

# Listen!

## What's inside?



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## Top marks from Ofsted!

Staff, trustees, volunteers, families and supporters of The Elizabeth Foundation are celebrating the wonderful news that Ofsted rated the services of the charity 'Outstanding' in their most recent inspection report.

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Registered Charity No: 293835  
Incorporating The Beethoven Fund for  
Deaf Children

### "The provision is outstanding"

Following an Inspection visit in March 2022, Ofsted has once again rated The Elizabeth Foundation's preschool services as 'Outstanding'. This means that the charity has received the highest rating across all areas of Ofsted's inspection framework for educational standards for the fourth time in a row.

Ofsted's most recent inspection report highlighted: the high standards that permeate across all areas of the curriculum; the engagement and interaction with the children; the assessment and tracking of progress; the work with parents and families; the partnered working; the reflective practice; the progressive thinking; and the management and care for staff.

Commenting on the provision, the inspection report from Ofsted stated:

**"Children thrive in this exciting, education environment. There are high expectations for every child and children make excellent progress in their learning and development. Children are incredibly well supported to progress to their next stage of education."**



## An unbeatable track record

To receive an 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating for the fourth consecutive occasion is an amazing achievement for The Elizabeth Foundation.

The charity's first Ofsted inspection took place in 2003, when it was rated 'Very good' which, at the time, was the highest rating that could be achieved. After the ratings

changed to the current system, subsequent Ofsted inspections in 2006, 2009, 2016 and now 2022 have all found The Elizabeth Foundation's services to be 'Outstanding'.

## Reflecting an ethos of care and attention

This consistent track record highlights the high standards that the charity's founders Shirley and Dave Metherell, MBEs, put in place all those years ago. It also reflects the ethos of the charity that supports the continuation of those high standards now, over 40 years later.

Julie Hughes, Chief Executive of The Elizabeth Foundation commented: "This latest accolade from Ofsted is testament to all the hard work and efforts of our staff, trustees, volunteers,

families, friends and supporters. It highlights how hard everyone has worked to put the right procedures in place to make the charity run as smoothly, effectively and efficiently as possible. We go to great lengths to provide the care and attention that children and families expect and deserve, and the Ofsted rating reflects that."

You can view the Ofsted report at [www.bit.ly/OfstedTEF](http://www.bit.ly/OfstedTEF)

**"Children's behaviour is excellent. They know what is expected of them and they follow the rules and boundaries well ... The highly effective focus on building children's attention and listening skills will support children when they start school." Ofsted Inspection Report 2022**

## Educational resources for parents

Our Speech and Language Therapists have continued creating their series of informative and practical videos about various aspects of communication.

There are detailed videos on our website covering: speech and language development for young children with hearing loss; the technique of OWLing (Observe, Wait, Listen); and building language.

Alongside these longer videos, there are a series of shorter "Top Tips" about: reading together; quiet time; helping your child "catch" new words; going on a speech sound safari; highlighting words; and listening to sounds around the house.

These resources are under a process of continuous development, and we will publish new resources on our website as they become available. You can watch the videos at [www.bit.ly/TEFparentED](http://www.bit.ly/TEFparentED)



## 40th Garden Party

The sun shone for our 40th birthday garden party in September 2021. It was such an enjoyable event in the autumn sunshine, bringing together so many past alumni and families, friends and supporters including the Deputy Lieutenant of Hampshire and Stephen Morgan MP for Portsmouth South.

**"Staff expertly develop children's listening and communication skills. They skilfully plan activities to introduce new language to children ... Staff have high ambitions for children and they deliver an exceptionally well-planned curriculum."**

Ofsted Inspection Report 2022

## Making an impact

In December 2021, we published our Impact Report 2020-21. It covers the period from August 2020 to July 2021, encompassing our entire 2020-21 school year.

If you'd like to read it, you can download the Impact Report 2020-21 from the news section of our website at [www.bit.ly/TEFimpact2021](http://www.bit.ly/TEFimpact2021)

Alternatively, if you'd like to receive a printed copy please contact us.



# Chief Executive's Message

**W**elcome to our latest newsletter, keeping you up-to-date with current news and information from The Elizabeth Foundation.

As a valued friend and supporter of the charity, I am so proud to be able to tell you that over the past year, we have taken part in two external accreditation and inspection processes. Both of these have rated our charitable services with top marks.

In June 2021, we were visited by I CAN, the children's communication charity, and I am thrilled to say we received the highest level of Early Talk accreditation – Specialist Accreditation. I CAN Early Talk accreditation at specialist level is an endorsement of a service's ability to meet the standards set for good practice, combining a multi-disciplinary team to provide integrated therapy and education of the children in their care. It makes me very proud to say that we are one of only FOUR programmes in the whole of the UK with I CAN Early Talk Specialist Accreditation.

