



Treloar's Today

THE NEWSLETTER
FOR FRIENDS
OF TRELOAR'S

Justin Fletcher and Something Special film at Treloar's

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 homes

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• Jasper's new Tomcat trike • Helping students to communicate • A Royal visit • Events calendar •

Treloar's is so much more than just a school and college

We are a charity, and we deliver outstanding around-the-clock nursing care, therapy, independence training and education to around 170 disabled children and young people aged 2-25. Every day we are preparing these young people to live as independently as possible and achieve their future aspirations. But we can't do this without you. We must raise £2million each year to deliver innovative support in both our classrooms and residential houses, to help students to reach their full potential.

"The best thing about Treloar's is the atmosphere in which the students can live, where they feel they belong, can make friends and can learn and improve." Parent of Treloar's student

Spring Edition of Treloar's Today

Dear Friend of Treloar's,

I am delighted to be writing this introduction to *Treloar's Today* as the new Director of Fundraising and Marketing at Treloar's. I started in this role in January 2023, although some of you may already know me as I have been working in the Fundraising team since 2016, previously as the Head of Trusts.



I am so excited to be in my new role and working with you, our valued supporters, and the Treloar's Fundraising and Marketing teams, to ensure we can continue making a real impact on the lives of young people with complex disabilities. What I love about working at Treloar's is that we can raise money for our students and see the positive – often life-changing – effect our work has. I'm sure you enjoy this too!

We know times are hard for everyone at the moment so, now more than ever, I want to say that we think you're amazing and we are so grateful to you for being part of our important work.

I am delighted to bring you our Spring 2023 newsletter, packed full of everything you have helped us to achieve over the last six months. I hope you enjoy reading it.

Best wishes

Lucinda Gillingham

Lucinda Gillingham
Director of Fundraising and Marketing

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Funders make a splash!

On 21st February we were delighted to welcome Treloar's Patron and Team Ambassador Suzanna Hext, along with our generous funders and friends, to the official opening of Treloar's swimming pool. Everyone enjoyed seeing students using the fabulous new pool and hearing the Swim Team explain about the positive impact the refurbished pool and new changing rooms are having on our students.

In 2021 the swimming pool was in desperate need of refurbishment. The increasing complexity of our students' disabilities meant that the number who could use the pool for swimming and hydrotherapy was dramatically reducing. Sadly it is also extremely challenging, and sometimes impossible, for our students to visit a public pool because changing and hoisting facilities aren't suitable for their complex needs.

Through the appeal, and thanks to your support, we raised an incredible £500,000 – this has helped us increase the capacity of the pool by 60% and bring the joy of swimming to many more of our students on a regular basis. We are very grateful to everyone who has supported this appeal, in particular to East Hampshire District Council who have awarded the project £190,000 through the Community Infrastructure Levy, and to The Gosling Foundation for a £100,000 grant. These funds enabled us to make the following essential changes to the pool:

- Add five new changing rooms with direct tracked hoists to the pool
- Reduce the depth of the pool at the deep end to allow more students to be supported in the water by their carer
- Improve ventilation to reduce fatigue
- Re-tile the pool to help the visual needs of students

These changes provide significant health and wellbeing benefits to our students, local families who use the swimming pool for lessons, and disability charities who use our facilities during the holidays.

Here are student Luna's thoughts on the pool: *"I like the new pool; it's warm in the water and feels good to be out of my chair. I go in the pool every week and it's definitely better now."*

We are now fundraising for the next phase of this project, to install solar panels on the roof to help with the day to day running costs of the pool.

Red carpet premier at Treloar's

Last June we welcomed a very special visitor, CBeebies star Justin Fletcher, to join our students for a summer party and to film an episode of *Something Special*.



Primary students, Elin and Ethan auditioned and were chosen to appear in the episode with Justin. They helped to plan a summer party for their classmates and it was an exciting day for everyone involved, seeing behind the scenes, how a TV programme is made. Gemma, who worked with Elin on the day, said it was *"a once in a lifetime opportunity for the students and staff involved, which definitely made it a very exciting and memorable experience"*.

