



Parent and carer newsletter

March 2026

Welcome from the Head of College

Dear Families,

This week it finally feels like spring has sprung and we're getting longer sunnier days. Despite the lingering cold activity at Treloar's this half term hasn't been dampened. We've had two high profile visits welcoming the Disability Minister and the Lady Mayor to Treloar's and for them to meet our wonderful students.

Thank you to all of you who came to Future Fest—it was our biggest ever. We wish you an enjoyable Easter break and look forward to welcoming students back on Tuesday 14 of April for the Summer Term.

All the best,

Ben Bastin
Head of College



<u>Dates for your diary</u>	Summer Term 2026
Monday 13 April	Professional development day for all staff (1 day)
Tuesday 14 April	Start of half term 5 ALTON COLLEGE students only Residential and day students return directly to college 9.00 am onwards
Friday 1 May	College and HSDC Alton Campus close 4.00 pm. Houses close 6.00 pm for students that do not board termly.
Monday 4 May	May Bank Holiday College, houses and HSDC Alton Campus are closed
Tuesday 5 May	Residential and day students return to college 9.00 am onwards
Friday 22 May	End of half term 5 (including ALTON COLLEGE) College closes 3.30pm Houses close at 3.30pm
Monday 25 - Friday 29 May	Half term holiday for staff and students (including ALTON COLLEGE)
Sunday 31 May	Weekend residential students return to Houses 2.00 pm onwards
Monday 1 June	Start of half term 6 (including ALTON COLLEGE) Day and weekday residential students return to houses 9.00 am onwards
1-5 June	Arts Week
Thursday 25 June	College Prom
Friday 10 July	College Sports Day

Updates from Ben Baxter, Head of Safeguarding at Treloar's

Dear parents and carers,

In March (9-13), led by the Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership (HSCP), Help and Prevention Safeguarding Practice Week took place.

The week focused on the importance of early help and prevention, which lead to better outcomes for children and families by ensuring that children receive the right help at the right time.



During the week, Hampshire Safeguarding Children Partnership highlighted support available for parents/carers and courses designed to help families build confidence and strengthen relationships.

Hampshire County Council's Children's Services offer a range of structured, evidence-based parenting programmes, including:

- Stepping Out Stronger (SOS)
- Family Links Nurture Programme (FLNP)
- Tots Talking
- Talking Teens
- Non-violent Resistance (NVR)
- Positive and Adverse Childhood Experiences (PAACE)

Further details can be found at:

<https://www.hampshirescp.org.uk/professionals/toolkits/early-help/early-help-and-prevention-safeguarding-practice-week/>

These offers apply specifically to Hampshire. For information on local offers in your area, please visit your county's Safeguarding Children Partnership website.



International Wheelchair Day

International Wheelchair Day is celebrated annually on 1 March.

During the first week of March, to mark the event, we raised awareness of the crucial role wheelchairs play in the lives of millions of people worldwide by showcasing different access methods for wheelchair control.

At Treloar's, wheelchairs support mobility and independence of our students. Developing wheelchair driving skills can lead to all forms of independence in daily life at school, home and in the community.

Our smart platform and tiny trax chairs give those without their own powered chairs a chance to have a go and develop their skills. We help our students to develop their skills by finding the most suitable access method for them: eye gaze, switches, joystick, scanners. Equipment is tailored to the individual person and adjusted as needed.



Treloar School student Anna has been working to develop her independent mobility skills whilst at Treloar's. She uses a hand switch to move forward and two head switches to give left and right direction. She is developing her skills combining the head and hand switches to navigate her environment more smoothly.

Watch Anna driving on our YouTube channel:

<https://youtube.com/shorts/ccidg-L6OYpM?si=4tLrSIUeSjuVJ5BX>



International Wheelchair Day

Alex is a college student with complex cerebral palsy who demonstrates more control with his foot than other parts of his body. He has been able to develop his independent mobility skills through use of bespoke foot operated joystick and switches.

Watch Alex driving on our YouTube channel: https://youtu.be/IOG-baRfs-7o?si=N2srnfIO-G_W57ZW



Treloar's primary student Scarlett is using switches on her tray to move in different directions as she is starting to develop independent mobility in a powered chair.

Treloar's Occupational Therapy Team is dedicated to helping our young people develop their skill as we see the impact that independence brings.