As you have already seen on the cover, the second inspection took place in March 2022. This was when we had a visit from Ofsted, the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills, which inspects services providing education and skills for learners of all ages.

The Ofsted inspection visit comprised of a detailed and analytical look at our teaching and coverage of the curriculum; assessment of children; parental engagement; staff wellbeing; and effective

safeguarding. Once again, we were found to be Outstanding in all areas.

The combination of both I CAN Early Talk – Specialist Accreditation and 'Outstanding' Ofsted rating is an amazing accolade for any educational organisation. You can be assured that we will continue to meet the needs of our families and prepare our children for the next stage of their education at the highest level.

Having navigated many challenges over the past two years, these external accreditations are testament to the hard work, flexibility, resilience, determination and passion of all the team at the charity. The love, effort, skill and talent of the staff shines through in the achievements of the children and the feedback from the families!

Our work was also celebrated with national coverage on BBC1's The One Show. Oliver Pritchard, one of our past students, took part in the Comic Relief Red Nose and Spoon Race during March 2022.

Oliver did an amazing job of not only completing the challenge, but also raising awareness of the work of the charity that supported him and his family when he was young. You can read more on page 04.

I hope you, too, feel proud to be a part of a charity that makes such a positive impact in the lives of deaf children and their families.

**Julie Hughes,**  
Chief Executive

## Working together

In these challenging times, we believe it is important that professionals work together, not only to support families, but to support each other's work, services, charities and organisations.

We continue to have strong bonds with like-minded organisations such as the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS), Cochlear Implanted Children's Support Group (CICS), Auditory Verbal UK (AVUK), British Association of Teachers of the Deaf (BATOD), and the Down's Syndrome Association (DSA).

## Supporting the next generation

The Elizabeth Foundation is a popular organisation for supporting students seeking work experience. Finding appropriate placements throughout the pandemic has been difficult, so we were keen to support as many students as possible over the past year.

In recent months, we have had the pleasure of working with two fourth-year students from the University of Reading, completing their degrees in Speech and Language Therapy; one first-year Training Teacher of the Deaf from the University of Manchester; and two students on their BTEC in Health and Social Care.

It is always lovely to mentor students, who bring new ideas and energy into our setting as they develop their skills for their future careers.

## Getting the word out

We wrote an article for this year's BATOD Association Magazine (the annual periodical of the British Association of Teachers of the Deaf). The article was titled, 'Reflecting on the past to inform the future'. In addition, the magazine featured our newly qualified Teacher of the Deaf, Teresa McCabe (see p7), reflecting on her journey.

In April 2022, we had two articles in the International Journal of Birth and Parent Education (Vol 9, Issue 3). One article highlighted the necessary ingredients for effective family support. A second article focused on the charity's work supporting families and children with all degrees of deafness.

**"Staff work collaboratively with other settings and wider professionals to ensure each child can reach their full potential."**

**"The passionate manager ... continuously strives to develop the provision even further and works with outside agencies to assess and review the setting."**

Ofsted Inspection Report 2022



## Enabling research studies

We are currently taking part in two research studies.

Researchers at University College London (UCL) are conducting research aiming to understand how preschool language and emerging literacy skills are related to later reading ability.

Some hearing children and many deaf children find learning to read challenging. It is therefore important to identify children who may struggle with reading before they start learning to read. Early identification will help ensure that children who need it have appropriate support as they begin learning to read.

During the Easter 2022 break (see photos below), we welcomed back participants for follow-up data collection to see progress made over past three years.

Martina Curtin, a Highly Specialist Speech and Language Therapist working in deafness, has started a research funded by the National Institute of Health Research – NIHR. She is investigating parents’ interaction with their deaf children. Her aim is to create an evidence-based observational assessment that will assess and monitor parents’ interaction skills as they communicate with their deaf child. Through doing this, the aim is to help parents and their professional team to reflect on these skills together.



## Former student Oliver takes on the Red Nose and Spoon Race

In the run up to Red Nose Day in March 2022, young deaf adult Oliver Pritchard (pictured on the right in the photo above) represented The Elizabeth Foundation in the ‘Red Nose and Spoon Race’ organised by BBC’s The One Show to raise funds for Comic Relief.

### Oliver’s motivation

Oliver Pritchard and his family attended our services over twenty years ago, during his preschool years.

Now a young adult, Oliver is currently training to compete in sprint triathlons, alongside pursuing a career in the agricultural industry.

About his motivation for taking part, Oliver says, “I can’t explain how much this charity has done for me, my parents and my brothers ... The Elizabeth Foundation supported us and gave me the foundation on which I’ve built my life!”

### The Red Nose and Spoon Race

During the Red Nose and Spoon Race, two teams took on a series of challenges in the Lake District over several days, as they made their way from Elterwater towards the finish line at Buttermere.

