

AWARE News April 2007

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April Dates	Time	Activity & Location	Cohort/Age Group	Cost
Mondays 16, 23 & 30 <i>No club 2 & 9 April</i>	7 – 9pm	Monday Night Club, Addingham Youth Centre <i>Ring Tony to attend</i>	HFA/AS 12+ (Parents don't stay)	£1/ person
Fridays 20 & 27 <i>No club 6 & 13 April</i>	7 – 9pm	Friday Youth Club, Addingham Youth Centre <i>Just turn up</i>	Children 7 – 16 yrs, inc siblings (Parents stay)	£2 /family + £1/friend
N.B. NO SWIMMING THIS MONTH		Aireville Pool UNAVAILABLE THIS MONTH		
Sunday 15	11am	AMF Bowling, Keighley <i>Ring to book</i>	All family	£2.50 pp or BOGOF
Tuesday 17	7.30pm	Monthly meeting at the Child Development Centre, Airedale Hospital <i>Just turn up</i>	Parents, Carers, Professionals, anyone interested	Free
Sunday 22 	10.45am	Cinema - <i>Charlie and the Chocolate Factory</i> Leeds/Bradford Odeon, Gallagher Leisure Park, Thornbury, Bradford <i>Just turn up</i>	All family	£2.50 per child, adults free
Tuesday 24	10-12pm	Coffee Morning, Addingham Youth Centre, <i>Ring to book</i>	Parents, Carers	Free
Saturday 21	11am	Trampolining, Addingham Youth Centre <i>Ring to book</i>	All family	£2 /family + £1/friend
Saturday 28	10 – 12pm	Junior Youth Club Trial Session *	Children up to 8, inc siblings (Parents stay)	£2 /family

HFA – High functioning autism, AS – Aspergers

* This Saturday session is for families with children with an ASD up to age 8 (siblings are also welcome) and is mainly aimed at families with younger children who aren't able to attend the Friday evening youth club. There will be the bouncy castle, x box games, keyboard, sports equipment, scooters, giant connect 4, body balls, pool table, air hockey, board games, art table, and tuck shop - very similar to the play scheme days.

N.B. For further details of all our activities contact Jo 07764432933;
for the Monday club contact [Tony](#) Parkinson on 01274 734018 or mobile 078809 84686.

April meeting Tues 17th April, 7.30pm at the CDC, Airedale Hospital

The speaker for April will be Katie Taylor (Inclusion Development Manager, School Improvement Officer for Education Bradford) who will look at:

- the national perspective on SEN issues including inclusion;
- the local context with a particular look at ASD and special school reorganisation;
- what do we mean by a continuum of SEN provision;
- supporting mainstream schools;
- AWARE members' views.

Librarian STILL needed urgently!

Jenny, one of our fantastic volunteers, has recently been helping do the library. However she has just had a major operation and can no longer do so. If no one comes forward to help, we will not be able to have the library at our meetings for the foreseeable future. If you are interested please contact Jo a.s.a.p.

Residential Success

AWARE's first residential weekend at Lineham Farm, Eccup, Leeds was a resounding success! The feedback from parents and the children who took part has been extremely positive: "The organization was excellent. We know a lot of thought and effort went into ensuring things ran smoothly." The children all enjoyed the space and wide range of activities (including climbing, cycling and animal care) available to them and the trained 1:1 support meant they were always safe and supported appropriately when needed. We hope this will be the first of many!

Easter play scheme

Due to Jo's other commitments, and centre availability, there will only be two play scheme days at Easter: Wed 4th & Thurs 5th April. All supported places now fully booked. If you would like to attend with your children, just turn up: £2/ family/day + £1 per friend.

Parent and Pre-school group

Cancelled until a core group is identified plus a suitable day and time can be established; please contact Jo if interested.

Thanks to the Cow and Calf

The AWARE committee would like to thank the Cow and Calf Hotel, Ilkley for their continuing support, allowing us to use their meeting room free of charge – this is very much appreciated.



Free Help! 2 Seminar: Supporting the siblings of your child with an ASD

Help! 2 are running a seminar on 24th April in Bradford focusing on the needs of siblings of children with an ASD, including how to teach siblings about their brother/sister. For more information or to book a place you can contact Sian Figg on 0115 847 3539.

Every Disabled Child Matters Update

From: Louise Franklin, Campaign and Policy Officer, Every Disabled Child Matters

“We are extremely disappointed to report that the Disabled Children (Family Support) Bill has not progressed to the next stage. This is despite the efforts of all our supporters who lobbied their MP to support the Bill. You will be able to see if your MP spoke at the debate by logging on to the Hansard website <http://www.parliament.uk>

We are pleased that the government made some important commitments in response to the debate on the Bill, including a national target on disabled children. The Minister said 'much more can be and must be done'. He confirmed that the Bill had greatly raised the profile of short break services and had made disabled children more of a priority within government.