Watch the videos of all the students driving on our YouTube channel: https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLI_8SBDBD8FPV_tI2_s6Oy-Bolc6JxCLim

Jamie is a college student who has significantly limited hand function and has learnt to control a joystick using his chin in order to operate his powered chair. This enables him to drive his chair throughout the day around the college campus.

Watch Jamie driving on our YouTube channel: <https://youtube.com/shorts/-7eXtH-30d9E?si=Y6Qd5QGtKrDQ9sNP>



National Careers Week at Treloar's

At the beginning of March, Treloar's students explored exciting career possibilities as part of a programme of events to mark National Careers Week.

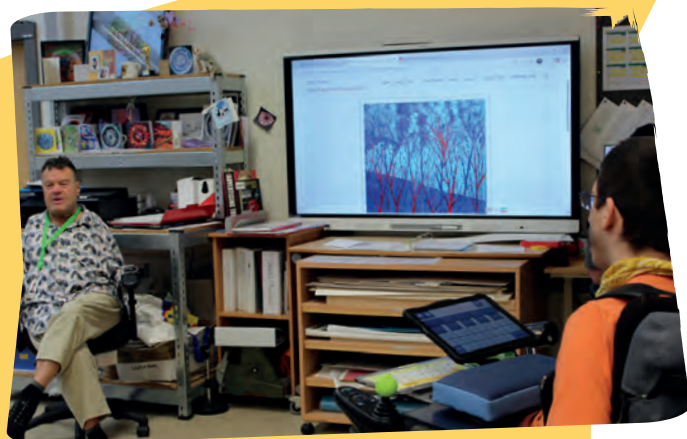
From journalism and art, to aviation, animal care, and conservation, it's been wonderful to see students engaging with a wide range of talented professionals and hands-on activities.

We kicked off the week with Lottie Barr, founder of Buttons & Bubbles, who led creative sessions encouraging entrepreneurship, choice-making, and confidence building. Students also learned about careers and volunteering in animal care with Laura Williams from Cats Protection, explored careers in media with journalist Ben Morris, and writer AJ Campbell, and discovered how sport can open doors with Marcus Kingwell from Skateboard GB.

The week continued with the team from Aerobility, who shared insights into flying and charity work, Deadwater Valley Rangers, who introduced conservation careers and the opportunity to get hands on exploring Treloar's wildlife pond, and artist Tom Yendell, whose work reminded us that disability need never be a barrier to creative careers.

To finish the week on a high note students enjoyed a special performance from The Clarion Trio—three incredible disabled musicians showcasing the power of inclusive technology and talent.

At Treloar's, National Careers Week is all about encouraging students to dream big, explore their passions and see all that is possible.





The Clarion Trio delights students with live performance and workshop

On Friday 6 March, we were delighted to welcome The Clarion Trio to Treloar's. The performers, Georgina on horn, Oscar on piano and Alessandro on clarion, performed to students from school and college. Everyone enjoyed a range of music composed for the trio.

In the afternoon, the students joined the trio for a workshop led and conducted by clarion teacher, Oliver Squibb.

Find out more on our website: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/news/2026/03/08/clarion-trio-delights-students-live-performance-and-workshop>

Careers Week: Spotlight on careers in journalism

As part of National Careers Week at Treloar's, students enjoyed a talk and Q&A with Ben Morris, an inspiring young journalist currently working with BBC News.

In the workshop, Ben talked about his journey into journalism, the challenges he's faced, the role of accessibility and technology in his career, and what it's really like working behind the scenes at the BBC. His story is a brilliant example of resilience, ambition, and finding your own path into journalism.

Find out more about the workshop on our website: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/news/2026/03/11/careers-week-spotlight-careers-journalism>



Enterprise classes take the lead in creating the College Magazine

Each term, one of our college enterprise classes has the exciting responsibility of producing a full edition of the College Magazine. This project gives students a real taste of what it is like to work in publishing—developing workplace skills, building teamwork and celebrating their own interests and talents.

Toward the end of the project, the whole class works together to publish the final magazine. This involves placing their articles, images and designs into a PowerPoint document that follows the college magazine design guidelines. The result is a professional, creative publication they can all be proud of.

This magazine project not only helps students develop communication, digital, and organisational skills—it also gives them a voice and a platform to express their passions. Each edition reflects the creativity and individuality of our students, and we look forward to seeing the new team's work this term.

