

AWARE News February 2009

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Issue 106

www.homestead.com/awareuk/



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February Dates	Time	Activity & Location	Cohort/Age Group	Cost
Mon 2, 9 & 23 NB no Youth Club on 16th	7 – 9pm	Monday Youth Club Addingham Youth Centre *Ring Sarah Jamieson to attend	HFA/AS 12+ and siblings age 8 - 17 (Parents don't stay)	£1/ person
Fridays 6, 13 & 27 NB no Youth Club on 20th	7 – 9pm	Friday Youth Club Addingham Youth Centre Just turn up	Children 7 – 16 yrs, inc siblings (Parents stay)	£2 /family + £1/friend
Sunday 8 Film to be confirmed, please ring to check.	11am Doors open 10.50am	Cinema Leeds/Bradford Odeon Gallagher Leisure Park Thornbury, Bradford *Tickets can be pre-booked to avoid queuing, at www.odeon.co.uk Film info line 08712244007	All family Just turn up	£2.50/child adults free
Tuesday 10	7.30pm	Parents' meeting The CDC, Airedale Hospital, Steeton Just turn up	Parents, Carers, Professionals, anyone interested	Free
Mon 16 & Tues 17		Family Play scheme Supported places available - bookable in advance £8/day. Just turn up	Any age up to 16 years.	£2 /family + £1/friend
Wednesday 25	10am – 12pm	Coffee Morning Addingham Youth Centre Just turn up	Parents/carers, babies & toddlers welcome.	Free
Saturday 28 with bouncy castle	1 – 3pm NB. New time.	Junior Youth Club Addingham youth Centre 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.	Families with young children up to about 11 yrs, inc siblings	£2 /family + £1/friend

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

Half term playscheme Mon 16th & Tues 17th February

Monday 16th & Tuesday 17th February: supported places available at £8 per child per day - ring Jo to book these, otherwise just turn up to stay and play. (10am – 3pm – bring a packed a lunch!).

Next residential at Lineham Farm 27 – 29 March 09, for children 8 – 16 years with ASD who regularly attend our provision or who are prepared to attend in order to get to know the child, setting etc. Contact Jo for further info and to book a place.

Annual Membership – now due

Your annual membership is now due for renewal. With this February newsletter, you will have received a membership renewal form, gift-aid declaration (please get a tax payer in the family to sign it and we can claim back the tax) and a questionnaire. Please complete and return all paperwork with your payment (cheque/PO for £5 payable to 'AWARE') by the end of this month (February) to continue to receive the newsletter and to be able to access activities. It is very important that you return the form as your responses will help us provide appropriate support and will also provide evidence that there is a real need for our services in this area and support our funding bids to enable AWARE to keep going.

NB Members who joined between September and December 2008 do not need to renew until January 2010 and your new membership card will be enclosed with this newsletter.

Raise money for AWARE, please use our webshop!

You may or may not be aware of our webshop, www.buy.at/aware this is a 'gateway' to many internet shops, if you go 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 Amazon, M & S, 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.

Fundraise by giving AWARE your old mobile phones, used stamps and empty ink cartridges.

Please bring them along to any of our sessions, or ring Jo to arrange collection.

Thank you to anyone who has made purchases from the Yellow Moon website, www.yellowmoon.org.uk (which sells art, craft, toys and gifts at very reasonable prices); we recently received a cheque for £24.91 and again at no extra cost to you. Just quote AWARE's source code WAW01693 when you make your purchases.

Parents' meeting Tuesday 10 February

Connexions Personal Advisers, Fiona Richardson and Marie Brown, will talk about the options and opportunities available to young people after Year 11. Fiona and Marie will discuss the support offered by Connexions and other agencies during the transition process from school into education, employment or training.

The speaker at January's meeting was Ged Faricy who gave some very useful information about how to best protect your assets and your family by writing an effective Will. We shall send out a flyer with next month's newsletter, but for a free, confidential and sympathetic consultation and discussion with no obligation. call Gerard (Ged) Faricy on 01484 687315 or email Ged@G-F-consulting.co.uk.

Coffee Morning, Addingham, Wednesday 25 February

Come along, have a cuppa and a chat, gain support from others and share your experiences...

AWARE Library This month will be available on Friday 27 February, 7 – 9pm at Youth Club.

Monday Youth Club and Siblings of people with autism

The club in Addingham on Mondays, run by Bradford Inclusion Project, now has a few siblings attending (age 8 – 17) and Sarah Jamieson, leader, says that this has been a great success.

