
AWARE News December 2006

Registered Charity 1089617

Issue 82

www.homestead.com/awareuk/



Contact details: AWARE phone line: 01943 466543 Mobile: 077644 32933
email: jo.galasso@tesco.net Mrs. Jo Galasso, 52 Chippendale Rise, Otley LS21 2BJ

Secretary: Margaret Nash 01274 564156 email: margaretnash1@btinternet.com

Disclaimer: Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this newsletter or material AWARE produces, AWARE Management Committee (Trustees) and any staff (paid or unpaid) cannot accept liability for any matters connected with or arising from this information. AWARE does not recommend any particular approach to autism: we merely seek to inform so families can make their own decisions, tailored to the individual concerned.

December Dates	Time	Activity & Location	Cohort/Age Group	Cost
Mondays 4, 11	7 – 9pm	Monday Night Club, Addingham Youth Centre	HFA/AS 12+ (Parents don't stay)	£1 pp
Fridays 1, 8, 15 NB 15 th Xmas Party!	7 – 9pm	Friday Youth Club, Addingham Youth Centre	7 – 16 (Parents stay)	£2 per family + £1 per friend
Saturday 9	6 – 7pm	Swimming, Aireville Pool, Skipton	All family	£1 pp
Tuesday 14	7.30pm	Christmas Meal, Cow & Calf	Parents, Carers	varies
Sunday 17	11am	Polar Express, Leeds/Bradford Odeon	All family	£2.50 per child, adults free.

Youth Club Christmas Party Friday 15 December

Disco (not too loud), Christmas crafts and party games, please bring a contribution of food for the party.

AWARE Christmas meal for parents 12 December

Instead of our usual monthly meeting at the CDC, we shall be getting together at the Cow and Calf for a Christmas meal on Tuesday 12 December from 8pm. Please call Jo to reserve a place.

<http://www.buy.at/aware>

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

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

Librarian STILL needed urgently!

We are still looking for a new librarian to look after our valuable resource of books, would you be willing to share the job with someone else, so you would only be committed to going to meetings 5 times a year. If you are interested please contact Jo a.s.a.p.

Membership renewal fees due in January– advance notice

Everyone will receive a paper copy of the January newsletter as this will include your renewal form for AWARE membership and a gift aid declaration form, (those who have joined since Sept 06 aren't required to pay membership again until Jan 08). Please update your details (if necessary), including your email address, and return the form with £5 subscription and if you're a tax payer, the gift aid declaration.

AWARE Meetings

The speaker at the November AWARE meeting was Cheryl Paul from Bradford Parent Partnership. Parents who are trying to get statements for their child were directed to www.ace-ed.org.uk for help. No meeting in December (we shall be at the Cow & Calf!).

The January speaker will be Carole Birtwhistle from the NAS's Prospects Leeds Step Into Work project who will talk about the issues young adults with AS conditions face in the workplace and the project's role in providing training and work placements to help them cope with anxiety and give concrete answers to questions in future job interviews.

Autism Friendly Screenings

The screening of "Over the hedge" on Sunday 26th November was very enjoyable and relaxed. The next screening will be "Polar Express" on 17 December – see calendar.

Swimming Sessions

Craven swimming pool, Skipton, Saturday 9 December, 6-7pm. Cost £1 per person - a committee member will try to be at the sessions and will make themselves known to collect the money; please pay them not the centre staff and show your AWARE membership card. Numbers down again, only 10, please try to attend if you can, it's fun and relaxed.

Monday Night Youth Club for 12-18 yr olds

This club for teenagers with Asperger's Syndrome or high functioning autism is run by Tony Parkinson from Bradford Children's Disabilities Team, with the help of a group of trained and dedicated volunteers. The club meets at Addingham Youth Centre, 7-9 pm, Monday nights, with a weekly sub of £1. If you think your son or daughter would be interested, please get in touch with Tony on 01274 734018 or mobile 078809 84686.

Friday Night Youth Club

AWARE Youth Club takes place at Addingham Youth Centre, 7pm - 9pm, Fridays term time, for children 7-16 yrs with ASD and siblings/friend. £2 per family + £1 a friend. A parent must stay with each family; new members are always welcome.