Oliver’s Blue Team was captained by BBC weatherman Owain Wyn Evans (pictured centre in the photo). They were up against the Yellow Team led by TV presenter Angellica Bell.

The challenges included hill-walking, paddle-boarding and crossing a wire suspension bridge hundreds of feet above the ground.

Along with videos introducing each of the team members and their charities, The One Show included a series of updates in the week running up to Red Nose Day on Friday 18 March 2022. You can view all of the video updates on our website at [www.bit.ly/OliverTEF](http://www.bit.ly/OliverTEF)

### How Comic Relief supports us

Comic Relief currently provides crucial funding towards the costs of our face-to-face services and our national online support service Let’s Listen and Talk.

- Has reading about Oliver’s adventures
- inspired you to tackle a challenge of your own?
- Check the fundraising section of our website
- for more ideas! [www.bit.ly/TEFevents](http://www.bit.ly/TEFevents)

Main picture used with kind permission of Comic Relief and BBC The One Show 



## Let's Listen and Talk continues to grow

Let's Listen and Talk [www.letslistenandtalk.org](http://www.letslistenandtalk.org) is a crucial element of the support we are able to offer deaf children across the UK, their families and the professionals involved in their care.

Since we waived subscription fees in March 2020, enrolment on our Let's Listen and Talk online programme has significantly grown. With well over 900 parents and professionals registered, we now have ten times more members than two years ago.

Let's Listen and Talk truly has a national impact, as these users are spread all across England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. And there are many subscribers from beyond our shores as well.

### Making a difference

We are thrilled that we have been able to continue with free access to our Let's Listen and Talk programme. This means that parents and professionals can continue to benefit from this resource and the support that we offer.

**"Ahead of (our son's) ABR testing appointment last week, my husband and I went through your terminology course. We found it so helpful to give us a good understanding of what to expect and helped prompt questions we wanted to ask. Really invaluable at a time when you feel so lost as parents, so thank you."**

### Working alongside local teams

Katherine Swift, our Teacher of the Deaf with responsibility for supporting the programme, continues to attend virtual team meetings with sensory impairment teams from across the UK.

At these meetings, local teams can find out more about the online programme, with walk-throughs for each section so that they can maximise their use of the resource when supporting the families and children with whom they work.

### Enhancing data collection

Data collection for the Let's Listen and Talk programme has been a particular focus for us at the moment.

At enrolment, we would like to know more about our subscribers so we can support them even more effectively. We have recently added new fields as part of the sign-up process so that we can collect the information we need.

During the programme, we would like to be able to collect feedback from more of our users about how the programme is helping them and their children.

We are currently trialling a new streamlined process for data collection to help us measure the programme's impact. Initial results are encouraging and we should be able to report back on this in the near future.

### Refreshing the website

We have also given the look of the Let's Listen and Talk website a bit of a 'makeover'.

We have simplified the menu so the website now looks and feels much more like the charity's main website.

### Hitting the right note

Last year, we launched the first part of our Let's Listen and Talk music strand. The baby section provides 10 catchy new songs that promote early language and listening skills for babies.

We are currently working on the final elements of the toddler section. This offers a further 10 songs written specifically to help toddlers learn to listen and talk through music. The toddler songs section will be available this summer.

To help launch and support these new music resources, we have run online music sessions for the National Deaf Children's Society, the Down's Syndrome Association, and our own online programme.

We received very positive feedback about these online music sessions from both parents and professionals:

**"Thank you so much ... it was really excellent ... we thoroughly enjoyed it."**  
Parent

**"Thank you for such a lovely session! It was perfect. Loads of ideas for families to do at home – and so much fun!"** Professional

## Summer Residential Programme

We could not run our Summer Programme for 2021 due to the pandemic. However, we did organise for each presenter to record their parent session. We then sent each family a "virtual learning pack" on topics such as social development and friendships, school readiness, language development, development of grammar and literacy, and speech development.

We are looking forward to welcoming children and parents back into our Family Centre for the 2022 programme in July. We are busy organising all the sessions to make it a week to remember!

More details are available on our website at [www.bit.ly/TEFsummer2022](http://www.bit.ly/TEFsummer2022)



# Nursery update

At The Elizabeth Foundation, parents are an integral part of our support programme and they take part in every element of our services. In this Nursery update, we'll take a look at what this means in practice.

## Baby groups

Parents in our Baby groups helped us to identify both information topics and also social/emotional issues for us to cover and discuss in our weekly sessions.

We supported these discussions with handouts and an 'Early Communication' booklet. As well as factual information, we provided ideas for day-to-day games and activities to help parents to foster their child's communication development at home.

In addition, we provided support around social/emotional issues such as: raising a deaf child, returning to work, nursery support, emotional wellbeing and making decisions.

