is growing in confidence every week – even winning a medal. His coach and teammates are amazing and he thoroughly enjoys each week."



Theo

"Unfortunately, Theo recently had an accident and lost one of his teeth, so he had to go to the dentist. He had never been for a dental check-up before as we thought he wouldn't let a dentist near his mouth. However, I was amazed that he let the dentist not only use his mirror to look in his mouth, but he also let him take an x-ray! He did go on a trip to visit a dentist with his class at The Elizabeth Foundation a few months ago during their 'People who help us' topic, so perhaps that made him feel more at ease during his appointment. Either way, I was very relieved and plan to take him to the dentist again soon to reinforce the positive experience!"



Romilly

"Romilly comes across as a really confident child but will be quite shy if she meets new people or is in an environment she struggles to hear in. She started ballet classes a year ago and took a little longer than we expected to settle. She persevered and after a few months was able to stay each session on her own and has just kept on improving. Romilly has proved to us that deaf children can access, participate, enjoy and achieve in activities that you think are not going to be possible. She is due to perform in her first dance show this May!"



Henry

"A lot of people assume cochlear implants are an instant fix for a deaf child, switch them on and off they go. What they don't see are the hours and hours of hard work behind the scenes from various professionals to make sure children like Henry reach their full potential. Since he started talking he has been unable to produce the 'F' sound which has at times made him sad and frustrated when he isn't fully understood. Various wonderful speech therapists have been working on this with him for the past year. Then today out of nowhere, "Mummy, I am FOUR years old!" absolutely perfectly. To most parents this probably seems very insignificant but it's a huge milestone for Henry. I am so grateful for all of the hard work his amazing teachers and therapist have put in. Two years ago, I could never have imagined he would be chatting away as beautifully as he is today."



Summer Residential Programme

We developed our Summer Residential Programme in an effort to provide support to families who live outside a regular commuting distance for our core services.

During August 2018, we ran our fourth Summer Residential Programme, with families attending from Surrey, Birmingham, Northern Ireland, Newcastle, Kent and Hertfordshire.

The preschool children had a wonderful time in the nursery exploring 'Summer Fun' and learning new speech, language and listening skills.

The five brothers and sisters who attended the sibling programme had a wonderful time making clay models, exploring nearby Fort Nelson, and learning about how we hear.

The parents had a very intensive (but still enjoyable!) week with sessions provided by experts including the University of Southampton Auditory Implant Service, Music Specialists, Speech and Language Therapists, Sensory Integration Specialist, Teacher of the Deaf, Educational Psychologist, and support from the National Deaf Children's Society.

One parent described the week as "life-changing" for their family. We are very excited to be able to offer this programme and we are so grateful for the tremendous support we get from local professionals who all contribute to make this a very successful week for all the families involved.

We still have a few places remaining for this year's summer programme, taking place from 29 July – 2 August 2019. Contact us for more details.

Nursery update

Children learn through ‘doing’ – having real experiences to back up what they are learning in their nursery sessions and at home.

In our baby nursery, the babies get to experience language and listening through all their senses – seeing, hearing, touching / feeling, tasting, and when appropriate, smelling. They learn about sound through experiencing the sensation with their whole body – seeing the drum, hearing the drum, feeling the drum. We explore food at snack time (which often gets very messy!) by watching, hearing, tasting, smelling and touching. And we learn about language through real experiences with functional words and phrases such ‘lift me up’, ‘stop and go’, ‘on and off’, ‘do it again’, ‘finished’.



In the toddler sessions, we take things a bit further, with the children ‘cooking’ their own snacks of smoothies, rice crispy cakes and pancakes (on Pancake Day!). They learn to listen through exploring and experiencing everyday sounds around the house – a knock on the door, the phone ringing, the toilet flushing and running water from the tap. They listen for the

vacuum cleaner going on and off, the food-mixer responding to them saying ‘stop’ and ‘go’ (as if by magic!). Through play, they learn about household routines such as bed time and bath time. And then, when these routines take place each day, they have some language to put with the experiences.

In the preschool, we are very lucky to have the use of a minibus, funded by Ovingdean Hall Foundation. So for each topic through the year, the preschoolers get to ‘experience’ their language topic through trips and outings. They visit the Forest of Bere in the autumn term to collect things that are part of their Autumn vocabulary topic. They visit the farm in the spring term to see, hear, and touch the animals they have been learning about. They go to the supermarket to purchase food for snack time, and they go to the post office to mail their letters. We also have visits from the local ambulance, fire and police services during our topic of ‘People Who Help Us’. The children bring in their pets during the topic of ‘Pets’.