A huge hit for over 20 years, many of our students have grown up watching *Something Special*. Each programme features the much-loved Mr Tumble, who uses songs, rhymes and Makaton to reinforce language skills.

The Primary team at Treloar's organised a special 'red carpet' screening premier, so all the children could watch the episode together, and share their memories of the magical day.

Watch the *Something Special* Summer Party episode on CBeebies on 7th March at 9.45am (also on BBC iPlayer).



Meet Elin

We introduced Elin earlier who was part of the *Something Special* filming. We wanted to tell you a little more about one of the stars of the show, and the positive difference being at Treloar’s has made to her life.

Elin has been coming to Treloar School for 4 years, she has cerebral palsy, which means she is unable to walk. Elin is unable to stand independently, and when she first came to Treloar’s she was tube fed, was non-verbal and wasn’t expected to talk.

“Without Treloar’s I wouldn’t imagine that she would make so much progress, she wouldn’t be able to speak, she wouldn’t be able to dress herself, she wouldn’t be getting the physio. And I don’t think she would be such a confident child as she is now.” (Katherine, her class teacher.)

Our aspiration is that students leave Treloar’s as independent as possible, with the ability to communicate with the wider community. To help make this happen we have a large team of specialists who offer support for a range of different needs, as well as learning, communication and emotional difficulties. Our therapies are interwoven in the day-to-day activities within the curriculum.

As well as her studies, Elin is able to take part in a range of activities each week,

including swimming lessons, cookery, outdoor learning, arts, crafts and sensory activities. These are all tailored to her therapy needs, improving her motor skills and concentration, all of which are really important for children as they are developing.

Katherine explains what the team incorporates into Elin’s daily life: “Elin will be working on targets relating to Physiotherapy, Occupational therapy, and Speech and Language therapy. Her wellbeing is paramount to us here, because if she is happy at school she will be learning.”

This is echoed by Elin herself who says: “I love school because I have fun there”.

The combination of specialist support for Elin has helped her go from being unable to talk, to being one of the chattiest children in class. She is encouraged all the time to use her voice and express herself, and is now even able to eat and drink by herself. This is life-changing for Elin and her family, and none of this could be achieved without the ongoing generosity of our



funders. Thank you – you really do help change lives!

We are delighted to be launching a video about Elin, and all the things she gets up to in her day at Treloar’s, at our Mansion House Gala Dinner in April. If you are keen to attend the event, and learn more about Elin and our work, visit www.treloar.org.uk/events.

Alternatively, keep an eye out for her video in the September edition of *Treloar’s Today*.



Stronger Together

It has been wonderful to see our corporate supporters grow. We’ve welcomed new companies to Treloar’s, and increased engagement with our existing corporates. Our Corporate Volunteering Days are extremely popular, with businesses offering their services in a way which aligns with their core values.



Companies are increasingly looking to volunteer their time in a meaningful way, and with a clear benefit to their chosen charity or organisation. With such an extensive site, and year-round maintenance tasks to be completed, Treloar’s is able to offer this in spades!

We find that teams coming to volunteer get a much deeper understanding of Treloar’s, leading to conversations around what further support they can offer. For the volunteer team it’s also a chance to step away from the office and spend quality time together: It’s a win-win!

Our corporate partners also offer invaluable support by sponsoring and attending our events. However, business is business and we’ve got to give something back! We’ve listened to what businesses want, and the results are that we now offer advice on creating more inclusive and accessible work places.

If you know a business or work within an organisation that would benefit from partnering with us, please contact us at: corporate@treloar.org.uk

Helping students to communicate

Can you imagine not being able to speak? Or not being able to have a simple conversation?

You know a great joke but cannot share it with friends. People talk over you or avoid you completely. You are keen to learn, have great ideas but can’t express them or ask a question. You can’t even tell your Mum or Dad you love them. This is the reality of life for a significant number of our students, as the majority have speech, language and communication difficulties.

