

AWARE News February 2010

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Issue 117

www.homestead.com/awareuk/

www.awareuk.org



Contact details: AWARE phone line: 01943 466543 Mobile: 077644 32933

Email: jo.galasso@tesco.net Mrs. Jo Galasso, 52 Chippendale Rise, Otley LS21 2BJ

Feb Dates	Time	Activity & Location	Cohort/Age Group	Cost
Mondays 1, 8 & 22	7 – 9pm	Monday Youth Club Addingham Youth Centre <i>*Ring Sarah Jamieson to attend</i>	HFA/AS 12+ and siblings age 8 - 17 (Parents don't stay)	£1/ person
Fridays 5, 12 & 26	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
Tuesday 9	8.00pm <i>NB change of time</i>	Meeting at CDC, Airedale Hospital <i>Just turn up</i>	Parents, Carers, Professionals, anyone interested	Free
Wednesday 10	10am – 12pm	Coffee Morning Addingham Youth Centre <i>Just turn up</i>	Parents/carers, babies & toddlers welcome.	Free
Monday 15 Tuesday 16	10am – 3pm	Play scheme <i>Just turn up</i> Addingham Youth Centre	Families with children 0 – 16 years inc siblings /friend	£2/family + £1/friend
Saturday 20 with trampoline	1.30pm– 3.30pm	Junior Youth Club Addingham Youth Centre <i>Please ring, text, email to let us know you are coming as equipment will be left out from the Friday club, some help will be needed by those who attend to put it away again.</i>	Families with younger children up to about 11years, inc siblings	£2 /family + £1/friend
Sunday 21 Planet 51 	11am Doors open 10.50am	Cinema <i>Just turn up</i> Leeds/Bradford Odeon Gallagher Leisure Park Thornbury, Bradford	All family <i>*Tickets can be pre-booked to avoid queuing, at www.odeon.co.uk Film info line 08712244007</i>	£2.50/child adults free
Saturday 27	TBC	Trip Club <i>Contact Linda Porter on 07949576898 for further information</i>	Age 14+. Parents don't stay - young people will have AWARE support	£10 p/session (includes activities and refreshments)
Saturday 27	4.15pm - 5.15pm	Swimming – Inflatables. Keighley Leisure Centre <i>Please let us know if you have booked and CAN'T come so we can offer the places to another family</i>	All family – please ring/email/text Jo to book places	£2 /family

N.B. For further details of all our activities contact Jo 07764432933; for the Monday club contact **Sarah Jamieson* on 01274 734018 or email sarah.jamison@bradford.gov.uk

NB The AWARE Library will be available at the Parents' meeting on 9 February and Youth Club on the 26 February. Please contact Karen or Margaret if you are unable to access these dates and wish to borrow any particular resources: karenrobertson31@hotmail.com margaretnash@thomasnash.orangehome.co.uk 07854 740071

Parents' Meeting, CDC, Tuesday 9 February at 8pm

This month's speaker will be Fionna Pilgrim who will talk about The Davis Approach:

Ron Davis, an American and one of the first diagnosed "Kanner's" babies, (Dr Kanner was the first person to describe autism and Ron's diagnosis pre-dated the coining of the term) did not speak until he was 9 and at 12 was officially described as mentally retarded. However, Ron became a millionaire and, having had a break through in understanding his learning style, set up a research council ... and out of this, the Davis Dyslexia Correction Programme was born, closely followed by the Maths and Attention Mastery Programmes.

The unique quality of the Davis Approach is that it does not treat Specific Learning Difficulties as a disability, but recognises that they arise as a negative aspect of a different learning style based on the individual's ability to include his/her imagination in their thinking style.

Come and find out more about how The Davis Autism approach can help the individual to participate more fully in life.

N.B. Unfortunately, due to severe weather conditions, we had to cancel last month's meeting and so the speaker, Alan Heath of Learning Solutions, has kindly agreed to come to our March meeting.