For children, play is teaching about how things work in the world and these real experiences help build children’s strategies for play, socialising and planning. Their play shows how much they understand about their world.

We are so lucky to have such wonderful support from our local community so that our children can learn about ‘their world’ from the people in the world around them.

Trustee profile – Walid Al-Safi

Walid became one of our trustees last year, bringing a wealth of specialist medical knowledge. He explains how he became involved:

“I was born in Mosul, Northern Iraq, in 1950, the last of nine children. By the time I was thirteen years old the family had moved to Baghdad where I completed my secondary education. Baghdad Medical School then offered me a place to study medicine, at this time medical facilities in Iraq were second-to-none but sadly not any more.

My first job as a doctor was in Babylon, close to the site of the Hanging Gardens. After that, I decided to further my knowledge by working in Western hospitals. I took medical posts in Southern Ireland and England, where I specialised in Ear, Nose and Throat surgery. My last position was at QA Hospital starting in 1990 until retirement.

The close involvement between my department and The Elizabeth Foundation gave me an insight into the incredible work they do. After retirement I was able to maintain contact when my friend ex Lord Mayor Ken Ellcome made The Elizabeth Foundation one of his charities during his year of office, through attending the many charitable functions.

To be asked to become a Trustee was a great honour and I hope to make a worthwhile contribution to the Board.”



Staff news

Natalie Oliver

“Hi, I’m Natalie, the new Fundraising Coordinator at The Elizabeth Foundation.

“I was first introduced to The Elizabeth Foundation in 2017 through my role as Community Champion at Asda. For several years I volunteered at the Summer Fayre which helped me get to know the team here and learn about the impact of hearing loss.

“I was thrilled then to become part of the Foundation’s wonderful team and to be able to put my creative skills, experience in customer service and fundraising, and outgoing personality to great use.

“I am so proud to say that through my new role I will be helping to continue services which enable deaf children to learn to listen and talk.”



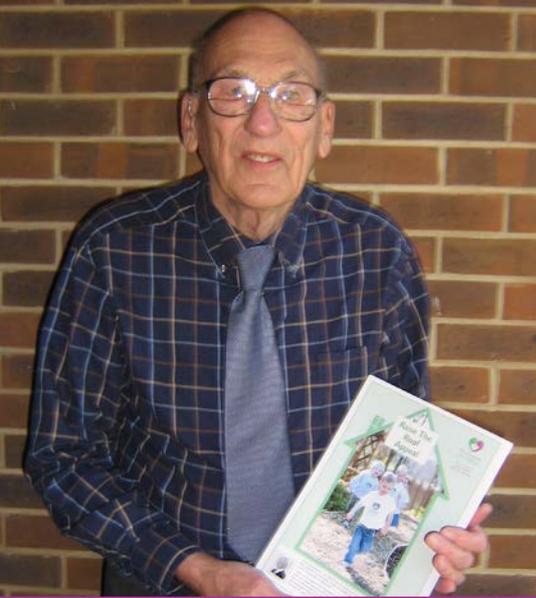
Read about our impact

In December 2018, we published our Impact Report 2017–18 to celebrate the impact of our work helping deaf children learn to listen and talk.

This Impact Report covers our school year from August 2017 to July 2018.



You can download the Impact Report 2017–18 from the news section of our website at www.elizabeth-foundation.org/news/impact-report/ Alternatively, if you’d like to receive a printed copy please contact us.



A fond tribute to Geoff Boulding

Geoff Boulding, one of our longest standing volunteers, sadly passed away at the end of last year. We asked his family to provide an article for our newsletter:

“Geoff moved to Portsmouth with his family in 1959 and he worked as a manager at GEC, later to become Marconi, at the Browns Lane works on the airport. Sadly Geoff’s wife Ula died at the age of just 57 in 1984, but Geoff continued his career with Marconi until his retirement in 1989.

“Geoff had been a keen and capable artist in his later years at school and had ambitions of a career in architecture or graphic design until interrupted by the Second World War when he enlisted in the RAF. On leaving the RAF in 1947 his electronics training led him to study Physics at University and then to his career with GEC.

“On retirement. He took up art again and met Ray Rough through his church and art society – Ray introduced Geoff to The Elizabeth Foundation.