Read more about the magazine team on our website: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/news/2026/03/09/enterprise-classes-take-lead-creating-college-magazine>



Physiotherapy sessions

Physiotherapy sessions form a vital part of the student's timetable here at Treloar's. Having the opportunity to transfer out of their wheelchair and engage in physical activity with their peers is beneficial for their physical, psychological, social and emotional well-being. Our physio sessions bring a sense of shared goals and camaraderie, whilst helping our students maintain or progress their cardiovascular fitness and range of motion.





Open Orchestra teams up with composer Chris Gardner

On Friday 20 March, we were very pleased to welcome composer Chris Gardner to join Treloar College Open Orchestra rehearsals.

Chris has played a huge role in the local musical community as a conductor, composer, timpanist and accompanist and we were delighted that Chris had accepted our commission to write a piece of music for our enthusiastic college orchestra.

All of our orchestra participants use the Clarion and Chris came in to hear them play and discuss the commission directly with the students to see what type of music they like, as well as looking at their different methods of playing and abilities of playing.

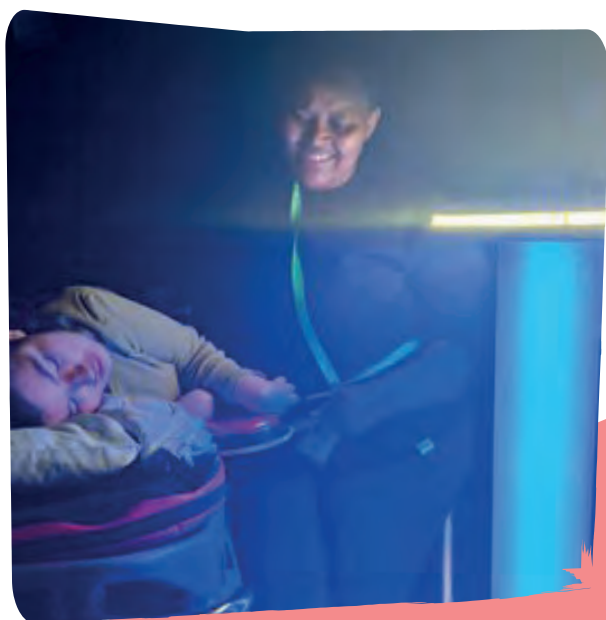
This initiative is part of the Music Opportunities Pilot, led by Young Sounds UK, with ABRSM, DFE, Open Up Music, the BBC and other partners.

Find out more about the visit on our website: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/news/2026/03/20/college-open-orchestra-teams-composer-chris-gardner>

New sensory trolley in use

Students in the Skills for Life 3 pathway have been working with the new sensory trolley as an engaging way to practise turn-taking and to develop their switch-work skills.

By choosing items from the trolley, such as lights, vibration toys or sound switches, the students develop skills in waiting, anticipating and sharing activities with their peers. These activities also help them build their understanding of cause and effect, supporting communication, choice-making and participation in group games within a structured and motivating environment.



Sing and Sign work experience

This is the sixth year of delivering college Sing and Sign sessions to external organisations.

This year, the Sing and Sign team has expanded its offer to include work experience opportunities and a carousel programme.

This kind of work experience gives students the chance to learn about the full process of creating a professional-looking video. This includes selecting a song, incorporating Makaton signing, using green screen filming techniques, and developing valuable IT skills.

At the end of the work experience, students are given a chance to visit local schools to deliver a Sing and Sign assembly.

Recently, one of our college students visited two schools, where they introduced students to Makaton signs and shared songs from the Sing and Sign YouTube site.



Students develop life skills in the greenhouse

College students from the Skills for Life pathway very much enjoy taking their learning outside whenever they can.

Some of the students in the class have chosen to complete an OCR accreditation unit this year.

As part of the accreditation, the students have to take part in a mini enterprise project of their choice. This term, the students decided to plan for and prepare their own class plant sale.

So far, the students have explored a wide range of plants and flowers and have been selecting which ones they want to grow for the plant sale. They have been using relevant gardening equipment, filling pots with compost and then sowing and watering their seeds. In the next few weeks, the students will be observing their seeds growing, keeping them watered and sowing more seeds.



