

AWARE News March 2008

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Issue 96

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.

March Dates	Time	Activity & Location	Cohort/Age Group	Cost
Mondays 3, 10, 17 No club 24 & 31	7 – 9pm	Monday Youth Club Addingham Youth Centre <i>*Ring Sarah Jamieson to attend</i>	HFA/AS 12+ (Parents don't stay)	£1/ person
Fridays 7, 14 No club 21 & 28	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
Saturday 8	11am- 12pm	Trampolining <i>Please ring, text, email to book</i>	All family	£2 /family
Saturday 8	6 – 7pm	Swimming Craven Pool, Skipton <i>Just turn up</i>	All family	£1/ person
Tuesday 11	7.30pm	Parents Meeting CDC, Airedale Hospital	Parents, Carers, Professionals, anyone interested	Free
Saturday 15	10am – 12pm	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 10 yrs, inc siblings	£2 /family + £1/friend
Sunday 16  Ratatouille	11am	Cinema Leeds/Bradford Odeon, Gallagher Leisure Park Thornbury, Bradford Doors open 10.50am <i>*Tickets can be pre-booked to avoid queuing, at www.odeon.co.uk or on the Film info line 08712244007</i>	All family <i>Just turn up</i>	£2.50/child, adults free
Wed 25 Mar Thurs 26 Mar Wed 2 April Thur 3 April	10am- 3pm	Play Scheme Addingham Youth Centre <i>Supported places need booking</i> <i>Families just turn up</i>	All family	Supported places £8/day £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

Please remember to send us your used stamps; mobile phones and ink cartridges!

Monthly meeting at the Child Development Centre, Airedale Hospital

Tuesday 11 March at 7.30pm This month's speaker will be Janet Browne from Education Bradford, she is happy to discuss any issues parents raise.

Easter Play scheme days, 25th & 26th March, 2nd & 3rd April 10am – 3pm

Supported places for children 8 – 16 yrs available to book now, cost £8/day; please ring Jo asap. Parents with children 0 to 16 years are welcome just to turn up and play on any of the days; cost is £2 per family. Bring a packed lunch and stay all day!

Monthly Raffle – Cow and Calf meal for two

Tickets are £1 each; pick one up next time you attend an event!

BADASG & AWARE Conference, Friday 2nd May 9.30am – 2.30pm

will take place at Victoria Hall, Victoria Road Saltaire, BD18 3JS.

Speakers include Wendy Lawson & John Biddulph

Places are £5 for parents/carers/people on the autistic spectrum and £50 for professionals. Places are limited – book now to avoid disappointment! Complete the attached form and return it to BADASG, 89 Caledonia Street, Bradford, BD5 0EN or e-mail it to badasg@btinternet.com

New Trampoline

We have now purchased our new trampoline thanks to money provided by Betty's Ilkley; it is a full size trampoline and has already been very popular at youth club, the February play scheme and trampolining session. Please note the trampoline is always out at youth club on the Friday prior to the Saturday morning trampolining session.

Possible change of venue for swimming

Due to relatively low numbers we are considering using several different pools on a rota basis. If you would like to suggest a pool, contact Jo and she will check out its availability. We will always try to make the sessions the second Saturday of the month to help people remember.

Nell Bank Outdoor Activity Centre

Nell Bank is an outdoor education centre offering tailored programmes to meet specific needs for both children and adults. It is located on the 'Lido side' of the river in Ilkley between the oak bluebell woods and the pony club showfields. The staff at Nell Bank have experience of working with children across the spectrum and are very flexible and safety-conscious.

We have provisionally booked two Family days for 'A Great Day Exploring' on Wednesday, 23 July and Wednesday, 6 August. (All children must be accompanied by an adult).

The activity days will start at 10.30 a.m. and finish at 3.00 p.m. with a picnic lunch on site. You will spend the day exploring the environment with all that it has to offer: from pond dipping, nature trails and minibeasts, to the adventure playground. There is also plenty of shelter in case of bad weather. The cost is £7.50 per person, however AWARE will pay for the adult places (max. 2 per family), therefore only £7.50 per child; adult and child friends are welcome at £7.50 per person.

To reserve places please contact Jane Guillard a.s.a.p. phone 0790374468 or e-mail matignon@tiscali.co.uk

Supporting siblings of children with ASD – NAS Harrogate Branch

Monday 10 March at Bilton Cricket Club, Bilton Lane, Harrogate, HG1 3DQ.