“Geoff would spend 25 years volunteering at the Foundation. He typically spent a couple of half days each week doing whatever was needed of him – supporting staff, working with the children, acting as handyman and helping organise fundraising events, especially art shows where inevitably he would supply half a dozen of his own works for sale. In later years, Geoff’s hearing also deteriorated significantly making the association with The Elizabeth Foundation even more appropriate. He enjoyed giving his time, but the children and dedicated staff also provided a focus and purpose for Geoff.

“Geoff continued to offer his support into his 90s but ultimately had to ease back when he could no longer drive after a minor stroke and then became a little shaky on his feet making even bus journeys difficult. Staff members collected him from home for a while but when he then fell more seriously ill he gave up his routine visits.

“He missed his routine immensely but was never forgotten by the Foundation where he had made so many close friends. Sadly Geoff passed away in late 2018 but is greatly missed.”

Joy’s journey

“We have attended The Elizabeth Foundation’s Listening Group for babies with Down syndrome since Joy was just 3 weeks old.

“We were introduced to you at her newborn hearing test. You came to meet us personally and congratulated us on her birth. We had a prenatal diagnosis of Joy’s condition but were still overwhelmed with the multiple implications of her condition. The ‘Listen’ support group has been a calm in the storm, a regular monthly lighthouse on our horizon.

“She now knows confidently words such as ‘Listen’, ‘Stop’, ‘Quick’, ‘Slow’ and ‘Up’ and I know that this is a result of the techniques and exercises we consistently carry out in the group. The activities are so varied but all focus on the central theme of listening and language.

“One thing I’d like to mention is how inclusive The Elizabeth Foundation is. Joy’s hearing loss

is not ‘specific’; we know she has a narrow ear canal and congestion which impact her hearing on a daily basis, but no further diagnosis has yet been received. Despite that we have never been treated as ‘not as significant’ as other children who use your excellent services. The mission statement for the group is clear and supports the work across the whole of The Elizabeth Foundation: ‘how to encourage good listening and language’. It seems so obvious and should be something all children with Down syndrome can access.

“Without this group, Joy’s language comprehension and ability to communicate would be severely impacted and our lives would be less rich. We certainly wouldn’t have known how best to promote good listening and language without you.”

Fleur Bragaglia

Joy leading one of the sessions



‘Listen’ support groups

Our ‘Listen’ support groups are now in their sixth year and continue to support families from across the South of England.

Many of the children who attend the groups have a fluctuating hearing loss or a one-sided hearing loss, which makes listening a challenge, particularly in noisy situations. We also run a group for children with Down syndrome. The main priority of each session is to teach the parents how they can help their child become the best listener he or she can be. And we do this through music, singing, dance and movement.

The groups are an absolute delight! Although we only meet once per month, there is so much camaraderie and support between the families, and real friendships between the children. We demonstrate activities in the session so families can practise them at home during the weeks between sessions. Watch this space... we have some musical stars in the making!

The sessions run for 1½ hours on a Friday. To find out more information call us or visit our website.

With grateful thanks

Over the past year we are grateful to have received gifts in wills left by: John Cockerton; Jacqueline Rosalind Fraser; Margaret Mary Moore; Elizabeth Gillian Wood; Doreen Hilda Eaton.

We have also received donations in memory of: Barry Woodward; Geoff Boulding; Adele Chatburn; Teresa Wallis; Violet Knight; David Frederick James; Terence Barrett; Arthur Slater; Ethel Lyngnane; Debbie Strawbridge; Ayesha Hussain; Norma Goodacre; Iris Lester.

We would like to offer our heartfelt condolences to their friends and families.

A couple of volunteers!



Chris on a trip to the farm

"I was introduced to The Elizabeth Foundation by series of accidents. Christine (my partner and fellow volunteer – see below) had a friend who was running the Great South Run and we went along to give moral support. I did not realise at the time but her efforts, and that of a couple of her friends, were raising funds in support of the Foundation.

"Then Christine's daughter Laura decided to do the Spinnaker Tower abseil challenge to raise funds for the Foundation. Having met Julie and Fiona at one or both of these events and talked to them about the charity's work and how it was funded, I decided to try and help by getting my Masonic Lodge to support them by donating funds to this worthy cause.

"As part of meeting Julie and Fiona, we were given an open invitation to visit the facilities and see what The Elizabeth Foundation was all about. I defy anyone not to be moved in the manner that Christine and I were during that visit. Seeing the children interacting with each other and the staff was a joy and recognising that they were conversing like any other child of their age, CONFIDENTLY!!!!, but with the help of technology and dedicated professional staff. Smiles all round,

enthusiasm in abundance – how could you not be moved to want to help?