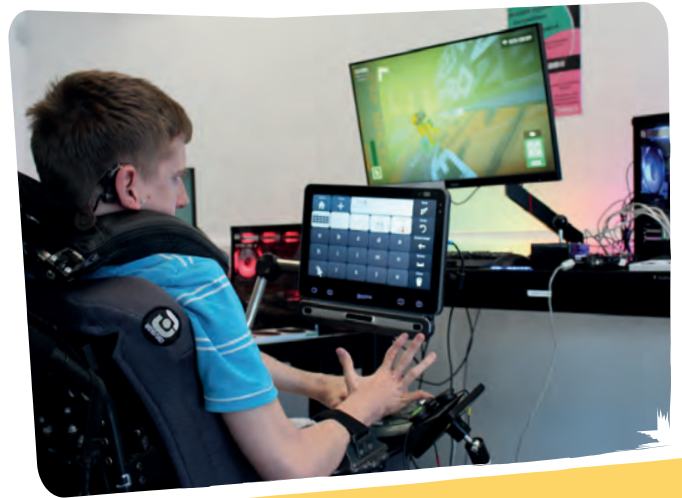


E-sports tournament

In March, our Key Stage 4 eSports students took a major step in their Options programme this term as they coordinated and led their own school wide eSports competition. Students designed and delivered 2 tournaments (one for staff and one for students). Both events were highly competitive and prizes will soon be awarded to the winners.

Building on their visit to EA Sports in the autumn term, students applied what they learnt to structure and plan the event. Throughout the process they demonstrated strong communication, made strategic team decisions under pressure and showed excellent digital responsibility.

We are incredibly proud of their growing independence and the way they are embracing the skills that will prepare them for the summer term event that will reach an audience beyond school.



Learning when to seek help from police

Students showed fantastic engagement during the police and PCSO safety session.

They listened carefully and contributed thoughtfully as they learned about the important role Police Officers and PCSOs play in keeping people safe both at home and in the wider community.

The students explored what it means for the police to be “safe adults” they can approach for help, and many demonstrated growing confidence in understanding how and when to seek support.

They were able to identify other trusted and safe people in their own lives and showed good awareness of what information is appropriate to share—and not share—with strangers, both in person and online.

The group also learned how to report online worries safely and understand the difference between situations that require calling emergency services on 999/112 and those that do not.

Overall, the students participated maturely and showed a developing sense of responsibility for their own safety and the safety of others.



Double your money challenge: Easter edition

Students from the College Employability and Vocational pathway once again took on the ‘Double your money’ challenge by organising an Easter Biscuit Sale during which staff and students could purchase biscuits and participate in ‘Guess the Bunny Name’ game.





“The Neurodiverse Universe”

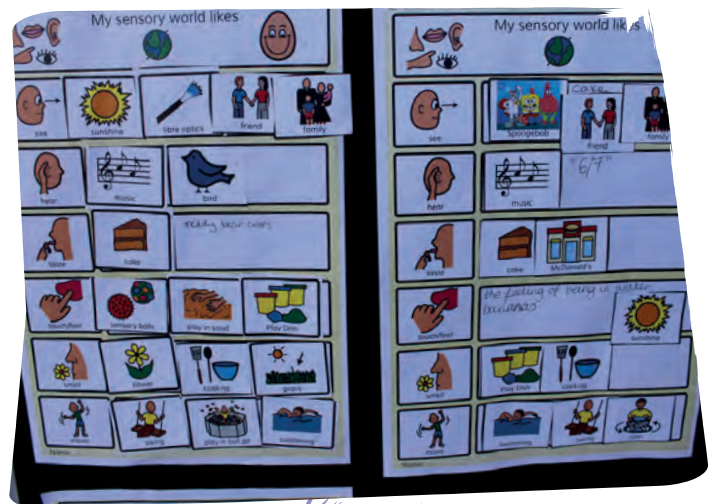
This whole-school and college activity was a way to celebrate how we all regulate differently. On the second display board, students left notes on a star-shaped papers with ways to self-regulate. Those included things that:

- Speeds their engine up (e.g., music, dance, movement)
- Slows their engine down (e.g., reading, quiet spaces, calming music)

Neurodiversity Celebration Week

Between 16 and 20 March, Treloar’s Occupational Therapy Team planned various activities across the school and college to help everyone recognise and celebrate the different ways Treloar’s students and all of us experience the world.