Trampoline Sessions

Trampolining for children of all ages, parents stay; the next session will be in January – there is no session in December.

Bowling

AWARE's next family bowling session will be in January, details in the next newsletter.

AWARE Coffee Mornings

No meeting this month, the next one will be in the January details in the newsletter.

Parent and Pre-school Sessions

Quite a few people have said they would you be interested in attending parent and child chat/play sessions at Addingham Youth Centre possibly 1pm to 2.30pm, Tuesday or Thursday afternoon, we are looking at starting these sessions on a monthly basis from January 07. If you haven't already, please let Jo know you're interested.

The National Autistic Society (NAS) EarlyBird Plus Training programme

This is a recently developed programme to meet the needs of families whose children have received a later diagnosis (4-8 years) and are in Early Years or Key Stage One provision. The EarlyBird Plus programme addresses the needs of both home and school settings by training parents/carers together with a professional who is working regularly with the child. **Contact details: Airedale:** Mel Eltome Tel: 01535 292821

Bradford: Karen Bagley Tel: 01274 770397

Drop in Sessions for Carers in December

Wed 6	10.30 – 12.30	Bingley Drop in Bunters Café, Myrtle Park, Bingley.
Fri 8	10.30 – 1.30	Carers' Rights Day Event, Keighley Healthy Living Network, Scott Street (refreshments/light lunch)
Fri 15	10.30 – 12.30	Oakley's Brasserie, The Moors Centre, Ilkley.

For further information contact Carers' Resource: 01756 700888

Play Partners have re-launched their Early Years & Childcare Service. To find out how they can help your child access more services and greater opportunities to play, contact them on 01274 431571.

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.

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.

NAS Campaign: Make School Make Sense

Following a survey carried out in 2005, NAS (National Autistic Society) has published a report, Make school make sense, as part of their make school make sense education campaign. The report highlights the difficulties experienced by 1400 families around the UK in securing educational provision for their children with autism. Although they recognize that support in some areas is good, the report reveals that children with autism are often bullied (40%), excluded from school (20%), have a limited choice of schools in their area with provisions for autism and often have to frequently change schools, causing a lack of continuity and disruption to the child.

The make school make sense campaign has three main demands:

1. The right school for every child: every child with autism should have access to a diverse range of mainstream and specialist educational provision
2. The right training for every teacher: all teachers should expect to teach a child with autism and must receive appropriate training to best support their needs

3. The right approach in every school: "All schools should be 'autism-friendly' schools, which promote and provide a positive environment for children with autism now and in the future".

More information and campaign materials are available from the NAS at:
www.autism.org.uk/campaign or email campaign@nas.org.uk

Suggested sites for shopping for children with (and without) special needs:

Acorn Educational <http://www.acorneducational.co.uk>
Community Playthings www.communityplaythings.co.uk
Character Options Ltd www.character-online.co.uk DKL Marketing Ltd www.dkl.co.uk
John Crane Ltd www.john-crane.co.uk edu-play Division of Taskmaster Ltd www.invictagroup.co.uk
Early Learning Centre www.elc.co.uk Fisher-Price - Toys, Playtime Ideas, Parenting Advice and More
Green Board Game Co. www.greenboardgames.com Hasbro UK Ltd www.hasbro.co.uk
James Galt & Co. Ltd www.galt.co.uk Impact International Ltd www.headstartlearningsystem.com
Inclusive Technology www.inclusive.co.uk Kiddicare www.kiddicare.com
Knock on Wood www.knockonwood.co.uk (they have a great 'hands-on' SHOP on East Gate, Leeds city)
Also: Thomas the Tank Christmas zip pulls available from the NAS <http://www.nas.org.uk/nas>

Santa Specials etc

Lots of information on Christmas activities such as Santa train trips, candle light processions, Yuletide festivals etc – see www.visitbradford.com

Help with Water Meters

If you have a water meter, are on means tested benefits and someone in the family has a condition where more water needs to be used (such as incontinence), you may be eligible for lower, capped water charges. Details from United Utilities at www.unitedutilities.com or phone 0845 3093001.

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

MERRY CHRISTMAS & A HAPPY, HEALTHY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

AWARE thanks the following for their support this year:

BBC Children in Need Appeal



Bradford Carers' Grant