## Toddler groups

Our Toddler programme has continued to pivot its focus towards increased mentoring and working alongside families, providing them with the confidence and skills they need to support their own deaf child.

In response to parents' requests to help develop their interaction skills with their children, we held a 'feedback carousel' play session with five different play stations. The aim was to allow parents to play in a natural environment so our team could observe and then provide specific, helpful input.

We also incorporated time into the day so the toddlers' parents could chat and support each other. Families used these times to share experiences, discuss issues and talk about helpful strategies.

## Preschool groups

As part of our parent support network, we created a WhatsApp group, so that all our parents could form a virtual network of support. This continues to be a good way to build parent-to-parent connections.

We also ran a face-to-face parent education session on Education Health and Care Plans (EHCP) and SEN support. We are now planning sessions for the summer term on encouraging school-readiness for literacy and numeracy.

**"Partnerships with parents are remarkable. Parents are included in every aspect of their child's learning ... Parents report feeling empowered, due to the knowledge they have gained from staff."**

Ofsted Inspection Report 2022

Just as we prepare the children for 'big-school', we are preparing the parents with information and guidance about areas of the curriculum so that they can ensure their child is ready for school entry in September.

## Listen groups

Our Listen groups met monthly for parent support, advice and practical games and activities to build good listening skills.

For most people, the ability to listen just "happens". But for a child with any degree of deafness – mild to profound, unilateral or bilateral, conductive or sensorineural – the presence of a hearing loss impacts on the ability to find and locate sound in noise and to hear in challenging listening conditions.

So, for parents in this group, we reviewed: how we hear and the different types of deafness; audiograms; the listening hierarchy; and foundation skills for communication. We had handouts on different topics and at each session we demonstrated everyday activities that promote good listening.

## Speech and Language Therapy

As well as providing one-to-one therapy sessions for children and supporting parents, our Speech and Language Therapy team has been busy with new developments.

After attending training on bilingualism, the team evaluated our parent support and education programme as well as our assessment protocol. As a result, they made the following changes for bilingual families:

- We will strongly promote maintenance of the home language and encourage

bilingual families to carry out activities in their home language.

- We created a therapy programme based on the Building Early Sentences resources and demonstrated this to bilingual parents.
- We had two of the speech sounds assessments we use translated into our most common languages other than English, so we can look out for word attempts in home language and assess emerging speech skills.

## Preschool book audit

During the summer last year, Charlotte Emery, one of our Speech and Language Therapists, led a project to audit the books that we use to teach the children in our preschool groups.

"Put simply, the reading experience can be compromised if you never come across a character or story that reflects your life, culture or background." Louise Johns-Shepherd, Chief Executive, Centre for Literacy in Primary Education (CLPE)

Looking at the preschool lesson plans, we identified a total of 172 books covering 17 different topics. We then looked through the books to review the representation of different cultures, ethnicities, genders, disabilities and types of family within the books we use.

Based on this information, we aim to improve the diversity of the books we use with our children, to ensure we are reflecting a realistic picture of the world our children live in. We want to ensure that all children attending our preschool can see themselves and their families reflected in the materials we use.





**Teresa McCabe**

"Hello, I am Teresa. I have recently started work as a Teacher of the Deaf here at The Elizabeth Foundation.

"I have been a teacher for over ten years and for the last three years I have specifically trained to teach and support children with varying levels of deafness.

"Having undertaken on-the-job experience at The Elizabeth Foundation during my training, I was delighted to take on a role as a Teacher of the Deaf after I successfully completed my course.

"I run a preschool class two days a week – on Mondays and Wednesdays. The children are full of fun and eager to try all the activities we provide for them. It is wonderful to see and a joy to be a part of."



**Becky Lock**

"Hi, my name is Becky and I'm the new Community Fundraiser here at The Elizabeth Foundation.

"I started volunteering for the charity around three years ago, while my son Elliott was in the preschool class downstairs. When he graduated a year later and moved onto infant school, I stayed and have been here ever since helping out once a week with fundraising and admin.

"I am so excited to be joining the team on a permanent basis and am looking forward to the exciting events we have planned for this year, including quiz nights, a golf day and our ever-popular Summer fayre!"



**Adam Hall**

Regular readers of Listen! Magazine will remember Adam Hall, who has been a volunteer for several years in our Fundraising and Finance teams. Here's an update from Adam:

"I was very excited to start my new role as Finance Assistant, providing maternity cover, at the end of 2021.

"I assist with day-to-day finance tasks such as processing invoices and receipting payments and donations. I'm also currently studying Level 2 AAT in Accounting at college."



**Kat Seaton**

"My name's Kat and I recently joined as the new Fundraising Assistant.

"I first came across The Elizabeth Foundation through my mum. I helped my mum garden at The Elizabeth Foundation and started volunteering at events.

"When I heard the charity was looking for a Fundraising Assistant, I jumped at the chance to apply.