"So here I am, nearly nine months into my volunteering role and enjoying every minute. The volunteering has taken me out of my comfort zones on occasions, but I have done a wide variety of tasks from writing policies to completing my MiDAS training so I can drive the minibus for outings with children and teaching staff. Well, happy days.

"So lots of variety in the tasks I undertake, conversations with friends and family that now include anecdotes of my days at the Foundation and the little bit I do to help The Elizabeth Foundation do what it does best, ensuring that profoundly deaf children are learning to speak and listen in the most fabulous of surroundings."

Chris Gray

"Hello my name is Christine and I started volunteering with The Elizabeth Foundation in July 2018. I became aware of the Foundation through Julie Hughes' partner, Pete, who I worked with in a company in Petersfield. I moved to Southsea in July 2017 and following a hip replacement soon after decided to semi-retire and enjoy my new life in Southsea.

"I had previously volunteered with Riding for the Disabled, combining my love of horses with helping children with disabilities enjoy the social and physical benefits of riding ponies. Sadly, my surgery has prevented me from running round with the ponies so I reluctantly decided to retire from the charity.

"I wanted to continue volunteering and asked Julie if I could be of help at the Foundation. After she showed me the fantastic facilities here and I saw the amazing benefits the children receive, I decided it was definitely a charity I wanted to get involved with.

"I have had experience first-hand of having a child with disabilities. I know how important it is that these children get all the help and support that is available at a very young age in order that they can progress through school, feel included with their peer group and feel confident in later life. My daughter, despite numerous medical problems throughout her life, is now 26 years old and works at BAE Systems as an administrator. I am sure that the children who are part of The Elizabeth Foundation's family will also fulfil their potential having had such a good start in life.

"I feel very privileged to be able to volunteer here. I put my secretarial, administrative and bookkeeping skills to good use and at the same time see the children flourish in this wonderful environment. You are never too old to learn something new and I am happy to do anything that is asked of me (within reason!). I know I am valued by the staff which gives me a sense of well-being too."

Christine Barrett



Chris Gray

Daniel's success story

"Daniel is now 4 years old. He was diagnosed at around 4 weeks with a severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss, which has been found to be caused by Connexion 26 gene.

"We first met Julie from The Elizabeth Foundation during Daniel's hearing test appointment when he was diagnosed. We can remember our heads were spinning but she reassured us that help was there. Soon after, we were contacted by our local Sensory Support team on the Isle of Wight. They arranged a home visit for us to meet his wonderful and supportive Teacher of the Deaf and communication support assistant, who have provided us with invaluable advice and endless help over the years.



The week following diagnosis we made the journey back over to Portsmouth to meet with Julie again and this time have a good look around The Elizabeth Foundation. From this day we both realised that we wanted Daniel to join the baby group and benefit from all the wonderful teachers, assistants and speech and language team at the Foundation.

From then on we started our weekly trips across the Solent, shortly after Daniel was fitted with hearing aids in the March. We found it so helpful

and reassuring being part of the baby group, meeting and talking with other parents in the same position, as well as the team.

As Daniel grew, he became more interested in what we were doing in the class each week, enjoying the music and games. It was so beneficial for us to learn new skills and ideas that we could try at home to help him to learn to listen and speak. However, we were never exactly sure how much he was hearing through his aids, as sometimes it would seem he was not responding to us at all. Then one day in baby group that always remains with me is the day he had his audiology appointment and was given more powerful hearing aids. I remember we re-joined the group following his appointment and I sat him in the middle of the circle and he looked stunned, like something completely new was happening to him!

We then moved onto toddlers, which came with more routine, independence and a topic to focus on each term, starting to prepare him for the structure of the preschool sessions.

We noticed quite quickly that Daniel is a boy who loves his routine and to know what is going to happen next. During this time in toddler group, as more of his friends were having cochlear implants, we were starting to think again as to how much access to speech he was getting. This was when, with help of The Elizabeth Foundation we requested his audiologist to put him forward for CI assessment.

Following a long assessment process with its up and downs due to his hearing being borderline in one ear (due to the guidelines at that time) we were finally given the good news that he was eligible for cochlear implants. He had the

operation in January 2017 (one week before his 2nd birthday) and has since gone from strength to strength in his learning to speak and listen.

He moved up to Rachel's preschool class in the September that year along with some of his friends, which took the routine and independence to the next level. He still gets so excited in the morning that he is going to preschool and understands that he gets to go on the ferry.

