

# North London Deaf Children's Society AGM Committee Report for 2019

## Presented to members on 8th February 2020

The NLDCS aims to offer support by providing accessible events and activities for deaf children and their families in an inclusive, safe environment where ideas and knowledge can be shared and friendships made. All events are heavily subsidised by the NLDCS and some are free of charge to members.

Our year in numbers	
Subsidised or free events for families	9
Email communications	36
Newsletters	2
Mailing list of members, schools, professionals	98
Families who regularly attended our events	22
Age range of children	0 - 15

### Events 2019

#### March: Bowling Hollywood Bowl

Bowling in North Finchley was a great success with 11 families attending and 16 children bowling. Everyone enjoyed knocking down pins, catching up with old friends and making new ones. It was lovely to welcome new families to the event.

#### May: Pizza Making Pizza Express

A language rich treat of tomato, cheese and olives (with the odd red onion and mushrooms for the more adventurous) were the flavours of the day at the pizza making and eating event in Mill Hill.

#### April: Easter Party

At the first NLDCS party of the year we held our first ever Easter Eggmobile Race! 24 families turned up and 12 eggmobiles competed for the egg mobile which travels the greatest distance, the most beautifully decorated and the most original design.

#### June: British Library

The NLDCS stand was puppet making at the fully accessible Build A Story Family Day at the British Library along with other providers such as the Science Museum, Bletchley Park, Postal Museum and others. The NLDCS has taken part in this event, run by Camden Family Learning and Frank Barnes School for Deaf Children, for the past five years as a way to reach out to families.

#### July: Picnic

The weather was kind as eight NLDCS families came together to enjoyed fun & games and a tasty picnic in Highgate Woods.

#### August: Little Dinosaurs

In August the weather was not kind, in fact it poured on the day we met at Little Dinosaurs. Nevertheless 6 children and their parents/carers braved the forecast for torrential to meet for a play date and had a lot of fun diving into the indoor soft play area and cafe when the skies opened!!!

## September Go Ape

Ten very brave deaf children were given the fantastic opportunity to get in touch with their inner Tarzan at almost 40 ft high, braving the treetop trek involving intricate crossings, wobbly bridges and brilliant zip wires finales.

## October: Halloween Party

24 families got together for a spooktastic Halloween Fancy Dress party at Martin Primary School in October. There were plenty of “fangtastic” crafts and “boo-tiful” games followed by a Fancy Dress Parade with prizes for the most creative costumes.

## December: Snow White Chickenshed

As 2019 drew to a close, one of our final subsidised NLDCS events for the year ended with one of our most well attended outings. Over 40 NLDCS members, families and friends attending the Chickenshed’s Christmas Panto for their signed performance of Snow White. This years show was even more special as one of our members ‘Olive’ was amongst the cast and it was wonderful to see her enjoying every minute!

## Committee Activities

The committee of 2019 was Esther Conway (chair), Donna Apparicio (treasurer), Kam Makram (secretary), Linda Sells, Andrea Dean, Denis Coelho, Lauren Rapacioli (mat leave), Sharon Webb, Suki Gill, Barbara Kasperska, Zibiah Loakthar and Rayan Basma.

We had a good year for communication with two newsletters and 36 other emails to members. Mailchimp shows us that our communications achieved an open rate of twice that of the industry standard. Our newsletter includes information about NLDCS events and topics such as government policies, NDCS campaigns and local services for deaf families. We also share information about other events and news that might interest our members.

We have a private **Facebook Group** for members and hope to grow this as a way to share ideas, stories and news. Please do let us know if you’d like to join.

Our website at [www.nldcs.org](http://www.nldcs.org) keeps an up-to-date events page, news and useful links. It also provides a join-up link for potential new members.

## Fundraising

**We would like to spend some time on developing fundraising opportunities through Big Give, Facebook and Give as you Live. If anyone has any experience and spare time to help with these, we would be grateful. We are always looking out for new ideas.**

A successful application to the NDCS for the Local Groups Grant, which help pay for the Halloween Party in October. Other donations were received through eBay for Charities, and from the lovely Lottie who asked for donations instead of presents for her birthday.

## Plans for 2020

We already have a draft schedule of events for 2020 with a range of fun, stimulating and educational activities planned, including a trip to the London Transport Museum and hopefully a trip to Harry Potter World. Watch out for more news via email, our website and Facebook events.

We are always looking for new committee members to join the team, especially those with good organisational skills. If there are any family members who can help with Mailchimp, WordPress or the Database we’d love to hear from you.

**CAN YOU HELP? We need new committee members.** If you have a spare evening once a month, some time to spare coming up with ideas, or helping with fundraising and event planning or if you have the necessary skill to run our website and database, do get in touch.