"Here I am now as a Fundraising Assistant. Alongside helping with the charity's own events, I also support volunteer fundraisers and host visitors to the Family Centre."

## Patrons' update



**Jodie Ounsley**

In October 2021, England Rugby shared a video about our patron Jodie Ounsley. She talks about her story, her career as a professional rugby player and her deafness. You can watch the video here [www.bit.ly/JodieEnglandRugby](http://www.bit.ly/JodieEnglandRugby)



**Dame Evelyn Glennie**

The website for our Patron Dame Evelyn Glennie was updated at the start of 2022. We were honoured to be featured on her new Charities page [www.evelyn.co.uk/about/charities](http://www.evelyn.co.uk/about/charities)

## Issac's success story

Isaac failed his newborn hearing test when he was just 5 days old. We were shocked but put it down to the fact that he was born quickly and had 'gunk' his ears. It was a worrying time but we had great hopes that it was all a mistake and that everything would work out OK.

So, when they told us that Isaac was deaf, it came as a massive shock to us all. On top of that, tests showed that the cause of Isaac's deafness was Cytomegalovirus (CMV), which is a virus that affected Isaac in the womb. Because of CMV, Isaac's deafness quickly deteriorated from mild to profound in a matter of months.

We were fortunate enough to have a lovely Teacher of the Deaf who talked to us about The Elizabeth Foundation. Isaac joined Julie in the Baby group and he absolutely loved it. It was quite clear to see that this is where we belonged and we haven't looked back since! Some of the worry that we felt melted away, seeing how well Isaac responded to the techniques that

they employ. He then moved into Nicky's Toddler group where he continued to thrive.

As time progressed, Rhian, one of the Speech and Language Therapists, talked to us about the possibility of Isaac having a speech disorder. We knew that Isaac wasn't where he should be in terms of speech, but we thought that it was because of the Cochlear Implant operation. Rhian identified a specific speech therapy to try with Isaac and it unlocked something in his brain. He's now talking in sentences and can be understood most of the time!

Isaac currently attends the Preschool which he absolutely loves and always cheers when it's a "Rachel and Emma" day. He's made some really strong bonds with his classmates. It is brilliant that he sees other children with hearing technology, so that he understands that other children are just like him.

Isaac has planted his roots here at The Elizabeth Foundation. I am positive that

with the right care and nurture he will grow up to meet his full potential, because that is, after all the thing that we worry about the most.

Isaac embarks on another journey soon when he goes to school, I'm sure a lot of tears will be shed when the day comes, but I'm confident in the knowledge that he has had the best start at the wonderful Elizabeth Foundation. **Lynn Gould**



## Agatha's graduate journey

As my parents' first born, there is no shying away from the fear and guilt they must have been feeling after my diagnosis. I can assure you – if you are reading this and feel or have felt the same way – it is totally normal. And I hope by reading my story you will feel reassured that your child can achieve and flourish just as much as a hearing child.

I was born profoundly deaf, then attended The Elizabeth Foundation in my preschool years, before being fortunate to attend a mainstream all girl's public school.

I have two cochlear implants, my first one implanted at 6 years old and my second 10 years later. Cochlear Implants are nothing short of a miracle and, without sounding too dramatic, have saved my life!

I would say that one of my biggest achievements in life is the success I have had with my cochlear implants. As I know this isn't always the case for some, but for me this is purely down to the grit and determination of myself and my family. It's no easy feat after implantation and it required a lot of will-power to get used to my "normal" hearing.

My school days were filled with lots of brilliant memories, and I came away with

incredible friends who never treat me differently from anyone else. After finishing my A-levels I set off on my gap year, which included a lot nannying for local families to save money before travelling in Australia and New Zealand for 3½ months. This was my first experience of managing and owning my deafness away from home and my comfort zone, and it didn't stop me from doing the things I wanted to discover. In fact, I am desperate to go back to Australia soon!

During my gap-year I decided university wasn't for me, both socially and academically. So instead, I attended a one-year professional business secretarial course in Oxford.

This was my first time living independently away from home with new people, and I would be lying if I said this was an easy transition in my life.

I am sure this is the case for a lot of people but, of course, being deaf and accepting that amongst a new group of people made it feel extra tough sometimes. For the first time, I experienced complete exhaustion and times of isolation when the only social activities seemed to be in noisy pubs and night clubs.

However, I am a big believer that those experiences make you stronger and through it all I have never for once wished I wasn't deaf! It's a part of me and has shaped me into the person I am... it just may have only taken me 21 years to work that out!

Today, I am one year into my first job as a business PA for Sophie Theakston Jewellery and have been on a business trip to India and the USA. I have recently moved to London with a friend and now live in Clapham. I am absolutely loving it and everything London has to offer. Really nothing is getting in my way for a new and exciting chapter of my life!