Annual Membership now due

Your annual membership is due for renewal. With this newsletter, you will receive details of your membership (please amend with any changes to address, telephone, email etc), a gift-aid declaration (if you've not already signed one, please get a tax payer in the family to sign it and we can claim the tax back) and a questionnaire. Please complete and return all paperwork with your payment (cheque/PO for £5 payable to 'AWARE') before the end of March, to continue receiving the newsletter and accessing activities. It is very important that you return the questionnaire, as your responses help us provide appropriate support and also provide evidence for our funders that there is a real need for our services in this area and support our funding bids to enable AWARE to keep going. N.B. Members who joined between September and December 2009 will **not** need to renew until January 2011.

Training to complete/help complete applications for Disability Living Allowance

If any members are interested in being trained to help other members complete DLA forms, please contact Jo asap. We shall be organising a session soon and need 9 – 12 people.

Fundraise for AWARE this month only: Santander to raise cash for local charities

Banking group [Santander](#) has launched a scheme to donate £250,000 to local charities across the country. The Spanish retail and commercial bank is asking its customers in the UK to vote for the local charities they think should receive funding to mark the rebranding of Abbey and Bradford & Bingley to Santander. Each of the 1,000 branches will be allocated part of the Community Chest Fund and asked to nominate three local causes, which will be voted for by customers visiting branches of the bank between 11 January and 26 February.

If anyone has an account with any of the above, please could you take a few minutes and nominate Aware! Your feedback would be much appreciated.

Aiming High Grant: Monthly Trip Club

We are running monthly trips for young people age 14+ with autism, they decide the program of events e.g. bowling, cinema, eating out etc. to gain valuable social and independence skills. If you are interested in your son or daughter attending then please contact Linda on 07949576898.

Coffee Morning: Wednesday 10 February

Everyone welcome!

Cinema: Sunday 21 February: autism-friendly screening of 'Planet 51'

Animated adventure comedy. When Chuck lands on what he thinks is an uninhabited planet he soon discovers that it is in fact teeming with life – and he is the alien invader.

February Half term playscheme: Mon 15th & Tues 16th February

Mon 15th & Tues 16th February: supported places fully booked, families just turn up to stay and play. (10am – 3pm – bring a packed a lunch!). The Terminator inflatable will be there on Monday morning.

Lineham Farm Residential Short Break will be from Friday 5th to Sunday 7th March 2010, and is for children/young people 7 – 16 years on the autistic spectrum. Contact Jo for further info.

A few hints from AWARE members and other parents of children on the spectrum:

A chat group for siblings of children and young people on the spectrum has been recommended to us:

http://groups.yahoo.com/subscribe/autism_sibs Let us know what you and your children/young people think.

Did you know there's a free quarterly magazine by and for adults with autism spectrum conditions? The magazine is called Asperser United. To request a sample copy, call 020 7903 3563 or email membership@nas.org.uk

Autism Tips Information Sheets by Sue Larkey

Sue Larkey (Author, Consultant and World Expert on ASCs) has written some really useful information sheets on tips for supporting children and young people with ASCs. These include: Tips for Support Staff, Understanding ASD, Positive Behaviour Support, to name a few. To register on Sue Larkey's website and receive regular information about ASCs, go to: www.suelarkey.com

Parents' Forum, Bradford: In 2008 a significant amount of work was carried out to re-launch Bradford's Parents' Forum for parents of children with special educational needs in the context of current developments in SEN reorganisation and Bradford's pathfinder status for "Aiming High for Disabled Children". **Chair-** Richard Sutton **Vice Chair-** Sam Jepson **Publicity Officers-** Sheryl Ashton and Phil Jolly **Secretary/ Clerk-** Nageena Khan

If you would like to receive more information about the Parents' Forum or if you would like to raise any issues, please contact the Clerk - Nageena on email: n.k19@hotmail.co.uk

Free Laptop & Web Access - Home Access PC/Internet Grant

The government's made a grant of up to £528 available for low income families with children living in England; it is targeted at those without access to the internet.

Depending on your need, you can get up to £528 to spend on a computer (laptop, desktop, netbook and one year's web access) through retailers that operate the scheme including mainstream providers such as Comet, Phones4u and Misco.

Who is eligible?

- You need children in years 3 to 9. This will normally mean ages 7 to 14.
- It's for families with lower incomes. There are a number of tests for this, generally speaking if your child qualifies for free school meals or you receive income support, income-based JSA, child tax credit plus an income lower than £16,060, it's worth checking out.