This year the focus is “Sensory”, which means thinking about how we all experience the sensory world and how we use our sensory systems in different ways.



“My Sensory World” competition

A display board in the reception area was decorated by students who created artworks that reflected:

- What they particularly like or don’t like to feel, hear, taste, smell, see as well as how they like to move.
- How they like to regulate their nervous systems (How they use their senses to help their brain engage or learn)





Celebrating 38 years: Farewell to Mary Willmott

Today, on the last day of Spring term 2026, we take a moment to celebrate Mary Willmott, Residential Manager, who is retiring after 38 years of service.

Mary started at Treloar College back when the college campus was in Holybourne and the school campus was located in the village of Froyle—just down the road.

The beginnings

“I’d lived in Alton for 8 years, and I didn’t know Treloar’s was here. When I found this place, I walked in, I thought: ‘This is the place I want to be,’” said Mary.

Mary applied at the first opportunity, but she did not get the job as someone more qualified was successful.

“So, I started on the bank, then, working in any of the houses, doing night shifts, wherever they needed me. Anyway, it got to July, the management came back to me, and they said the job I applied for initially would become available

again. So then I started in September 1988 in the permanent night staff role.”

To find out more about Mary and her journey to leadership at Treloar’s, visit our website to read the full interview carried out by Treloar College student, Dominic: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/treloars-stories/celebrating-mary-willmott-residential-manager>





A visit from Minister for Social Security and Disability

To mark International Wheelchair Day, students from Treloar's Supported internship programme welcomed Minister for Social Security and Disability, Sir Stephen Timms, who came to learn about their experiences in the workplace and find out how we support employers to open up workplaces and make them more accessible to disabled young people.

The visit was a fantastic chance for Treloar's supported interns to demonstrate how the right tailored support has helped them increase their independence, gain the confidence and skills they need to thrive in life, contribute to their communities and gain secure employment.

Read more about the visit on our website: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/news/2026/03/02/treloar-college-welcomes-minister-social-security-and-disability-sir-stephen-timms>

Following his visit, Sir Stephen Timms opened a call for evidence, inviting disabled people and those

with long-term health conditions to share their views on how PIP should be reformed. Share your views on how disability benefits could be improved.

Read more on the government website:

www.gov.uk/government/news/call-for-public-views-to-improve-disability-benefit-for-millions

Future Fest 2026

On Friday 13 February, we hosted our annual transition event Future Fest, organised by the Treloar Progress and Transition Team.

This important event provides our students and their families with the opportunity to explore a range of options, that may support them in the future life after leaving Treloar's.

We had over 30 providers attend this year, providing essential information, advice and guidance for students and their families as they begin planning their next steps.

Thank you to all the providers that supported this event.





Lady Mayor visit

On Tuesday 3 March, we had the honour of celebrating our unique and close bond with the City of London Corporation with a visit by the Lady Mayor Dame Susan Langley DBE.

College students Evie and Calum had the pleasure of formally welcoming the Lady Mayor and the Shrieval party to Treloar's whilst our Employability and Vocational students greeted a number of Masters and Prime Wardens also attending.

This marks a long and historic relationship between the Livery Companies and Treloar's as they continue to support our awe-inspiring work to close the gap in social mobility for physically disabled young people.

MiDAS Minibus Driver Awareness Training

Treloar's is recognised as an accredited MiDAS training provider. Registered with the Community Transport Association, we offer practical driving training and assessment.

Both the Standard and Accessible course are a combination of online theory and practical skills assessments. The Accessible course is for those driving accessible vehicles and operating tail lifts and securing wheelchairs.

Interested? Visit our website to find out more: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/midas-minibus-driver-awareness-training>



News from the Fundraising Team

The Treloar's Gala Dinner: 20th Anniversary

Friday 24 April – Guildhall, London

Following its recent success at Mansion House, our Gala moves to the equally magnificent Guildhall London on Friday 24 April 2026 for our 20th Anniversary of the event.

This Emerald City themed black-tie evening will unfold in true style, beginning with a sparkling drinks reception and continuing through to a sumptuous three-course dinner, live and silent auctions and an iconic Back to the 80s DJ set from Martin Kemp!

We'd be so grateful if you could share the event with friends, family and workplaces to help us spread the word and sell tickets. If you or your workplace are able to donate a prize for our auction, we'd love to hear from you.

