

AWARE News January 2010

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www.homestead.com/awareuk/


www.awareuk.org



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AWARE wishes all its members a happy, healthy 2010!

January Dates	Time	Activity & Location	Cohort/Age Group	Cost
Saturday 2 January	TBC	Trip Club Contact Linda Porter on 07949576898 for further information	Age 14+. Parents don't stay - young people will have AWARE support	£10 per session, (which includes activities and refreshments)
Mondays 11, 18 & 25	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 8, 15, 22 & 29	7 – 9pm	Friday Youth Club Addingham Youth Centre Just turn up	Children 7 – 16 yrs, inc siblings (Parents stay)	£2 /family + £1/friend
Tuesday 12	8.00pm NB change of time	Meeting at CDC, Airedale Hospital Just turn up	Parents, Carers, Professionals, anyone interested	Free
Saturday 16	1.30pm– 3.30pm	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 younger children up to about 11 years, inc siblings	£2 /family + £1/friend
Wednesday 20	10am – 12pm	Coffee Morning Addingham Youth Centre Just turn up	Parents/carers, babies & toddlers welcome.	Free
Sunday 24 G-Force 	11am Doors open 10.50am	Cinema Just turn up Leeds/Bradford Odeon Gallagher Leisure Park Thornbury, Bradford	All family *Tickets can be pre-booked to avoid queuing, at www.odeon.co.uk Film info line 08712244007	£2.50/child adults free

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.jamieson@bradford.gov.uk

NB The AWARE Library will be available at the Parents' meeting on 12 January and Youth Club on 29 January – 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

AWARE Christmas Dinner at The Cow and Calf

27 members, staff and volunteers enjoyed the AWARE Christmas meal and get-together at The Cow and Calf, Ilkley. (Editor's note: Thanks to Jo for organising this – we had a lovely time!) The next social evening will be held there on Tuesday 13th April in lieu of the usual parents' meeting at the CDC.

Parents' Meeting, CDC, Tuesday 12 January at 8pm

This month's speaker will be Alan Heath: Alan is the founder and a Director of Learning Solutions, an organisation that has been helping children and adults with a range of learning difficulties develop auditory and sensory processing skills since 1996. Message from Alan:

The real power of music and sound for sensory processing, Developing good auditory processing skills and steady beat competency are a foundation for sensory integration, sequencing abilities, language, listening and learning. Much research into ASCs show auditory processing and timing in the brain to be an important component. Alan will explain the individual elements of auditory processing and their significance to in daily life and such things as language development.

Specific music such as the Sound Health Series of CD's and The Listening Program® will be used to illustrate the key points in the seminar. www.learning-solutions.co.uk

Advance notice: Annual Membership due

Your annual membership is due for renewal. With the February newsletter, you will receive a membership renewal form, 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.

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 20 January

We will be having a visitor - Mandy Ewers from the North Yorkshire Autism Outreach service; everyone welcome

Cinema: Sunday 24 January: autism-friendly screening of 'G-Force....'

Directed by two-time Oscar®-winning visual effects master Hoyt Yeatman. 'G-Force' is a stunning, high-octane comedy adventure starring the voices of Sam Rockwell, Penelope Cruz, Nicolas Cage, and Bill Nighy. Armed with the latest high-tech spy equipment, a group of specially trained animals lead a covert, government espionage operation. However, they soon discover that the fate of the whole world is in their paws! If you liked 'The Incredibles' and 'Monsters vs Aliens', you'll love 'G-Force'.

February Half term playscheme: Mon 16th & Tues 17th February

Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th 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!).

Lineham Farm Residential Short Break will be from Friday 3rd to Sunday 5th March 2010, and is for children/young people 7 – 16 years on the autistic spectrum. Contact Jo for further info.

Thank You!

A big thank you to members of St Peter's Church, Addingham for donating the proceeds of their Christmas Carol Concert collection to AWARE, which raised a grand total of £137.

Message from Bradford Link

"Bradford Link wants to know how people with Autism and Asperger Syndrome are treated when they use health and social care services in the district and whether there are enough services available to them. We have been talking to members of Bradford and Airedale Asperger's and Mental Health Support Group. Some of the things we have been considering include how young people with Autism and Asperger's use services as they move into adulthood and how the National Autism Bill passed in November will affect the services on offer. If you want to get involved and help us take action, please get in touch with Becky Mears at Bradford Link: becky@bradfordlink.org.uk or phone 01535 665258."