AWARE has some resources aimed at helping explain autism to siblings and in addition, the National Autistic Society website www.nas.org.uk provides advice for siblings and links to other resources. Sibs www.sibs.org.uk provides useful information for siblings, parents and professionals

Transition post 19

For those of you who are getting to the stage of thinking "what happens for my child after formal education finishes?" you may be interested that the All Party Parliamentary Group on Autism is holding an inquiry into transition issues and inviting anyone who's interested to submit views/evidence. The link is below. It's a great opportunity for us all to raise concerns - feel free to spread the word. Shortcut to: <http://www.autism.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=2029&a=18311>

New report on needs of families with children with ASC

A report on the needs of families of children diagnosed with an ASC is out. You can download it free from www.peatni.org (under past events, launch of research report).

NAS News

NAS Convention in Manchester Thursday 5 February

The theme of the convention will be 'Person Centered Planning for Life' and it will take place at St Thomas Centre, Manchester.

Bradford one day *Help!* Programme Wednesday 11 March

This programme is for parents and carers of school aged children, aged between 3 and 12 who have a recent diagnosis of an Autism Spectrum Condition Wednesday 11th March 2009, 9.30 am – 3.00 pm at: Bradford Bulls Rugby Club, Grattan Stadium, Odsal, Bradford BD6 1BS. To book a place: **Jan Fuller on (0191) 5680732 or Wendy P'Anson on (0191) 5680731.** The sessions cover:

- What are autism spectrum disorders – an overview
- Practical strategies for education and educational rights/law
- Tips for communication
- Accessing support services

Attending a *help!* Programme – parental leave. If your child receives DLA you may be entitled to unpaid leave in order to attend this programme. Parents must have worked for their employer for at least one year prior to taking leave and give 21 days notice of leave.

For further information, please refer to the Working Families website: www.workingfamilies.org.uk or telephone: 0800 013 0313. Alternatively you should talk to your employer.

The Autism Alert card The Autism Alert card can be carried by a person with autism and enables them to identify their needs in situations where they may find communication difficult. Translations of the text inside the wallet can be downloaded in PDF form in a number of languages.

The card costs £2.50 and is available from the NAS www.nas.org.uk or telephone 0845 070 4004.

AET National Conference: 'Sharing Good Practice' Tuesday 26th February, London The Autism Education Trust (AET) is holding its first National Conference, 'Sharing Good Practice', at Central Hall in Westminster, London on February 26 2009. Sarah McCarthy-Fry, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Schools and Learning, will deliver the keynote address. The one day conference will bring together all those working in the autism education sector, local authority representatives, health professionals, adults and young people with autism and their parents and carers to share experiences and good practice and learn more about the work of the AET.

Places for this event are free but limited and must be booked in advance. For full conference details and to book tickets please download the attached form. Alternatively you can contact T: 0115 9113367 F: 0115 9113362 E: conference@nas.org.uk.

The AET are always keen to hear your thoughts and suggestions for the AET. Please visit the AET website and fill in the online form to tell us about your experiences of autism education as they want to hear from parents, young people with autism and professionals working in the autism education field.

Visit <http://www.autism.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=1502&a=14706> to fill in a form.

Robert Ogden School, Rotherham

School Open Day - 17th February 2009. This is a half term open day for prospective children's families or interested agencies.

SEN Tribunal Workshop - 11th March 2009. This session will be led by Elaine Maxwell of Maxwell Gillots Law firm who will be joined by the NAS Advocacy for Education Service. The session is aimed at supporting families and carers who want to know more about the SEN Tribunal system. The session will start at 6.30pm with an overview of Tribunal Appeals and followed with a question and answer session. Those wishing to attend should confirm places by contacting the school: Tel: 01709 870701.

Better Communication Action Plan

The Government has launched a £12 million action plan to improve services for children and young people with speech, language and communication needs. The plan is the Government's response to the Bercow review, published in July 2008, and outlines a range of cross-government initiatives building up to the National Year of Speech, Language and Communication in 2011-12. Watch this space ...

Useful websites:

Social Story Tutorial: <http://www.autismnetwork.org/modules/social/sstory/lecture01.html#topic1> This is a free tutorial on writing Social Stories

<http://www.changing-places.org/> Changing Places, disabled friendly changing facilities

www.autism.org.uk/pubs/gifts for NAS publications

www.yourable.com Includes help with DLA information

Free Symbols: www.do2learn.com www.pdictionary.com www.usevisualstrategies.com

www.photosymbols.com www.enchantedlearning.com/dictionary.html

<http://www.moneysavingexpert.com/> Martin Lewis, money saving expert, sign up for weekly emails.

<http://www.mealsavers.co.uk/main/> Supermarket best buys plus more in weekly emails.

www.ActivityVillage.co.uk Free games & activities to download or print out.

Useful information/links

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

Carers UK log on to www.carersuk.or to find out how you can show your support

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

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

www.entitledto.co.uk This website provides free online calculators to help you work out your entitlement to benefits and tax credits.

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 01609536766 Harrogate 01609 534983

Social Services – 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 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 The Family Hub Leeds www.thefamilyhubleeds.org/

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

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

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.

AWARE thanks the following for their support this year:

Bradford Carers Grant

Cow & Calf, Ilkley

