

Dear friends of DELTA wherever you live,

Everyone likes praise, the "Well done", "Good Job", the pat on the back and boost to your ego, whether at school, in college or in your job. It gives you a glow when the family remember to say, "that was smashing" or even thanks, for the meal you cooked.

I have gone one better and found the DELTA FEEL GOOD FACTOR.

When I heard a 16 yr old profoundly deaf young man say in front of us DELTA Summer school parents that he had just sat his GCSE French, I was hooked.

Being in Main Stream and moving to a new area I had not been able to make contact with other families whose H/I children were aural. I needed contact; I felt my daughter needed contact – she loved returning with me to Summer School.

Several years later, I heard from someone who knew that there were youngsters my daughter's age and with better residual hearing who could not go into their local shop and verbally ask for an ice cream. Not only did a knife turn in my stomach but also I was angrier than I could begin to describe and vowed to do something about it.

Unfortunately, although I helped at Summer School each year, it was only in 2003 that I was able to head a Family Day, arranged by Doreen Ross at Bristol. Five other families attended; two came mainly to find out about DELTA and they have never looked back. We were having a big fund raise for Summer School that year, and were too far away from Surrey to join the Bike ride, so I thought I would try to organise something this way and the Beechenhurst Family Day was born. We have just had our third.

I arranged a Family meeting day at a local Farm Park, the sort of outing you would ordinarily do with your children and I made contact with some other families to go the same day during the summer holidays. 2006 was the 3rd year. Out of this came the idea of the Christmas Party. Again, this is the 3rd year, the first year there were 31 children, last year 26, this year who knows? Already two new families have phoned me wanting to come along and talk to other parents.

Some families are now friends. I get the odd email of thanks, but it's knowing that families have the support to help their hearing impaired children be able to go and ask for their own ice cream = FEEL GOOD FACTOR - You Bet!

So come on parents, family, friends or YDAG, it doesn't take much of your time, there is help and advice at hand, but there are a lot of regions of Great Britain that could do with YOU getting some of your own DELTA FEEL GOOD FACTOR

Looking forward to hearing from you,

Lynn Hounsome. Regional Co-ordinator SouthWales