



Disability is not inability



What's Coming Up:



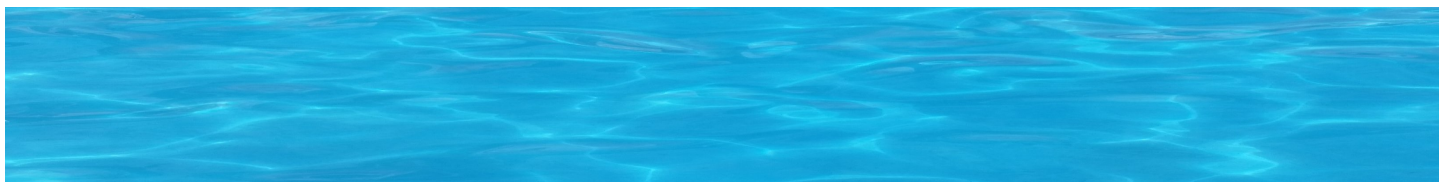
The annual Championship Gala will be taking place at Newbold Comyn Leisure Centre in Leamington Spa on Saturday 2nd November from 12:30pm. We are excited to have the Mayor of Leamington Spa, Cllr Judith Clarke assist us with the presentation of the winner trophies and medals.

What to expect from this issue:

We always love hearing from our clubs across the country and we have a special treat for you from one of our swimmers at our Eastleigh Swimming Club: Tom Watson, who is currently raising awareness of Spelling to Communicate in the hope that it may help others.

Our regular and ever popular Woodlarks Camp took place last month, photographs of which are also included in this newsletter.

If you would like particular topics to be covered in upcoming issues of NASCH news, please let Lydia in the NASCH office know.





I first started spelling with Mum in 2021; it didn't go particularly smoothly at first. After a few months, I nearly gave up. Then, I went to London to see a perfect angel called Elizabeth Vosseller. This changed my life forever.

Post that visit, we started to get better and better. Soon thereafter, we were able to talk about lots of things, and then I could express what I was feeling and thinking. Today, I can write quite fluently, as demonstrated in this introduction.

This is only possible because of the training that Mum and Dad received, but there are currently no practitioners in the UK. Therefore, we are trying to raise some money to train more angels so that lots more non-speaking autistic people can find their voices. This is the most miraculous thing that I could ever have imagined, and it is so important that everyone has the opportunity to finesse their communication methodology.

We are not yet at the stage where we can talk openly with people who have not been trained in how to use the boards, but hard work and practice will engage others so that I will really be speaking. There are no real words to praise the parents of autistic people enough, but they are true forces of nature.

The last thing I want to say is that my life is now full of optimism, whereas before, it was very bleak.

Please give what you can.

Love, Tom



What is Spelling to Communicate?

Spelling to Communicate (S2C™) is primarily used by non-speaking individuals. It involves the use of a communication board where individuals point to or select letters or symbols to spell out messages. By pointing to such characters, these boards empower non-speakers to overcome communication barriers posed by traditional oral communication.

S2C™ teaches individuals with motor challenges the purposeful motor skills necessary to point to letters as an alternative means of communication. As motor skills improve through consistent practice, students progress from pointing to letters on letterboards to typing on a keyboard.

The fair and necessary assumption is that all individuals can and want to learn and communicate, regardless of their perceived limitations. By presuming competence, typing and spelling embraces non-speakers' cognitive function and focus on purposeful motor movements.

The overarching message is that not being able to speak does not affect your ability to understand and think.

If you feel able, you can donate you can do so via Tom's Justgiving page:

<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/Spelling-2-Communicate>

You can also follow Tom on Instagram at: <https://www.instagram.com/spellingtomcommunicates/>

You can read more of Tom's story at: <https://www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/news/24274405.mums-joy-non-verbal-son-23-finding-voice/>



Well done, Tom! Thank you so much for sharing your story and bringing hope to others.