How many people can get it?

The scheme is due to run for the next 18 months but there is a maximum of 270,000 grants available, one per household. There are currently no plans to extend it across the rest of the UK.

How to apply? Call 0333 200 1004 or check details at www.homeaccess.org.uk

(Editor's note: thanks to Martin's moneytips website for this! We received some very helpful replies from members to Jo's recent request for information about getting IT written into a statement for one of our members: thank you to everyone who responded - we shall keep your information for any other member who may need it in the future.

If you have any hints/suggestions you would like to share, please contact me on 07854 740071 or email margaretnash@thomasnash.orangehome.co.uk Thank you!)

NAS News

This summer, NAS will be launching their next major campaign focusing on **child mental health services**. If you're the parent of someone with an autism spectrum disorder aged 21 or younger who has experienced mental health problems (including anxiety and behaviour problems) NAS would like to hear from you. www.autism.org.uk/cmh

NAS Adult Life Seminar, Tuesday 2 February, Sheffield 10 – 2.30

This is for parents of adults with ASCs aged 18 and over: the NAS are not currently delivering this seminar for people with autism. Topics covered include: accessing local authority support and housing; employment; developing social relationships and self-esteem; and future needs (finances, wills and trusts).

Monday 8 March, Wetherby 9.30 am – 3.00

The NAS *help!* programme provides support for parents and carers of school aged children, aged between 3 and 12 years who have a recent diagnosis of an ASC and provides basic information on the following: an overview of ASCs ; tips for communication; education and your rights; services and your rights ; benefits and your rights .

nb Places for PARENTS and CARERS are FREE.

For more information on these seminars. contact : Jan Fuller on (0191) 5680732 or jan.fuller@nas.org.uk

Fundraise by using our webshop and by giving AWARE your old mobile phones, used stamps & empty ink cartridges

Don't forget to use our webshop, www.buy.at/aware 'gateway' to many internet shops and if you go shopping via this gateway we receive a percentage of your spend or an amount agreed by the company *at no additional cost to yourself*. A few of the most well used shops are M & S, Amazon, Waterstones, Iceland plus many, many more. Please support us by doing your shopping via the above address: make it your home page so you'll never forget to use it! Please bring along old mobile phones, used stamps and empty ink cartridges to any of our sessions, or ring Jo to arrange collection.

Help Lines: Need help or support?

The National Autistic Society www.nas.org.uk

Parents' Help line: 0845 070 4004 (Mon-Fri 10-4) autismhelpline@nas.org.uk

The Autism Services Directory <http://www.nas.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=113&a=5704>

Parentline Plus 0800 80 2222 Parentline is a free, confidential service for any parent, any time.

Parent Partnership Lines Bradford 01274 481183 Leeds 0113 3951200
Craven & Harrogate 01609 534983

Social Care Children's Services Bradford 01274 437500 Leeds 0113 3984702 Craven 01756 793700

Support for Carers Carers Connection Bradford www.carers-in-bradford.nhs.uk 01274 363440

Carers Resource, Skipton http://carersresource.smartchange.org/mw_bran2.phtml 01756 700888

Carers Resource, Shipley Tel: 01274 449660 **Carers Leeds** www.carers.org 0113 246 8338

Benefits Advice Services - DIAL (Disablement Information and Advice Line)

Bradford 01274589162, Leeds 0113214 3630, Benefits Agency, Skipton 01535 617400

Looking for childcare www.thefamilyhubleeds.org www.bradford.gov.uk/childcare

Transitions service <http://www.dimensions-uk.org/index.php>

The Children's Information Link for up-to-date information about childcare, nursery education, children's activities and family support services. Tel: 01274 437503

Bradford Toy Library, St Luke's Call Emma or Michelle on 01274 365463 for opening times

Play Partners can help children with a disability access play or holiday schemes 01274 431571

Bradford Young Carers Older children often help their parents to look after disabled siblings. For advice and information contact 01274 481183

AWARE thanks the following for their support this year:

Bradford Carers Grant

Cow & Calf, Ilkley