I am often told that we are admired for making the weekly journey across the Solent (in almost all weathers and usually only being stopped by a cancelled ferry!) but for us it is an easy journey and easy decision to make because of the way Daniel has progressed and learned vital skills in preparation for starting school.

This has truly been down to the wonderful team at The Elizabeth Foundation and his support team here on the Isle of Wight.

Hannah and Tim Seaman

As a thank you for everything they have done for Daniel and all the other children, Tim (Daniel's dad) and three friends are taking on the Three Peaks Challenge in June this year. If you'd like to support them visit their fundraising page:

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/4planks3peaks

Thank-you to WightLink for supporting our families from the Isle of Wight with half-price ferry travel to nursery sessions.

A graduate's experience

"I am Alicia Craven and I was born in February 2001, with sensorineural deafness in both ears. My older brother has a profound loss in one ear and a mild loss in the other. When I was still a baby, I tried using hearing aids but never managed to get them to work successfully for me.

"As soon as my parents were introduced to the idea of a cochlear implant they were keen for it to happen quickly and I was implanted in my right ear at 17 months old. At the time I was one of the youngest children to be implanted. I attended The Elizabeth Foundation from nine months old and it became an extremely important part of our lives. My mother and I have made friends that we will have forever and the support network has benefited her as much as me over the years.

"After the Foundation I started at a local infant school but unfortunately I was not able to repeat a school year there so I transferred to an Independent girl's school where I have been since Year 3. This is hard for any young girl growing up but being deaf did mean that I had to work much harder to develop friendships and to keep up with my studies.

I have been fortunate to have had amazing Teaching Assistants over the years and this helped me massively during my GCSEs last year. I was delighted on results day to see that I had passed all of them, with better grades than had been predicted. I am currently in my first year of Sixth Form studying Business Studies, Photography and ICT.

"I have recently turned 18 and am looking forward to leaving school next year and attending Film School in London. I love photography and filmmaking and it was a relief when I eventually found something that excited me and that I got! All those hours of watching classic movies has paid off!

"I love travelling and do not let my deafness stop me from trying anything I want to do – especially snorkelling and other water sports. My dream career is to travel the world capturing its uniqueness and beauty on film. I know that the only person who can make this dream come true is me and, although being implanted will bring extra challenges, there are no reasons why I cannot make this happen.

"My speech is clear and unless I tell people they do not know I am deaf. I decided early on not to have a second implant, however being implanted at a young age was the best decision my parents have ever made for me. The support of The Elizabeth Foundation helped us through that process and we will always be extremely thankful for that."

Alicia Craven



The Elizabeth Foundation is incredibly grateful to be supported by generous grant-making trusts and foundations who recognise the positive impact of our work, both in terms of the beneficiaries we support and the opportunities that we have to share our skills and experience with other professionals right across the UK.

These wonderful supporters receive our thanks following grant receipt. We also provide detailed grant reports showing the difference they are making by supporting our work. By collaborating with trusts and foundations in this way, we help them achieve their charitable aims and objectives whilst we achieve ours.

We continue to be fortunate in receiving much needed grants from a wide range of funders, both large and small, including: BBC Children in Need who help fund vital Speech and Language Therapy sessions; Downlands Educational Trust who support baby and parent sessions; The Casey Trust towards music therapy; The Richardson Brothers; and many more.

Whatever the amount awarded, and whether it is towards our facilities or services, we simply couldn't exist without them. So to all of our grant-making trusts and foundations, thank you!



Help us celebrate Deaf Awareness Week

6 – 12 May 2019

Deaf Awareness Week is an annual event organised by the UK Council on Deafness to provide a way to raise awareness of deafness and hearing loss.

We use Deaf Awareness Week as an opportunity to raise funds and awareness about our work in helping young deaf children learn to listen and talk.

This year Deaf Awareness Week took place from 6 – 12 May 2019. During the week, we ran a number of events and activities:

- We ran a series of pop-up events with mum Catherine and our volunteer team, at local business parks, to raise awareness of The Elizabeth Foundation's work

- We asked past and present families to use the #DAW2019 tag on our Facebook and describe in a sentence what The Elizabeth Foundation means or has meant to them.
- We held a cake sale in the atrium of our neighbour Queen Alexandra Hospital
- We held bucket collections at our local ASDA supermarket
- And our #GoTheDistanceforDeafness fundraising campaign (see page 11) encouraged supporters to challenge themselves during Deaf Awareness Week (and throughout the rest of the year!)