**Agatha Tufnell**



## Fundraising update

The pandemic has changed the world beyond recognition. Our fundraising was also hit very hard, with events and corporate support particularly impacted.

Despite this, we made our intention clear; not just to adapt and survive as a charity, but to bounce back as soon as possible to meet the significant demand for our help.

We have been able to continue to deliver outstanding services for children with all degrees of deafness and their families, even in the most difficult of times. But we know that we couldn't do it without you!

With so many children affected by social isolation, we wanted to ensure that on returning to our Family Centre, they could spend time together in our playground areas, with safe play helping to build back confidence, social skills, listening and language.

Thanks to the generous giving of an individual donor, local Freemason groups and a grant of £3,500 from AT&T we were able to upgrade our outdoor play facilities and then enjoy the laughter and chatter of our young children!

### Trusts and foundations

With demand for both our face-to-face and online services growing and family needs extending during the pandemic, we worked incredibly hard to apply for new grant opportunities to meet these needs.

In particular, we wanted to ensure that we could continue to meet the rapidly rising demand for our Let's Listen and Talk online learning programme and to ensure that both families and external professionals could access this support for free. Once again, the Ovingdean Hall Foundation and others stepped up to help support this vital service.

Having come to the end of our previous funding for Speech and Language Therapy sessions, but with over 10 years' worth of evidence of the positive impact of sessions, we were also driven to seek funding to keep providing this specialist service. We were thrilled by successful applications, including those to Red Hat for £1,000 and The Desmond Foundation for £2,500.

Securing unrestricted funding of £11,800 from the Generation Foundation, alongside strong financial governance, meant that we could provide sessions to all the children in our toddler and preschool groups.

**If you would like to know more about opportunities to support specific projects or our core costs through grant funding, please do get in contact with Karen Vaughan, our Deputy Chief Executive by email [karen.vaughan@elizabeth-foundation.org](mailto:karen.vaughan@elizabeth-foundation.org)**

### A bright future for fundraising

As we move forward through 2022 and into 2023, we are keen to keep up momentum in our fundraising – and once again need your help!

Did you know that, whether as a corporate team, group or even as an individual, abseiling down Spinnaker Tower, taking part in a marathon, skydive or other exciting event will not only master your fears but keep our deaf children listening and talking this year? If you are ready to "Do something different for deafness" you'll find more inspiration on page 11.

### Corporate partnerships

As always, we have been so grateful for the ongoing support of our corporate partners who worked with us to respond to the needs of our beneficiaries.

Eight Wealth Management, Lightning Safety Systems and Engie have been among those who contributed in a huge variety of ways – from cash donations, raffle and auction prizes, attending our events in style and helping to maintain facilities whilst keeping our expenditure down.

When we asked Lightning Safety Systems about their relationship with The Elizabeth Foundation, they told us, "Our CSR is important to us as a business, to engage our staff and our clients and to give back to the community. We would so recommend a visit to the Family Centre, and ask other businesses to help and support the charity."

It has also been our pleasure to work alongside About My Area and Island City Living. As part of our Charity of the Year partnership, they have provided significant amplification for our social media and marketing efforts. Similarly, Go Geek Events CIC have been an endless source of support for our events and activities.

We are always on the lookout for more corporate partners, so if your company supports local charities please let us know.

### Restarting our own events

As the various social-distancing regulations have been lessened since Autumn 2021, we have been able to start running our own events again.

A huge thank you to everyone who supported us and to those who took part in events that included our first ever Rock The Foundation music gig and our Murder Mystery night (see next page).

### Your starter for ten ...

12 teams pitted their skills against one another at our quiz night in February 2022, raising £850. Congratulations to the Just Cruisin' team, claiming their second victory!

A huge thank you to Engie at QA Hospital for providing a delicious feast of sandwiches and goodies to keep our teams' energy levels up! Think you've got what it takes? We hold Quiz Nights on a regular basis – for details check the events page on our website [www.bit.ly/TEFEvents](http://www.bit.ly/TEFEvents)

Lightning Safety Systems joining in with the gardening during a recent visit



## Whodunnit?

It was such a pleasure to be able to hold our Murder Mystery Dinner in November 2021 at The Village Hotel, Portsmouth.

The evening of murderous mayhem was performed with panache by the CCADS players. Our fantastic guests really played their part, putting the bling into their "Gangster and Molls" outfits, ready to guess the murderer.

Volunteer-compere Ricki Scott showed off his talents as Detective Drift, in addition to keeping our large audience engaged throughout a night of fun.

Guests were entertained by the amazing talent that is Katie Rogers. Katie is a much sought-after singer of vintage jazz.

The fabulous Penny Plimmer of Japics Photographic captured all of the 'mug shots'. The evening would not have been complete, however, without Go Geek Events CIC adding some extra razzmatazz to the evening!

