

# The Blossom Development Trust Newsletter

February 2026



## Reflecting

As we welcome 2026, we are proud to reflect on what has been an incredibly meaningful year for The Blossom Development Trust. Throughout 2025, with the help of our amazing community, we were able to support children and young people in a variety of ways — offering practical help, specialist support, and help to families when they needed it most. This newsletter shares just a small snapshot of the impact made possible by generosity, kindness, and a shared belief in helping children thrive.



## In this edition

- Our fundraising highlights
- Snapshot - who you have helped
- Looking ahead at 2026
- Our spectacular Spring Ball (tickets available)
- Some special thank yous!



## A message from our Chair

Blossom Development Trust is a small charity, and everything we do is made possible by the dedication of our volunteers and supporters who generously give their time, energy, and skills. I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to every person who has helped fundraise, organise events, support families, and quietly work behind the scenes. Over the past year, we have been able to help many children in different and meaningful ways, and this newsletter reflects the progress, growth, and hope that your support has created. Thank you for being part of the Blossom community as we move forward together into 2026

**FOLLOW US ON  
INSTAGRAM AND  
FACEBOOK SO YOU  
NEVER MISS AN EVENT!**



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# The Blossom Development Trust

Just some of the incredible fundraising events lead by our volunteers in the last year...

## Spinnaker Tower Abseil

Carol and Natasha courageously abseiled down The Spinnaker Tower in Portsmouth.



## Snowdon Climb & Zipline



Lizzy and Rae took on Mount Snowdon and won!



They completed the inspirational climb and world's fastest zipline!



## Quiz Night at The Brewery

In November we held a fantastic quiz night at Horsham Brewery. Watch this space for your invite to the next one!

## Move For Blossom



Supporters and trustees got sponsors to get active for the whole of October. Raising funds and heart rates!

## Cake sales and Community events

These events have run throughout the year with our volunteers and trustees cooking up a storm!



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## BBQ in The Orchard

Provided by Steven Hayes, with music from The Russets, raising money for Blossom. Bringing the community together.



## Burns Night



Burns Supper, organised by the Durley Church Committee. Culture, fun and community!

# The Blossom Development Trust

SPOTLIGHT...

*The Blossom Development Trust presents a*  
**SPRING BALL 2026**

**SATURDAY  
7TH MARCH, 7PM**

ARRIVE AT 6PM FOR PRE-DRINKS & PHOTOS

**EAST HORTON GOLF CLUB**  
MORTIMERS LANE,  
FAIR OAK SO50 7EA

**3 COURSE MEAL  
LIVE BAND:  
PART OF A PLAN  
FULLY STOCKED BAR  
AUCTION  
RAFFLE  
GAMES**

**EARLY BIRD  
TICKETS  
£55\***

**TO BOOK, EMAIL:  
BLOSSOMDEVELOPMENT@GMAIL.COM**

\*PRICE HELD IF BOOKED BEFORE FEBRUARY 10TH 2026

THERE IS STILL TIME TO GRAB  
YOUR TICKET TO  
THE BLOSSOM DEVELOPMENT  
TRUST  
SPRING BALL 2026

AT THE FANTASTIC PRICE OF  
JUST £60

CLICK HERE:  
[HTTPS://WWW.ZEFFY.CO  
M/EN-  
GB/TICKETING/SPRING-  
BALL-2026](https://www.zeffy.com/m/en-gb/ticketing/spring-ball-2026)  
TO BOOK YOURS

THIS IS OUR FLAGSHIP EVENT, WE'D LOVE YOU  
TO JOIN US!



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# The Blossom Development Trust

Some of the ways your support and funding have helped children and young people who have special and additional needs...

## Communication & Connection

Supporting children and young people to access *Spelling to Communicate* sessions, specialist supervision, and communication materials — helping them express thoughts, choices, and emotions more confidently.

## Therapeutic Support

Funding occupational therapy assessments and follow-up sessions to support regulation, motor development, and daily functioning.

## Safety & Wellbeing

Providing specialist monitoring equipment to support families caring for children with complex medical needs, offering reassurance and increased safety.

## Learning & Independence

Enabling access to ABA-informed tutoring and consultancy, helping children build skills, confidence, and independence at their own pace.



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# The Blossom Development Trust

## The Voice of The Parents.....

### **Darcy struggles with sensory and emotional challenges.**

"We were finding it incredibly difficult to access support, as Darcy is very good at masking her difficulties while at school or around anyone who isn't one of her "safe people." At home, however, things had become overwhelming and her behaviour had escalated. We urgently needed help, but the waiting times for NHS support are sadly very long. Fortunately, we received support from Blossom, who provided invaluable help during a very difficult time. Blossom guided us in accessing the right support through an Occupational Therapist (OT), ensuring Darcy received the understanding and specialist care she needs. Blossom funded a full OT assessment, followed by monthly sessions, which have resulted in a bespoke support programme tailored specifically to Darcy. Darcy now attends monthly OT sessions and is given exercises to complete at home to help address her retained reflexes and sensory challenges. We have learned that these retained reflexes are closely linked to the sensory and emotional difficulties she has been experiencing. Since beginning the OT sessions and implementing the exercise programme, we have seen a significant and positive change in Darcy in a short space of time. This progress would not have been possible without the funding and support from Blossom. Blossom's guidance and compassion have made a real difference — not only to my daughter's progress, but also to our confidence as a family. We are incredibly grateful for Blossom's support.