Specsavers

We would like to thank the wonderful team at Specsavers Head Office in Whiteley, Hampshire, who have adopted us as their charity for a period of two years. As a charity supporting the education of young deaf children, it is wonderful to work with Specsavers as the company truly understands the difference that hearing technologies and early intervention can make.

The team at Specsavers has already helped us in so many ways; fundraising towards the delivery of education sessions, donating nearly-new IT and helping to raise awareness of our services and facilities. We are looking forward to continuing our relationship with the whole team in 2019.



A fun evening of intrigue

Our first ever Murder Mystery Dinner at the Marriott Hotel in Portsmouth was an enjoyable event, with outstanding actors from CCADS Theatre entertaining guests with their performance during the evening. Thank you to all our guests, volunteers, supporters and performers who helped us to raise over £2,000.

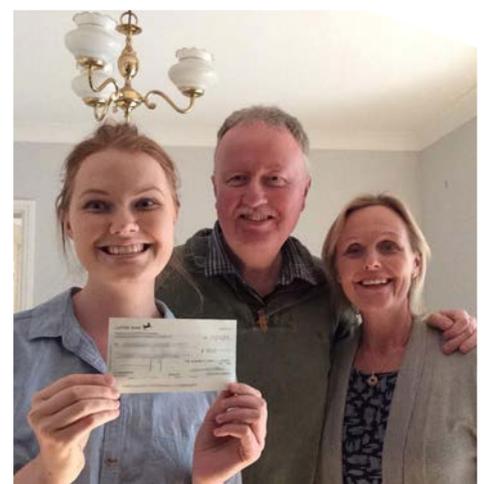


Our big winners for 2019

Our 100 Club and 200 Club lotteries (see back cover) have been an invaluable source of funding since The Elizabeth Foundation's earliest days. And what is also great is that these prize draw clubs enable our supporters to have the chance of winning some fantastic cash prizes whilst helping our work.

In March 2019, our 200 Club annual draw for an amazing £7,000 was won by Andrew and Jane Savage. They have been members of our 200 Club for many years since their daughter Rachel (pictured right) benefited from our services as a preschooler.

Andrew commented, "We are delighted to still support The Elizabeth Foundation, thrilled with our win but more than that lucky to have had its support through such challenging times as parents."





Let's Listen and Talk – Triangulated Pilot

Let's Listen and Talk (www.letslistenandtalk.org) is our unique online programme that supports families with deaf children from birth to 5 years and the professionals who work with them.

At a time when all statutory and voluntary services are being increasingly stretched to capacity, we believe it is even more important for professionals to work collaboratively and in partnership to provide the very best family-centred services. With recent budget cuts, reduced numbers of Teachers of the Deaf and larger caseloads, providing family-focused support to children is becoming more difficult. Although research suggests that achievements of deaf children are improving overall, there is still a significant gap between them and their peers.

Let's Listen and Talk is an interactive online learning programme enabling families to support their deaf child to listen, and to speak clearly and confidently. The Let's Listen and Talk website (www.letslistenandtalk.org) equips parents with an engaging resource for their deaf child with invaluable advice, insights, theoretical and practical tips to help them develop crucial listening and language skills. Uniquely, this is reinforced by individual support from The Elizabeth Foundation's specialist team in those vital early learning years.

All of this information is intended (and currently used by families) to complement and supplement the support they receive from their local services. Parents can access the resource using tablets, personal computers and smartphones. Crucially, they can work through the information with their local support team to help progress and track their child's development.

Dame Evelyn Glennie, the renowned Percussionist, who is also profoundly deaf and Patron of The Elizabeth Foundation said, "When I was made aware of the Elizabeth Foundation's new 'Let's Listen and Talk' programme I couldn't help thinking about my

own journey, and how important it was to have my parents' support throughout. Being able to access valuable information and put it into practice from your own home is a huge achievement and I'm sure it will help families in ways we simply cannot imagine."

At this time, we have initiated a pilot programme to use the resource in a triangulated way, with the family, local Teacher of the Deaf and The Elizabeth Foundation all working together to provide the support for the family around listening and spoken language development. If the family are using sign language as well, there are many elements of the programme that will complement this, although sign instruction is not part of the programme.

During the trial, there is no cost to the family or local service for using Let's Listen and Talk, but we will ask for feedback throughout so that we can monitor the effectiveness of this approach, both from the parents' perspectives and the outcomes for local service. At the time of print, we have 10 local authorities and 14 Teachers of the Deaf signed up to the pilot programme, supporting 21 families across the country.

Become a Facebook Fundraiser!