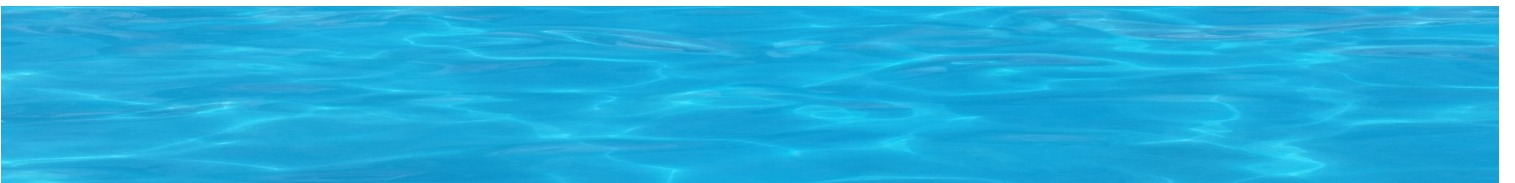
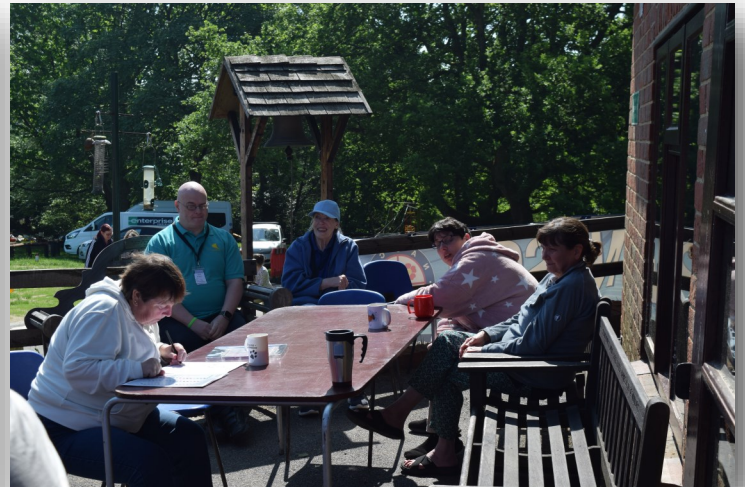


Woodlarks Holiday Camp:

One of our favourite events in the NASCH calendar is our Woodlarks Holiday Camp that takes place each May. We were very lucky with the weather and enjoyed daily access to an outdoor heated swimming pool. We enjoyed an outing to the local Rural Life Centre and BBQs. We had a black and white themed party with lots of dancing and even high tea to round off a very busy week. Delicious food was served as always. Woodlarks is a highlight for many as it allows us all to renew friendships as well as make new ones, sharing common interests and even spontaneously breaking out into song!

More photos will be added to the NASCH website shortly at: <https://www.naschswim.uk/woodlarks/> but in the meantime, I have the absolute pleasure of including a few:



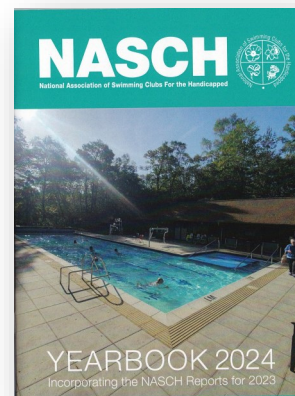


NASCH Merchandise

I am pleased to announce that the Water Skills badges are now available. We also have a number of NASCH pin badges also available. Please contact Lydia at the NASCH office for more information.

NASCH Yearbook 2024

The NASCH Committee presented the 2024 Yearbook at the AGM last month. There are still copies available which are obtainable from the NASCH office.



Thank you:

We at NASCH are immensely grateful to who has supported us through easyfundraising. Together we have raised a total of £27 so far just from you going about your daily shopping through easyfundraising. Brands pay a commission to the easyfundraising website or app whenever you shop with them and that commission is then turned into donations.

NASCH would also like to thank the Bruce Wake Charitable Trust for their incredibly kind and generous donation. Together we all continue to provide opportunities for friendships, independence and freedom for our disabled swimmers across the country.

*thank
you*

***If you feel able to donate to NASCH please visit our website at:
www.naschswim.uk or alternatively contact the NASCH office at
naschswim@hotmail.com.***





Hi there! Countdown to summer with us and help NASCH to win £100 **DAILY!!**



Simply open the windows on easyfundraising's Countdown to Summer page every day until 20th June to enter us into the prize draw. Support us on easyfundraising, and get involved by following the link: <https://shorturl.at/43xf>. It will make so much difference to us.

Everything you spend at over 8,000 online brands like Amazon, Tesco, eBay, Marks and Spencer, Boots, Pets at Home, Lastminute.com, British Airways, Virgin Holidays and many more can turn into **FREE** donations for NASCH. It really is that easy.

If you have not already done so, you can sign up on easyfundraising at: <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk..>