For helping to provide our students with the opportunity to learn these essential communication skills, we are grateful to Cheyne Charity for funding the “Cheyne Charity Library” of specialist communication aids and equipment for our students at Treloar’s. This library gives them access to the latest technology, so they can discover what works best for them. This offers the opportunity for greater independence and self-expression, sometimes for the first time in their life.

The specialist teams at Treloar’s work with each student for detailed assessments, observations and consultations, including extended equipment trials, to identify the best support tools. Having access to this wide variety of equipment is extremely useful to support these assessments. For some students, we can use the equipment to focus on developing early communication and ascertain whether they are able to use a device with their eyes, through switches or in other ways. Other students may already have developed communication skills using technology, but need to try different equipment, so we can help them find the best one(s) for their needs.

Debbie, a college student, has been using the Library of specialist communication devices to find the one which works

best for her. She has also been using the Drivedeck, a specialist platform that can be used to learn to drive a wheelchair. Thanks to having access to this specialist equipment, Debbie has not only been able to apply for funding for her own new communication device, but is also learning the skills she needs to drive her Powerchair independently in the future. We cannot emphasise enough how empowering this is for Debbie and other students at Treloar’s.

Alison Manfield from Cheyne Charity explains why they support Treloar’s:

“The Cheyne Charity provides ongoing support to Treloar’s. We operate a continual connection, through our Library, in successfully enabling students to access various equipment to suit their needs.

It gives us great pleasure to hear from the students how much this helps.”

To discover more about our work, or to make a donation online, visit www.treloar.org.uk, or alternatively please call 01420 547477 or email fundraising@treloar.org.uk





Jasper’s new Tomcat Trike

At Treloar’s we have an IMPact Fund, which is open to all our 170 students. They are actively encouraged to apply for funding towards the most suitable wheelchair, mobility and independence equipment for their needs. IMPact has a committee, which meets termly to consider individual applications. Grants are awarded from funds given by our generous donors to as many students as possible.

Recently, the donations from IMPact funded a new Tomcat Trike for former Treloar College student Jasper. Tomcat trikes provide mobility to those of all ages, who are struggling with physical, sensory or learning difficulties.

Jasper now enjoys riding his trike, nearly every day, at his new care home. This is brilliant for stimulating Jasper’s facilitated walking and general mobility. It encourages carers to get him out into the fresh air every day and, most important of all, Jasper loves it!

Jasper’s mum, Lisa, said: *“I had not realised just how much Jasper’s cycling had improved during his three years at Treloar’s. Due to the pandemic, I had not been able to take him out on his trike there since early 2020. So I had a brilliant surprise the first time I took him out on the bike at his new home! I thank you from our family and from Jasper. Your award of the trike will certainly have a big impact on his future life and continued physical and social development.”*

We think our supporters are amazing!

#GivingTuesday is a global day of celebration, recognising the generosity of those who donate and support.



We wanted to mark this occasion by thanking our amazing donors and volunteers, who help to make Treloar’s such a special place. They contribute in so many ways, enabling our students to live as independently as possible and reach their future aspirations.



We were joined by our wonderful Patron, Alan Titchmarsh who described how the students of Treloar’s “enrich our society”. He thanked Treloar’s supporters for making such a difference through their support, getting involved and “making things happen”.

Watch the #GivingTuesday video at <https://www.treloar.org.uk/GivingTuesday>

Expressing emotions

We were very grateful to receive a donation from our generous donors, Lucy and David, who are regular supporters of Treloar’s, which allowed us to purchase four iPads and sensory tiles for the Counselling Psychotherapies Team.



Sensory tiles not only provide stimulation though the tactile use of adding pressure to the surface, but they also light up!

The Counselling Team has been working with students by holding them up and using the different coloured lights, encouraging individual students to touch and push the liquid in them. Students also experience visual stimulation by watching the liquid move when the tiles are rotated by the counsellor.

Vanessa, Head of Counselling and Psychotherapy at Treloar’s, said: *“Many of our students come with*

experience of trauma, sometimes a difficult and complex history, increasing the need for counselling support.

