

# Ovingdean Hall News

Summer 2024



## Raising aspirations through play

We are supporting two projects to inform and inspire deaf schoolchildren and their hearing classmates.

**#toy like me** Toy Like Me is an arts and play organisation that promotes positive representation of disability among children, their families and teachers, and the toy industry.

We have helped fund Toy Like Me's *Bear Ear Clinics*. The *Bear Ear Clinic* provides resources for teachers to run their own clinics, supporting deaf children in their mainstream setting and educating their hearing peers through representative play. The resources include toy hearing aids and cochlear implants, a teddy bear and doctor's coat. They also provide teachers with training in how to deliver the clinic.



In a continuation of previous work with Toy Like Me, we have also funded more copies of *See It Be It*, their interactive exhibition pack celebrating the wide variety of careers held by D/deaf adults. The exhibition pack contains display panels and tokens which children use to select their favourite jobs, and also add images of their own dream careers. *'The children were really excited by the exhibition and loved the interactivity,'* said Toy Like Me's co-founder Karen Newell. *'They were all amazed at the range of jobs people had - some they hadn't thought were accessible, others they hadn't even thought about! It made their creating of the board with their own aspirations for employment more interesting.'*

We are now providing match funding for Toy Like Me to turn *See It Be It* into a portable puzzle-based board game which they plan to share with Teachers of Deaf Children and Young People, helping them to show their young learners that if they see it, they can be it!

# Theatre for all

We are supporting Deafinitely Theatre's popular Youth Theatre programme for deaf young people.

The company performed their show *Are We All Islands?* at Oxford House Theatre in London in February. Built around John Donne's *No man is an island* poem, this imaginative play about a castaway explored themes of family, friendship and the environment. *Their dedication has been remarkable as they have immersed themselves in the various disciplines of theatre,'* said Deafinitely's Youth Co-ordinator, Dilara. *'It's been a wonderful journey of fun, confidence, ability, teamwork and creativity, which has been a joy to witness!'*



## ORCHESTRAS *Live*



Young musicians in concert with Britten Sinfonia, with Burrell's photographs in the background (photo by Stuart Bruce)

We have supported *Deaf Perspectives – Past and Present*, a heritage project produced by **Orchestras Live** in partnership with **Suffolk Archives** and **Suffolk Music Hub**.

The project involved two school resource bases for deaf children and young people in West Suffolk, and included creative

activities inspired by the life of local deaf photographer Walton Burrell (1863-1944).

The project included film and photography workshops, a museum visit to view the type of World War One artefacts that featured in Burrell's war photography, and a research workshop hosted by Suffolk Archives.

The children and young people worked with composer James Redwood and Deaf flautist Ruth Montgomery to create rhythms and sounds inspired by Burrell's photographs, and these were developed into several pieces that they performed alongside Britten Sinfonia. *'The show was a fascinating experience as I saw how we worked together as a group,'* one student said, *'we put a smile on the crowd's faces.'*

## A HUGE thank you to all of our friends for funding these important projects for deaf children and young people.

If you would like to help our work, please can you donate online at [www.ovingdeanhall.org.uk/support-us](http://www.ovingdeanhall.org.uk/support-us) or please send your cheque or CAF voucher (payable to Ovingdean Hall Foundation) to the address below.

### Thank you very much!

Ovingdean Hall Foundation  
15 Great College Street  
London  
SW1P 3RX

Tel: 01273 301929  
Tel / Text: 07778 599939  
Email: [info@ovingdeanhall.org.uk](mailto:info@ovingdeanhall.org.uk)  
Web: [www.ovingdeanhall.org.uk](http://www.ovingdeanhall.org.uk)  
Registered charity number: 1052478

  
**Ovingdean Hall  
Foundation**