SNOOP launch the 'Help I'm Lost!' card scheme

Many children and adults with a learning disability are vulnerable when out in the community or travelling from A to B. There are issues around personal safety and road safety and can be at risk of wandering off or getting lost and are easily distracted.

The young people at SNOOP have developed a scheme to help in such situations. A young person can carry a 'Help I'm Lost Card' at all times. This card explains that they have a learning disability and maybe a communication difficulty and are lost. It has space for three contact telephone numbers of people close to them who can be contacted to take the young person to a place of safety. This is supported by a growing number of shops, tourist attractions, council offices and centres who have committed to becoming a safe place for young people to go to ask for help by displaying a 'Help I'm Lost Cards Welcome Here' window sticker in their entrance.

If you would like a 'Help I'm Lost Card' for your child or further information, please contact Carol Beardmore on 01274 621066 or 2carols@snoopisfun.org.uk

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

Autism Tips Information Sheets by Sue Larkey.

Sue Larkey (Author, Consultant and World Expert on ASDs) 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.

Inclusion Development Programme Early Years, Primary and Secondary: Supporting pupils on the autism spectrum.

The DCSF have recently released two interactive resources for professionals supporting children/young people with autism, from early years through to secondary school. The DVD ROM's contain lots of downloadable resources and video clips of young people with an ASC, parents and professionals. Copies of the publication are available to order free of charge from: www.teachernet.gov.uk/publications or DCSF Publications, PO Box 5050, Sherwood Park, Annesley, Nottingham NG15 0DJ. Tel: 0845 60 222 60

In order to play the video clips your computer will require Adobe Flash Player 10 (available as a free download from www.macromedia.com) or search Adobe Flash Player 10 on Google. (*Thanks to Leeds ABC for this*)

(Editor's note: if you have any hints/suggestions you would like to share, please contact me on 07854 740071 or email margaretnash@thomasnash.orangehome.co.uk We would particularly welcome names & contact details for local groups that are ASC friendly – sport, dance, drama etc - so we can keep a list for when members ask or we can publicise in our useful information lists. Thank you!)

Autism Education Trust

Conferences & Training:

NAS: Socialeyes training, 14 & 15 January, Leeds plus various other locations/dates

Please find attached details of some Socialeyes Facilitator training events that are taking place across the country in January 2010 (Leeds is on 14 & 15 January). Nb Places on the events are limited to 12 people.

'AS, The Inside Story' with Marc Fleisher, 30 January, Oxford

Please also find attached an e-flyer and booking form for AS, The Inside Story from Autism Oxford (formerly Autism Speakers & Professionals).

AET Website 'You Name It!' competition

AET are currently developing a new section of AET website dedicated to teenagers (to complement the existing Kids Zone) which will contain games, videos, expert advice and chat and is set to launch in the spring. They are holding a competition for teenagers to come up with a name for this area of the website. See the attached flyer for full details and please forward it on to any young people – both on the spectrum and not – who might be interested in entering. There is a prize of an AET bag of goodies, including a £25 Amazon voucher for the winning name. Entries to info@autismeducationtrust.org.uk by 13th January 2010.

NASEN Poetry Competition 2010

NASEN (National Association for Special Educational Needs) promotes the development of children and young people with special educational needs (SEN) and supports those who work them. In their 2010

Poetry Competition, NASEN will give **all** young people the opportunity to express their feelings on “**Breaking down barriers**” and how it was affected and enriched their lives within their school, community or the society in which they are growing up.

The groups are: Primary Category for Individuals (5-11 years); Primary Category for Groups (5-11 years); Secondary Category for Individuals (12-19 years) and Secondary Category for Groups (12-19 years).

Entries will be accepted up to the closing date for entries on 12th February 2010. Please send your entries marked “Poetry Comp” to: Sean Stockdale, NASEN House, 4/5 Amber Business Village, Amber Close, Amington, Tamworth B77 4RP

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 0127 4 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 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>

The Children's Information Link is a key part of the Bradford Early Years and Childcare Service, enabling parents and others to obtain comprehensive 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