The sensory tiles and iPads enable us to work more interactively with students, adapting to their physical and cognitive abilities when they come for counselling sessions.

We have put many apps on the devices, giving us the flexibility to explore feelings and emotions using visual and auditory stimulation. Having these devices helps students with complex communication difficulties to express emotions, sometimes for the first time!”

We aim to get two additional tiles next year so they can be used on the floor together and create a space large enough to accommodate wheelchairs. Students will then be able to see the liquid move and change via video, as they move their chairs across the tiles.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, the Counselling Psychotherapies Team are able to support the emotional,

social and mental health needs of our students.

Donations really do make a difference – to find out more about our work or to make a donation online, please visit: www.treloar.org.uk, or call us on 01420 547477, or email us at: fundraising@treloar.org.uk



A Royal visit

We were honoured to welcome our Royal Patron, HRH The Countess of Wessex to Treloar’s last term to visit the Forest School and the new key worker staff accommodation, Hope Court.

The Countess joined in Forest School activities with children from the Primary School, and met College students taking part in our Supported Internship programme.

The Countess was shown around by Emily, Luke, Harriet and Natalie, Treloar College students who are undertaking the Supported Internship programme. Luke and Emily were delighted to show Her Royal Highness across campus to the Forest School, to meet the team from Homes Estate Agents who generously funded the Forest School.

Treloar’s Forest School has been created to provide opportunities for children to play and learn outside the classroom, become inquisitive, and encourage connection and respect for nature. Not only is this great for their overall wellbeing, but it also provides an opportunity to learn emotional and social skills that stay with them into adulthood.



The next part of the visit was to Hope Court, a 42-bedroom block of affordable and accessible accommodation on campus that has been made possible thanks to the generosity of our donors. Two of the flats are fully accessible, to provide more

opportunities for disabled people to work at Treloar’s. Finally, Her Royal Highness viewed tributes created by students to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, before receiving a posy from Aurelia, one of our Reception children.



Calendar of Events



SCAN ME



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26
MAR

Bungee Jump

Battersea Park, London

Take the leap of a lifetime and raise money for Treloar's. A 160ft jump taking place on the south side of the Thames. £49 registration fee and £250 sponsorship pledge.

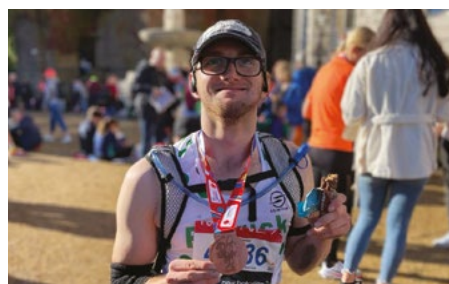


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29
MAR

The Treloar's Charity Golf Day

Old Thorns Manor Hotel, Liphook

Join us for a fantastic day of golf and tackle the par-72 course at Old Thorns. Includes breakfast and a delicious two-course meal. £300 per team of four.



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23
APR

TCS London Marathon

Join Team Treloar's and take on the 26.2 miles of the London Marathon, all whilst raising vital funds for our students. We have just three spaces left! £2,000 fundraising target.



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26
APR

The Treloar's Gala Dinner at Mansion House

Join us for a very special night of fundraising at the spectacular venue of Mansion House in London. Includes a three-course dinner, drinks, live entertainment and inspirational stories. £160 per person.



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14
JUN

An Evening at The Old Bailey

Join us at the unique venue of The Old Bailey Courthouse for the launch of our new strategy. You'll enjoy inspirational guest speeches along with canapés and drinks throughout the evening.



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24
JUN

Treloar's Skydive

Take part in our incredible skydiving experience whilst also raising money for Treloar's! Get in touch to register your interest.



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JUL

Family Fun Day

Our Family Fun Day is back, with live music, children's activities, a range of market stalls, food and drink and much more! We can't wait to see you for a fun filled day out!



TRELOTTERY

Our weekly lottery has a £500 top prize and a rollover prize that can reach up to £5,000.

For more information or to sign up:
www.treloarlottery.org.uk



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