Meet from 7.30 for 8.00 pm start

From the Autism Education Trust: AET goes on the road to raise awareness

The Autism Education Trust has planned a series of awareness raising events across England to inform parents, professionals and young people with autism about the work of the AET, and also want to involve a wider audience in the work of the AET by recruiting people to sit on their Advisory Council when it is set up later this year.

Events will take place in London (19 April), Newcastle (26 April), Birmingham (3 May), Manchester (17 May), Bristol (24 May) and Hull (31 May). The events will be free of charge and they are encouraging young people with an interest in becoming involved in the work of the AET to attend, as well as parents of children with autism. Children will be welcome at the events and professionally supervised play and activities will be provided, leaving time for parents to take part in discussions. Refreshments will be provided throughout the day.

Further information about the events will be posted on the AET website (www.autismeducationtrust.org.uk) shortly and anyone interested in attending should contact Judith Kerem as soon as possible at info@autismeducationtrust.org.uk to reserve a place. Places for the events will be limited due to capacity constraints of the venues so please book early to avoid disappointment. Priority will be given to those who were unable to attend the parliamentary launch event.

Have Your Say: please visit the AET website and fill in the online form to tell them about your experiences of autism education. Perhaps you know of a really good outreach team; perhaps your school is very supportive and provides a range of pupil-centred initiatives to support learners with autism. Or perhaps your experience is not as positive? Have you struggled to access appropriate education for your child? Have you experienced bullying at school as a result of your autism? Visit <http://www.autism.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=1502&a=14706> to fill in a form.

NAS help! Courses

Monday 17th March 2008, 9.30am – 3.15pm, Harrogate

Sheffield: 3 day programme sessions: Thursday 24th April 2008 9.30am – 3pm; Tuesday 29th

April 2008 9.30am – 3pm and Tuesday 6th May 2008 9.30am – 3pm at The Robert Ogden School

If you require any further information please feel free to contact Jan Fuller - help! Administrator - North East on Tel: (0191) 5680732 Email: jan.fuller@nas.org.uk

Options Group Seminars

Understanding Matters - Sharing Perspectives and Practical Strategies - Speaker Janina O'Toole
Rendezvous Hotel, Skipton. 7th March

Autism - What Works - Speaker Geoff Evans,

Grimsby Town Hall, 14th March, Spa Complex, Scarborough, 4th April.

The Things They Don't Talk About at Conferences - Speaker Pat Smith

North Light Gallery, Huddersfield. 18th April.

Contact: Samantha Knight on 01789 767813 or e-mail sam.knight@optionsgroup.co.uk

Ways to save your family money

Passport to Leisure is a handy card which entitles you to reduced admission charges to leisure activities and is available to Bradford residents who is receiving a variety of benefits, including DLA. The card costs £2.20 for an Adult Card, £1.10 for a Child Card and is available at most sports centre, information centres and council shops.

www.bradford.gov.uk/leisure_and_culture/sports_and_recreation/PassportToLeisure.htm

Residents of Leeds can obtain similar benefits with a **Leeds Card** - www.leeds.gov.uk/leedscard or a **Breeze Card** – www.breezeleeds.org Telephone 0113 224 3636.

2 for 1 tickets to Alton Towers, Thorpe Park, The Dungeon, Sea Life Centres & more
Pick up a promotional packet of Tetley Tea and you can get a 2 for 1 voucher. Tickets for these theme parks usually cost up to £34 when you buy on the day so this is a massive saving.

Useful information/links

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

Carers UK log on to www.carersuk.org 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 **EntitledTo** - 'EntitledTo' is a website which provides free online calculators to help you work out your entitlement to benefits and tax credits.

Fundraise for AWARE by giving us your old mobile phones, used stamps and ink cartridges. Please save them and bring them along to any of our sessions, or ring Jo and she will arrange collection.

Visit our webshop Please make internet purchases via our webshop at <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.

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>

Health Care Professionals Information: 0207 903 3599

Parent Partnership Lines: Bradford 01274 481183 Leeds 0113 3951200
North Yorkshire 01756 792427

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

AWARE thanks the following for their support this year:

Bradford Carers Grant

Cow & Calf, Ilkley

