

# AWARE News January 2007

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[www.homestead.com/awareuk/](http://www.homestead.com/awareuk/)



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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.

January Dates	Time	Activity & Location	Cohort/Age Group	Cost
Mondays 15, 22, 29 N.B. No club on 8 <sup>th</sup> due to staff training	7 – 9pm	Monday Night Club, Addingham Youth Centre	HFA/AS 12+ (Parents don't stay)	£1 pp
Fridays 5, 12, 19, 26	7 – 9pm	Friday Youth Club, Addingham Youth Centre	7 – 16 (Parents stay)	£2 per family + £1 per friend
Tuesday 9	7.30pm	Parents Meeting, Airedale hospital CDC	Parents, Carers	free
Saturday 13	6 – 7pm	Swimming, Aireville Pool, Skipton	All family	£1 pp
Saturday 20	11am-12pm	Trampolining	All family: please ring to book	£2 per family
Sunday 21	11am	Wallace & Gromitt, Curse of the Were-Rabbit Leeds/Bradford Odeon	All family	£2.50/child, adults free.
Tuesday 23	10am - 12pm 1pm – 2.30pm	Coffee Morning, Addingham Youth Centre Parent and pre-school group, 1st meeting, please ring to confirm attendance	Parents, Carers  Parents and pre-school children	Free  Free
Sunday 28	11am	AMF Bowling Keighley; ring Jo to book.	All family	£2.50 pp or BOGOF

HFA – High functioning autism, AS – Aspergers

## **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, if so, you would only be committed to attending meetings 5 times a year. If you are interested please contact Jo a.s.a.p.

### **Cinema advance notice**

Sunday 25 February, 11am, Leeds/Bradford Odeon, Zoom

One-time superhero, Captain Zoom, has retired and now lives under his real name of Jack Shepard. Zoom is lured back into active service by scientist Marsha Holloway to teach the child superheroes of the future at an elite private academy. His four young protégés - Tucker, Summer, Cindy, Dylan - are still coming to terms with their special abilities, which set them apart from the other children, but when mankind is threatened once again and the total destruction of Earth seems imminent, Zoom and his students join forces to save the day.

### **Christmas news update**

The Christmas meal on 12 December was attended by 18 members. It was a very enjoyable evening – good food and service at The Cow and Calf - and everyone found it a great opportunity to relax and chat with other parents.

About 50 parents and children attended the youth club Christmas Party held on Friday 15 December. There was jelly, ice-cream, pass the parcel and dancing, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves!

### **AWARE Meeting Tuesday 9 January, 7.30pm at the CDC**

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.

### **Membership renewal fees now due**

To all members who joined prior to September 2006: your annual membership is now due for renewal. Please complete/amend the enclosed membership form and return with a cheque/PO for £5 payable to AWARE; if you are a tax-payer, please complete the gift-aid declaration and return both to Jo Galasso, 52 Chippendale Rise, Otley, LS21 2BJ. Everyone will receive the February newsletter to give people chance to return membership forms and payments, but after that if you haven't renewed you will no longer receive the newsletters or be eligible to attend AWARE activities.

### **February half term playscheme**

We will be holding three play scheme days on 14, 15 & 16 February in the half term holiday, from 10am to 3pm. Eight supported places are available per day for children aged 8 – 16 years, cost £8 per child per day (negotiable), places must be booked as soon as possible; plus parents with children of all ages up to 16 years are welcome to attend, just turn up on any or all of the days, cost £2 per family plus £1 per friend; bring a packed lunch and stay all day. The bouncy castle will be out most of the time, plus lots of other toys to play with and things to do.

### **Parent and Pre-school group**

The first session will be on Tuesday 23 Jan from 1pm to 2.30pm. You are very welcome to come and stay as long as you can, refreshments will be available. If you have any suitable toys you no longer require please feel free to bring them along; please ring or email Jo to let her know you will be attending.

nb For further details of all our activities contact Jo; or for the Monday club contact Tony on 01274 734018 or mobile 078809 84686.

### **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

### **The Cygnet Programme**

The Cygnet Group is a locally developed training programme for parents and carers of children aged 7-18 years in the Bradford district who have been diagnosed with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. There are two cygnet groups starting in Keighley:

Tuesday 20th Feb 10-12.30 at Clockhouse Project(Oakworth Rd) for 6 consecutive Tuesdays

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> Feb 6.30-9.00 at Airedale CDC for 6 consecutive Wednesdays

If you are interested, please contact Andy Morris on 01274 481183

### **Biomedical Conference 9-10 February, Bournemouth International Centre**

See enclosed leaflet or visit [www.TreatingAutism.com](http://www.TreatingAutism.com)

### **Autism Awareness Conference, Bradford**

Carlisle Business Centre Weds 21 March, 9.30am – 3pm

Speakers include:	<b>Professor Michael Gardner</b>	<i>Diet and Autism</i>
	<b>John &amp; Fiona Biddulph</b>	<i>ASD &amp; Relationships</i>
	<b>Olga Bogdashina</b>	<i>Sensory Perceptions</i>
	<b>Roz Blackburn</b>	<i>Personal experiences of Autism</i>

This conference will be of interest to professionals, parents and carers, and aims to give a broader understanding of a range of autism related issues. Professionals pay £40 for the event but parents and carers can attend free of charge. To reserve your place, please contact BASASG by 1<sup>st</sup> March on: 01274 721932.

### **Research into autism**

The Babylab at Birkbeck, University of London, has launched the first study in the UK looking at infant siblings of children with autism. Using newly developed techniques for studying brain and behaviour in infants, the team is investigating whether there are any differences in development between infants who have brothers or sisters with autism and those who do not. It is hoped that this will help identify the early signs of the disorder, allowing for earlier and more effective intervention aimed at improving the quality of life of children with autism.

**If you have a baby aged 0-12 months who has an older sibling diagnosed with autism and wish to take part in the “Baby Sibs Project”, please contact them for more information:**

Dr Mayada Elsabbagh or Ms. Holly Garwood  
The Babylab, Centre for Brain and Cognitive Development  
FREEPOST RRGX-ARGH-SESR  
Henry Wellcome Building, Birkbeck College  
Malet Street  
London WC1E 7HX  
Tel: 020 7079 0754, email: [asd@bbk.ac.uk](mailto:asd@bbk.ac.uk) or visit: [www.cbcd.bb](http://www.cbcd.bb)

### **Drop in Sessions for Carers in January**

Bingley Weds 10 January; Keighley Tuesday 16 January and Ilkley Friday 26 January. 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.

<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](mailto:autismhelpline@nas.org.uk)

PARIS (Public Autism Resource and Information Service): [www.info.autism.org.uk](http://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](http://www.bradford.gov.uk/childcare)

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

**AWARE thanks the following for their support this year:**

**BBC Children in Need Appeal**



**Bradford Carers' Grant**