Gary Streeter MP (Cons, Devon SW), who sponsored the Bill, and the campaign board of Every Disabled Child Matters, have asked me to thank every single supporter who took the time to take action in support of the Bill. Through your efforts, disabled children and the issue of short breaks are now higher on the political agenda than they have ever been before.

Gary Streeter MP said: 'The provision of short breaks is still a lottery. Extra cash and new guidance will be welcome, but I strongly believe that these families need and deserve a right to breaks. What we must see now is a clear plan of government action - nothing less will do. If we don't see real improvements in services offered to families, I'm certain that I or one of my colleagues will be introducing another Bill this time next year.'

Our job now is to keep up the pressure on government to deliver the best possible outcome from the Comprehensive Spending Review. We will be back in touch soon with further ways that you can help us make this happen.

Our full news story following the Bill's Second Reading can be found at <http://www.edcm.org.uk> - scroll down to 'Latest'.”

Parent Carer Support Group

A support group in Settle is looking for new members, it meets the first Wednesday of the month from 1.30pm till 3.00pm, at the Play Barn in Settle, which is handy for parents who need to bring along young children. The group is aimed at parents of children with any kind of a disability, the group is currently a get together over a cup of coffee and a chat, but hopefully when members establish what they want from the group, they can move forward. There only cost is for the coffee! – for further information call Barbara at The Carer's Resource (01756 700888) or Melanie (01729 823472).

BADASG Autism Awareness Conference taken from the BADASG Newsletter:

“BADASG would like to say a big thank you to everyone who attended our Autism Awareness conference on 21st March and to all those who helped to make it happen. It was a great day, despite the unfortunate illness of Roz Blackburn's carer, which meant that Roz sadly couldn't attend as a speaker. The day was not cut short, however, because Dr Olga Bogdashina kindly filled the gap with a second talk. The speakers all did a fantastic job on the day and the feedback from the conference has been very positive.

Professor Michael Gardner gave an interesting and informative talk surrounding gluten and casein in the diet and how this seems to have an effect on various different aspects of behaviour for some groups of people on the autistic spectrum. He was followed by Dr John Biddulph and Fiona Biddulph who gave a presentation in the form of a timeline, contrasting their very different childhoods and following them into their adulthoods and their relationship together, and finally Dr Olga Bogdashina spoke about the way in which people on the autistic spectrum, parents, and professionals, view autism from their different perspectives, then about the sensory issues people on the autistic spectrum face. The day was very well attended, and we had to bring more chairs into the hall to accommodate everyone who came! I know there were quite a few people who

didn't manage to get a place and the demand for this kind of event is very high. It was unfortunate that we didn't have enough places for everyone who wanted to attend the day, but the demand is encouraging in that more and more people seem to want to learn about the autistic spectrum and become aware of the issues surrounding autism, and we hope to arrange another next year to meet this demand."

NAS Prospects student support service

<http://www.nas.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=1273&a=12594>

Prospects can offer support to students with Asperger syndrome who are in further or higher education, ensuring that staff at a student's college or university are aware of Asperger syndrome, and helping to put relevant support strategies in place.

NAS Fundraiser: The Night of 1000 Voices

<http://www.nas.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=495&a=12249>

If you love musicals, come and hear the best performers in the world performing some of the greatest songs at 'The Night of a 1000 Voices' on Sunday 6 May 2007 at the Royal Albert Hall.

Fundraise for AWARE with old mobile phones and used stamps!

Please collect old mobile phones, and used postage stamps (with as much paper cut off as possible please) to raise money for AWARE. Please save them and bring them along to any of our sessions, or ring Jo and she will arrange collection.

Please make internet purchases via our webshop at <http://www.buy.at/aware>

It doesn't cost you any extra, but we get a percentage of the profits, so please buy here!

Shops include - Amazon, John Lewis, M & S, Littlewoods, Adams kids, Early Learning Centre.

Printer Cartridges

Please check to see if empties are recycled at your place of work. If not, please collect them for AWARE. You can bring them to meetings, youth club or contact Caroline Whitaker on 01535 657402 to arrange collection. Please note that previously remanufactured inkjet cartridges or damaged ones are no good.

Help Lines: Need help or support?

The National Autistic Society Parents' Help line: 0845 070 4004 (Mon-Fri 10-4)

email: Help Line: autismhelpline@nas.org.uk

PARIS (Public Autism Resource and Information Service): www.info.autism.org.uk

Health Care Professionals Information: 0207 903 3599

Bradford Parent Partnership Line: 01274 481183 North Yorkshire Parent Partnership 01756 792427

Bradford MDC Children's Services: 01274437500 Leeds Social Services: 01133984702.

Carers' Resource, The Wheel House, The Water Mill Park, Broughton Hall Business Park, Broughton, Skipton, BD23 3AG: 01756 700888

Children's Information Link www.bradford.gov.uk/childcare

Barton Hill Advice Service (guides to claiming disability living allowance, attendance allowance and incapacity benefit) www.bhas.org.uk

AWARE thanks the following for their support this year:



Bradford Carers' Grant