- Darcy's Mum"



### **Isaac was struggling to express himself**

"We have benefited from ABA therapy over the last 2 and a half years. Lizzie has helped my son and I in so many ways.

My son could not cross the road before without me picking him up and him screaming. He now holds hands nicely and crosses!

Lizzie took data in the beginning to determine what support my son may need and what helps him, for Isaac positive reinforcement works well. Lizzie has made social stories and printed 'now and next' resources. Her approaches and methods changed my parenting and made me realise what I needed to change to help my son. I have adapted to the ABA way and often when I'm struggling I think of what Lizzie would suggest! I have had pointers such as 'give him the language' that I often remember when helping him. My son is a happy little boy, a lot happier than he was now he can express himself more and regulate his emotions better thanks to Lizzie and this service. I feel more connected to my son and know how to help him. Therapy has been worth its weight in gold and I'm so glad we came here for support."

- Isaac's Mum



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# The Blossom Development Trust

## The Voice of The Parents.....

### **Fenna's family were struggling to know how to help.**

"Blossom Development Trust has been a God send for me and my son Fenna. Since his diagnosis I spent nights searching crying and wondering how I could help him. Private therapy of any kind is so expensive and we are a low income family. Through my research I found out about ABA therapy and how helpful it is for kids like mine, but it was so difficult to find any resources, tutors or consultants and even when I found the cost was astronomical. Blossom Development Trust has allowed Fenna to develop in ways I didn't think were possible. Thank you so much."

- Fenna's Mum



### **"Blossom was a tremendous help to our family this year.**

They helped fund our ABA home programme as we pursued a tribunal decision to obtain an ABA education from the council. These crucial ABA sessions have helped our son Magnus to listen, follow instructions, communicate his needs via PECS, and become increasingly more independent. Thank you Blossom!"



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# The Blossom Development Trust

## The Voice of The Parents.....

### Daniel's Spelling to Communicate (S2C) Journey

"Blossom has been supporting Daniel with his Spelling to Communicate (S2C) journey, which he started in June 2024.

Daniel has Autism and is non-speaking. Since starting his S2C journey, Daniel has been able to demonstrate that although he is unable to speak (due to his apraxia/brain-body disconnect and motor skill deficits), he 100% understands EVERYTHING. He has the most incredible memory and recall, detailed knowledge across a wide variety of subjects and interests, and is particularly gifted at Maths. Growing up, Daniel had many Speech and Language assessments where his parents were told multiple times that his understanding of language and communication was severely limited. However,



Daniel's parents never believed these assessments truly reflected his abilities. They consistently sought ways to help him progress in his communication and independent life skills as best they could. One of the most wonderful aspects of the start of Daniel's spelling journey was the core principle at the heart of S2C — the presumption of competence from the outset. This means believing that all non-speakers can understand and comprehend everything spoken to them, and that their inability to reply verbally is due to motor skill deficits, not cognitive ability. With S2C presuming competence and believing that the student can and wants to learn, it brings a new level of belief in what they can achieve from the very beginning of the journey. This principle has made a huge impact on Daniel's self-confidence and happiness in everyday life. It has enabled him to embrace lessons and work hard to gain the skills needed to communicate through spelling on letterboards.

Daniel began learning to communicate using letterboards with the support of his Communication Regulation Partners (CRPs), Daryl and Jacqui, and their S2C Practitioner. Initially, Daniel started using three boards (with the alphabet split across three spelling boards) and answered "known" questions from the text being read to him — similar to an English comprehension lesson. This helped Daniel solidify the gross motor skills required to use spelling as a communication method. With lots of practice, Daniel was able to use the three boards accurately and then transitioned to one letterboard containing all 26 letters. This meant he could move on to answering semi-open questions from subject lessons (where there could be several possible answers) and begin responding to prior knowledge questions. Towards the end of 2025, Daniel was confidently answering these questions in beautifully formed and worded sentences. Most recently, Daniel is now able to answer open questions, enabling him to share his own thoughts, opinions, and interests across a variety of subject areas. For the first time in 21 years, Daniel has been able to "speak" and have his voice heard. Daniel and his team of CRPs will continue to develop their S2C skills, enabling Daniel to communicate everything he would like to — from now on and for the rest of his life. Daniel and his family are extremely grateful for the funds Blossom has provided to support this incredible spelling journey."

-Jacqui, Daniel's Mum



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# The Blossom Development Trust

## And Finally...

Blossom is powered entirely by people who care.  
So we would like to say a HUGE thank you to:

**Jacqui  
McNaughton**

**Lizzy  
Millar**

**Rae  
Goldthorpe**

**Carol  
McLeod**

**...And ALL of our volunteers, fundraisers, donors, and supporters.**

This is only possible because of you!  
**Thank you.**

## What's Next for Blossom

Blossom Ball – March 2026

Move for Blossom returning in 2026

Continued direct grants to families

Growing awareness and reach



Please keep an eye on our social media for upcoming events  
and ways to get involved!



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