Since we highlighted our first ever Facebook fundraiser in the Listen! Summer 2018 newsletter, this method of raising funds has become more and more popular with our supporters.

If you are a Facebook user, why not have a look at setting up a Facebook Fundraising event to celebrate a special event whilst supporting our work? It is quick to do and you can then share easily with all of your family and friends on Facebook.

To set up a Facebook Fundraising page:

1. Go to our page www.facebook.com/elizabethfoundation
2. Click on 'Fundraisers' in the left hand menu.
3. Then click on the blue '+ Raise Money' button and follow the steps to set up your fundraiser.
4. Once you have set up your fundraiser, share it with all your family and friends on Facebook!

All the fun of the fayres!

Each year, our Christmas Bazaar and our Summer Fayre raise thousands of pounds and this is down to the help given by our families and friends who donate gifts and volunteer on stalls.

This year we added to our seasonal events with our first ever Easter Community Fun Day in April.

We are delighted that many of our corporate supporters also provide assistance at these events.

The Summer Fayre is on Sunday 7 July 2019 and we look forward to seeing you there!

Your starter for ten ...

Our family centre in Cosham, Portsmouth, is the venue for our ever popular series of fun quiz nights, with 12-14 teams enjoying being quizzed on a wide range of topics.

Tables go fast so book your table for the next quiz night now! £36 per team of four, includes food but bring your own drink. See our website events listing for details.



The Elizabeth Foundation is very pleased to be taking part in two different research studies.

The first study is with Prof Laurence Vincent-Durroux from the University of Grenoble. This study is focused on deafness, early implantation and language (DEL). The aim of her research programme is to look at the early stages of oral language (French and English) in profoundly deaf children who have had cochlear implants since they were about 12 months old. The research is

based on spontaneous language in order to consider all aspects of language together since successful communication results from their combination.

The second research study is led by Dr Fiona Kyle and Prof Ros Herman from City University of London, who are investigating preschool language and literacy skills in deaf and hearing children. The Elizabeth Foundation will be the charity partner for this study. This study is important because many deaf children find learning to read challenging. The overall aim of

the longitudinal study is to determine whether deaf and hearing children who are at risk of later literacy difficulties can be identified from their preschool language, phonological and emerging literacy skills. Early identification of children who are likely to have literacy difficulties will help ensure that they have appropriate support as they begin to learn to read.

We will look forward to keeping everyone updated as both of these studies progress. Watch this space...

Go the Distance for Deafness!

Our #GotheDistanceforDeafness fundraising campaign aims to encourage our supporters to "go the distance" by challenging themselves and setting their own target. This could be anything from running, walking, swimming or cycling to abseiling or skydiving.

Already, our supporters have tackled a wide variety of #GotheDistanceforDeafness activities:

- Swimmers of all ages completed our sponsored swim (see right)
- Candy organised a "Club-a-size" at her local gym
- Scott and Michael got down and dirty at the Tough Mudder 5k
- Dani is undertaking a skydive in June
- Wayne and Martin organised a 24-hour football match marathon
- Tim (dad of Daniel on page 08) is taking on the Three Peaks Challenge with three friends
- Alison is climbing to new heights by tackling Mount Kilimanjaro in September
- And our teams of runners are tackling the Great South Run and London 10k.



Great South Runners

The Great South Run is a 10 mile race around our home city of Portsmouth.

In 2018, we had another exceptional team of runners raising thousands of pounds. Runners included current past and present parents, family members and friends.

We still have places available for the Great South Run 2019.

Whilst we already have many runners signed up for this year, we still have some places available. Let your friends and family know you aim to raise £250 sponsorship and you get an Elizabeth Foundation running vest, medal and certificate. Please get in touch with our fundraising team if you'd like to secure a place.

Sponsored swimmers make a splash

8 year old Isla (pictured) was really keen to raise funds for charity. Isla set up her Just Giving page and took on the challenge to #GotheDistanceforDeafness. She joined our other super swimmers at our annual sponsored swim that took place in March at the Oasis Wellness Centre (just next to our Family Centre in Cosham, Portsmouth).

Isla aimed to complete 80 lengths of the 20 metre pool – an amazing 1 mile or 1.6km of swimming. However, once she got going there was no stopping her as Isla smashed her target and added on an extra 20 lengths and raised £265.00.

Neil who also took on the challenge doubled his target while swimming from 1 mile to 2 miles (160 lengths). They were joined by past pupil Thomas age 10, Catherine (from the NHS Audiology team who provide services based in our Test Centre) and her daughter Amy, Debbie and WI Member Erica. Our fabulous swimmers together raised in excess of £2,700.