The event raised £4,490, and feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive.



## Festive fun

A huge thank you to everyone who joined us at our Christmas Bazaar at The Elizabeth Foundation Family Centre in December 2021.

Visitors were able to sip on a luxury hot chocolate, mooch round our stalls of toys and presents, buy tickets for our children's, beauty or very popular boozy tombolas, try their luck at our Christmas trips and treats tree, and see Micky Mouse and Donald Duck in their Winter Wonderland.

All the children who visited Father Christmas received a present, generously donated by the busy elves of the Group Tax Team at Zurich Insurance UK.

The Christmas Bazaar is always a fun and popular event, and we raised £2,123 in 2021.

## Racing round the track

Congratulations to Andy Morris for braving the February weather to take part in the Goodwood 10K in support of our work. This run took place on the famous Goodwood motor-racing circuit near Chichester, West Sussex.

Andy completed the 10km course in under one hour, raising over £970 including Gift Aid. Well done Andy and thank you to everyone who has supported his fundraising journey, we are very grateful to you all!



## Ecclesiastical 12 Days of Giving

A huge thank you to everyone who nominated us in the Ecclesiastical 12 Days of Giving awards just before Christmas last year.

As a result of these nominations, we were successful in being awarded one of 120 grants of £1,000. This will go directly to supporting our work helping children with all degrees of deafness to learn to listen and talk.

## Do the dinosaur

Graphic designer and illustrator Nick Gowman created this fabulous dinosaur picture, especially for The Elizabeth Foundation to help us raise money towards our charitable services.

The friendly dinosaurs in the picture are proudly wearing their hearing technologies.

We ran a "buy-a-square" competition for the chance of winning this lovely picture, and the lucky entrant was Linzi Weatherson.



## For those about to rock

We were 'Shakin' all over' with the amazing Who's Who and the Rolling Tones at our exhilarating 'Rock the Foundation' night.

A huge thank you to Square Roots Promotions and The Wedgewood Rooms for organising and running our first ever live music charity gig!

Thank you to everyone who purchased tickets and entered the raffle on the night, directly supporting our work by raising £4,490.



## Super skydivers

Huge congratulations to skydivers Andrew Coombs, Jack Bellairs (dad of one of our children) and local salon owner Aleksandar Budic (who was persuaded to do this whilst cutting our Deputy CEO's hair!).

These brave individuals took to the skies to complete a skydive, jumping out of a plane from 10,000ft (2 miles) in support of our work. Our skydivers smashed their fundraising targets, raising over £4,000 between them. If you are up for a skydiving experience, we offer them with our trusted partner, GoSkydive.

**Or just think ... what other challenge could you and your friends tackle to help a young deaf child learn to listen and talk?**



## Jamie's 40 miles for 40 years

Professional golfer Jamie Elson and his family (above) have been dedicated supporters of our work for many years. In March 2022, Jamie tackled an epic '40 miles for 40 years' walking challenge. Before the walk, Jamie said:

"Inspired by the 40th anniversary of The Elizabeth Foundation (and having turned 40 myself!), I will be walking the 40-mile length of Bahrain in an attempt to raise awareness and hopefully some funds for The Elizabeth Foundation and CSSEF (Chloe's and Sophie's Special Ears Fund).

"Our family will be forever indebted to two very special charitable organisations for the education and support that they provided for our youngest son, Henry, at such an important time in his life.

"They were pillars of strength to the whole family, guiding us every step of the way through diagnosis, testing, hearing aids, sign language courses, cochlear implant surgery, speech therapy, radio aids, acoustics; always showing positivity and care.

"It is impossible to express the impact that they had in shaping Henry into the proud and confident boy he is today.

"Henry's progress continues to amaze and thrill us every day and I am keen to raise awareness for the tremendous work these charities do, and hopefully raise funds to enable them to continue enhancing the lives of other deaf children."

Jamie set the target of raising £4,040 for this '40 for 40' challenge – but hit it out of the park with a total of £7,395 for the two charities.

## A splashing success

A huge thank you to all who took to the pool for our swimathon in March 2022. We would like to give a special mention to former pupil Thomas Harvey, for completing a hat-trick of sponsored swims in aid of our work. Teenager Thomas said, "This will be the third time I have done this swimathon, and it's been 3 years since the last one. So, I have decided to stretch my goal and I am aiming to swim at least 3.5km in 75 minutes.

"The Elizabeth Foundation is a very special place to me and my family. It is a preschool for deaf babies and children in Portsmouth; I started going there once a week from the age of 4 months to 4½ years.

"They taught me how to listen and talk and I made so many friends during that time. I am still friends with many of those children now that we are all teenagers too."

Thomas took just 73 minutes to complete his target 176 lengths. Such a wonderful achievement!

