

Ovingdean Hall News



Autumn / Winter 2019

Hope and support

OHF's friends have helped to fund an IDVA (Independent Domestic Violence Advisor) who has been working with Deaf women and girls in Sussex who have experienced or witnessed abuse.

THE DEAF HEALTH CHARITY SIGNHEALTH

Run by the Deaf health charity SignHealth, their Domestic Abuse service has delivered individual support to seven women or girls, and reached a further 80 Deaf people through workshops in Eastbourne and Brighton.

'We have worked with Deaf victims of abuse in crisis and through outreach work, helping them to cope in difficult and often life-threatening circumstances,' says Rebecca from SignHealth.

This is the second time OHF has worked with SignHealth. During 2013-16, we funded an education worker who visited Deaf young people in schools to deliver workshops and one-to-one sessions on staying safe online and in relationships.

SignHealth's Domestic Abuse service is now being offered to Deaf people of all genders, and the charity has also been able to secure the funding to develop the project in the Home Counties and Manchester. SignHealth capitalise the letter D in Deaf to describe people who are pre-lingually deaf, who primarily use sign language and who may identify as part of the Deaf community. Find out more at: <https://www.signhealth.org.uk/about-deafness/deaf-or-deaf/>

Swimming to success

We have supported Panathlon's swimming gala for deaf children at Pond's Forge in Sheffield. The Northern Deaf Swimming Finals brought children from both primary and secondary schools together to meet up and compete.

Students from the Royal School for the Deaf Derby won gold in both the primary and secondary categories. They saw off competition from Doncaster School for the Deaf whose students took home silver medals in both events, while York Dolphins – a team formed from seven schools in the York area – claimed bronze. Sunnyside Academy from Middlesbrough also competed.

'Some of the primary children are the only deaf children in their schools so they never get to see other students with hearing aids or communicating through sign,' said Helen, a member of the City of York support team. *'So it's really important to get them together as a peer group.'*

Congratulations to everyone who took part.



Funding for research

University of Manchester student Emily McCabe, whose MSc research project was funded by OHF, delivered a presentation of her findings at the *Deaf Children Now* conference in June 2019. This special event, which marked the centenary of the Manchester Centre for Audiology and Deafness, brought professionals together from across the world. Emily's presentation explored hearing test methods for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. Funding has now been given to two more MSc students to support them with their audiology research.



A summer to remember

Once again, we have supported The Ear Foundation's summer residential in the Derbyshire countryside. Twenty-four children and young people attended, supported by a team of 10 young adult leaders who all had a hearing loss. They enjoyed activities such as canoeing, stream scrambling, caving, abseiling and a Harry Potter-themed evening with a feast and fancy dress.

'The residential is eagerly awaited each year by my 11-year old son,' said one parent. 'As he grows into a young man, the other young people he interacts with on these weekends/ weeks, help the formation of the person he will become.'

Our grant also supported The Ear Foundation's mentoring work with deaf young leaders many of whom attended the adventure week.

The Ear Foundation's Speech and Language Therapist Clare Allen has described the funding from OHF and our friends as, 'completely life changing,' for the people that she works with.



'Your grant has a huge impact,' Clare added, 'Thank you.' She gave a video interview about the impact of the grant which can be viewed at www.ovingdeanhall.org/our-projects/sportsandactivities



A HUGE thank you to all of our friends for funding these amazing projects for deaf children. If you would like to help our work, you can donate online at www.ovingdeanhall.org/support-us or please send your cheque or CAF voucher (payable to Ovingdean Hall Foundation) to the address below. You can also help us when you shop at Amazon by choosing us as your Amazon Smile charity www.smile.amazon.co.uk

Thank you very much!

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