Do you want to #GotheDistanceforDeafness?

Have YOU got what it takes?

You can think of your own challenge or take part in one of our events. Contact our fundraising team to find out more.

Email us at fundraising@elizabeth-foundation.org or telephone 023 9232 2162.



Adventures and challenges

Have you got a memorable birthday coming up or how about retirement? Want to do something to celebrate it?

London to Paris Cycle

18 – 22 September 2019. Connect two of the world's most chic capital cities as you embark on the challenge of a lifetime!

China Trek

12 – 20 September 2019. Join the trek of a lifetime as you discover China's amazing cultural past, visit Beijing and experience the rural beauty of this incredible country.

More information

Email or call for a free no obligation pack, or visit www.doitforcharity.com/theelizabethfoundation.aspx to see the amazing challenges you can take on.

Whatever your challenge, we can help you achieve it! Just call the Fundraising Team on **023 9232 2162** or email fundraising@elizabeth-foundation.org

100 and 200 Club update

A huge thank you to all the members of our 100 and 200 Clubs – many members have been supporting since the Clubs opened! The Clubs help bring vital funds into the charity, while also creating an exciting lottery for you.

If you would like to be in for a chance to win cash prizes while supporting The Elizabeth Foundation please contact Natalie Oliver in our Fundraising Team.

We have revamped the 100 Club

For £2 a month, join our revamped 100 Club lottery. Each month you could be in with a chance of winning the cash prizes:

- £300 – December
- £200 – January
- £100 – February
- £50 – other months

For just £2 per month you can have the chance to win these prizes.

200 Club spaces also available

Or try your luck in the 200 Club. £10 per month enters you into our 200 Club draw with monthly prizes of £200 which increase to £2,000 in November and an amazing £7,000 in March (see page 09 for this year's lucky winners)!

Winning numbers	100 club	200 club	100 club	200 club	
Oct 2018	10, 58, 52, 97, 88	36	Jan 2019	35, 46, 34, 56, 80	41
Nov 2018	83, 70, 85, 88	133	Feb 2019	20, 73, 90, 20	27
Dec 2018	26, 19, 17, 28	40	Mar 2019	32, 76, 90, 45	97

How you can help us

We do everything we can to keep charges for our nursery sessions and other services as low as possible. The amount we ask parents to pay is considerably lower than the actual cost of providing our unique learning programmes.

The Elizabeth Foundation is a registered charity and we rely on fundraising and the generosity of our friends, families, local business and the community to support as many deaf children and their families as we can, wherever they live.

Please consider making a one-off or regular donation

- I enclose a donation (cheque made payable to 'The Elizabeth Foundation') of £ _____
- I would like to become a regular giver – please send me details

You can also make one-off or regular donations securely through our website:

www.elizabeth-foundation.org

Gift Aid Declaration

If you are a UK tax payer, by signing this Gift Aid declaration and providing your address we can reclaim an extra 25p from the Government for every £1 you give:

- Gift Aid: Yes, I confirm that I am a UK taxpayer and I want to Gift Aid my donation, and any donations I make in the future, or have made in the past 4 years to The Elizabeth Foundation. If I pay less Income Tax and or Capital Gains Tax than the amount of Gift Aid claimed on all my donations in that tax year, it is my responsibility to pay any difference.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

Please notify us if you want to cancel this declaration, change your name or home address, or if you no longer pay sufficient tax on your income and/or capital gains.

Forthcoming fundraising events

Spinnaker Tower Abseil

Range of dates available until 31 August 2019 – an iconic landmark with a view over Portsmouth that is second to none!

Quiz Night

Family Centre, Cosham – 16 May 2019

Charity Skydive

Salisbury – 8 June 2019

Golf Day

Romsey Golf Club – 13 June 2019

Summer Fayre

7 July 2019 – fun for all the family here at our Family Centre in Cosham.

British 10k Run

21 July 2019 – a flat and fast route taking in the iconic sights of London.

Quiz Night

Family Centre, Cosham – 10 October 2019

Great South Run

20 October 2019 – a popular flat 10 mile route through historic Portsmouth and the seafront of Southsea.

Christmas Bazaar

Family Centre, Cosham – 1 December 2019



The Elizabeth
Foundation

To donate or support our work please visit our website:
www.elizabeth-foundation.org



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The Elizabeth Foundation – helping deaf children learn to listen and talk.

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