## Amazing abseilers

Mark Chambers, Co-Founder, and Eden Rainbow-Cooper, Marketing Assistant, from Orbital Resourcing are tackling a sponsored abseil down Portsmouth's Spinnaker Tower in June 2022.

Mark explains: "A few months ago we were invited to go to The Elizabeth Foundation to see some of their incredible Teachers of the Deaf in action. We also were lucky enough to meet some of the amazing kids who The Elizabeth Foundation helps to learn to listen and talk.

"We sat down to have an eye opening conversation with Karen Vaughan, Deputy Chief Executive, about the history of The Elizabeth Foundation and what we can do to help.

"Karen challenged us to 'Do Something Different for Deafness' and the idea of an abseil was introduced. After a little convincing we both agreed to the challenge to help fundraise.

"We would like to challenge all who see this to also Do Something Different for Deafness!"

**What's that? You want to do an abseil in aid of the Foundation ... we can help you with that! Get in touch with our fundraising team!**



## Remember a Charity features Imogen's story

We have been working with the team at legacy-promotion organisation Remember A Charity to help raise awareness of our work supporting children with all degrees of deafness. In December 2021, Remember a Charity published Imogen Manuel's case study on their website.

Imogen came to The Elizabeth Foundation as a child. As well as being a solicitor and director of a law firm, she is also one of our trustees.

Imogen says: "The Elizabeth Foundation gave me the courage to grow and flourish – teaching me to never limit myself. My positive start at The Elizabeth Foundation helped me to be less isolated, grow in confidence and feel included."

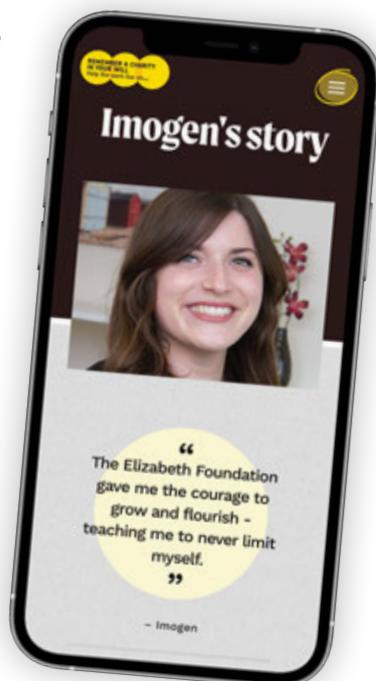
**"I wholeheartedly credit The Elizabeth Foundation for the strong foundation they gave me to be successful in life. My start there gave me the courage to grow and flourish – teaching me to never limit myself."**

Read Imogen's inspiring story and find out how The Elizabeth Foundation supported her along the way at [www.bit.ly/ImogenRAC](http://www.bit.ly/ImogenRAC)

### Leaving a lasting gift

Why not pass on something wonderful with a gift in your Will? Legacies that kind supporters leave us in their Will are vital for us to continue our important work. Would you consider leaving a gift, no matter what size, after you've taken care of your family and friends?

For more information, contact us or take a look at the legacy information on our website at [www.bit.ly/TEFlegacies](http://www.bit.ly/TEFlegacies)



## 100 and 200 Clubs

If want the chance to win valuable cash prizes, why not sign up to a subscription to one of our prize draw lotteries – our 100 Club or our 200 Club?

We run two prize draw lotteries each month which provide The Elizabeth Foundation with a stream of income and gives our supporters the chance to win.

### 100 Club

We currently have spaces in our 100 Club. For just £2 a month you could be in with a chance of winning cash prizes. 100 Club prizes are:

- £300 – December
- £200 – January
- £100 – February
- £50 – for each of the remaining months

### 200 Club

Alternatively, we have a very few remaining places in our 200 Club. £10 per month enters you into our 200 Club draw. 200 Club prizes are:

- monthly prizes of £200
- increasing to £2,000 in November
- an outstanding £7,000 in March!

**Congratulations to our winning numbers below:**

Month	100 Club	200 Club	Month	100 Club	200 Club
April 2021	88	69	October 2021	77	31
May 2021	42	164	November 2021	61	5
June 2021	44	1	December 2021	50	34
July 2021	16	10	January 2022	49	75
August 2021	37	27	February 2022	46	150
September 2021	58	165	March 2022	96	124

Thank you for all your continued support. To find out more about the Elizabeth Foundation prize draw lotteries please contact us or visit [www.bit.ly/TEFlottery](http://www.bit.ly/TEFlottery)

## Become a Facebook or Instagram Fundraiser

Facebook Fundraisers have become more and more popular with our supporters on the platform.

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 and easy to do and you can then share 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](http://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!

**If you're on Instagram you can also add a donate button to your stories.**



The Elizabeth  
Foundation

**To donate or support our work please visit our website:**

[www.elizabeth-foundation.org](http://www.elizabeth-foundation.org)



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

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