Tickets: £185pp or £1,850 per table of 10

<https://www.treloar.org.uk/events/treloars-gala-dinner-2026>



News from the Fundraising Team

Treloar's Charity Golf Day

Join us at Old Thorns Hotel & Resort for a Charity Golf Day that is about more than the scorecard. In a beautiful Hampshire setting, you will enjoy great golf, great company and the opportunity to support our students.

Date: Thursday 18 June 2026

Time: 9:00 am - 5:30 pm

Location: Old Thorns Hotel and Resort,
Liphook, GU30 7PE

Ticket costs - book before the end of April!

Team of Four (Early bird): £440

Single Entry (Early bird): £110

Golf Buggy (for 2): £40

Buggies are available to hire, with a £5 donation per hire going directly to Treloar's.

Spaces for our Charity Golf Day are limited and early booking is recommended, so we encourage you to secure your place as soon as possible.

To reserve your team, explore sponsorship opportunities or for any further enquiries, please contact events@treloar.org.uk

Fundraising activities: Take part in fun competitions, raffles and auctions to raise vital funds for Treloar's students.

Visit our website for more information:
<https://www.treloar.org.uk/events/charity-golf-day-2026>



News from the Fundraising Team

The Friends of Treloar's Plant Sale

We are excited to announce the Friends of Treloar's Plant sale returns for 2026!

Location: Outdoor Learning Centre, Treloar's, Powell Drive, Holybourne, GU34 4GL

Date: Saturday 9 May 2026

Time: 10.00 am - 12.30 pm

FREE admission and parking

We have worked hard to nurture hundreds of plants for you to enjoy and refresh your garden, from pretty pinks to ravishing reds to beautiful blues. We have even got plants that have been donated from local gardens, showing support for Treloar's from the local community. Treloar's students are working hard to create a hand-made array of unique gifts for you to enjoy.

FREE children's activities return for 2026, fostering creativity and fun! BRAND NEW for 2026 is Mill Cottage Petting Farm! Come and meet some farmyard friends and learn all about them!

Visit our website for more information:
<https://www.treloar.org.uk/events/plant-sale-2026>



News from the Fundraising Team

Parallel Windsor

We're excited to invite Treloar's families to be part of Parallel Windsor 2026, a vibrant festival of inclusivity set along the iconic Long Walk in Windsor Great Park. With no cut-off times, a choice of distances and the chance for students, families and carers to take park, it's a feel-good day that celebrates achievement at every pace, while raising vital funds to support Treloar's students.

There is no registration fee to take part.

Instead, we kindly ask participants to aim for the following suggested fundraising targets, helping to support our vital work:

SuperSensory, 100m and 1K – £100
5K and 10K – £150
Sunday 5 July, Windsor Great Park

Find out more and sign up here: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/events/parallel-windsor-2026>



ABP Southampton Marathon Festival

Get ready for a challenge at the ABP Southampton Marathon Festival 2026!

Taking place on Sunday 3 May, this festive event brings together runners of all levels: from 5K and 10K to Half and Full Marathon, through Southampton's vibrant city streets and scenic waterfront.

There is no registration fee to take part. Instead, we kindly ask participants to aim for the following suggested fundraising targets, helping to support our vital work:

5k: £150
10k: £200
Half Marathon: £300
Full Marathon: £400

Find out more and sign up here: <https://www.treloar.org.uk/events/abp-southampton-marathon-festival-2026>



News from the Fundraising Team



TRELLOTTERY – BIG SPRING DRAW RAFFLE

Fancy a chance to win £1,000 plus a luxury hamper this May?

The Big Spring Draw is TRELLOTTERY's annual raffle – open to everyone.

Every ticket you buy helps provide the extra support, equipment and experiences that make everyday life a little better for children and young people at Treloar's.

Tickets cost just £1 each.

Visit our website to buy your tickets: www.treloar.org.uk/trelottery

Support the TRELLOTTERY to keep providing vital funds.

Treloar Trust is licensed and regulated in Great Britain by the Gambling Commission under account number 8915.

www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk

You must be 18 or over to play.
Underage gambling is an offence.
Full terms and conditions can be found by www.trelottery.org.uk/draw/terms-conditions



Treloar's
Big
SPRING
DRAW