

AWARE News March 2007

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www.homestead.com/awareuk/



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March Dates	Time	Activity & Location	Cohort/Age Group	Cost
Mondays 5, 12, 19 & 26 <i>No club 3 & 10 April</i>	7 – 9pm	Monday Night Club, Addingham Youth Centre <i>Ring Tony to attend</i>	HFA/AS 12+ (Parents don't stay)	£1/ person
Fridays 2, 9, 16, 23 & 30 <i>No club 6 & 13 April</i>	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 10	6 – 7pm	Swimming, Aireville Pool, Skipton <i>Just turn up</i>	All family	£1/ person
Sunday 11	10.45am	Cinema - <i>Flushed Away*</i> Leeds/Bradford Odeon, Gallagher Leisure Park, Thornbury, Bradford <i>Just turn up</i>	All family	£2.50 per child, adults free
Tuesday 13	7.30pm	Monthly meeting at the Child Development Centre, Airedale Hospital <i>Just turn up</i>	Parents, Carers, Professionals, anyone interested	Free
Sunday 18	11am	AMF Bowling, Keighley <i>Ring to book</i>	All family	£2.50 pp or BOGOF
Tuesday 20	10-12pm	Coffee Morning, Addingham Youth Centre, <i>Ring to book</i>	Parents, Carers	Free
Saturday 24	11am	Trampolining, Addingham Youth Centre <i>Ring to book</i>	All family	£2 /family + £1/friend

*

HFA – High functioning autism, AS – Aspergers

N.B. For further details of all our activities contact Jo 07764432933; for the Monday club contact **Tony** Parkinson on 01274 734018 or mobile 078809 84686.



March meeting Tues 13th March, 7.30pm at the CDC, Airedale Hospital

The speaker for March will be Janet Browne from Education Bradford inclusion support, talking about behaviours of children with an ASD and the use of social stories to help them.

The February meeting on diet and autism was poorly attended, perhaps because it coincided with half term. If you are interested in this topic, AWARE has several books in the library that you can borrow. Please also visit www.treatingautism.com for suggested sources of information.

Librarian STILL needed urgently!

Jenny, one of our fantastic volunteers, has recently been helping do the library. However she is due to have major operations soon, so if no one comes forward to help, we will not be able to have it at our meetings for the foreseeable future. If you are interested please contact Jo a.s.a.p.

Swimming

Unfortunately, our committee member, Karen, wasn't able to go to the February session and collect the money, so if you attended, please pay on your next visit; thanks for your cooperation.

February half term play scheme update

The play scheme days at half term proved very popular: 13 children were supported on a 1 to 1 basis and a total of 42 children attended over the three days. The children enjoyed finding out about birds, and made bird feeders for their gardens; took part in sports sessions run by Bradford play and development service; plus they were able to take part in the usual activities like playing on the bouncy castle, trampolining, X boxes, doing crafts, cooking, etc.

Advance warning – Easter play scheme days.

Due to Jo's other commitments, and centre availability, there will only be two play scheme days at Easter: Wed 4th & Thurs 5th April. If you would like a supported place for your child please get in touch now, cost is £8/child/day for a supported place. If you would like to attend with your children, just turn up: £2/ family/day + £1 per friend.

Parent and Pre-school group

Cancelled until a core group is identified plus a suitable day and time can be established; please contact Jo if interested.

Betty's Café – Ilkley fundraising Pictured here are Gary Owen, our treasurer and Jo Galasso, Project Manger with Chrissie Platt of Betty's, Ilkley, at the presentation ceremony, collecting a cheque for £4690 to AWARE. Thanks again to Betty's staff!



Every Disabled Child Matters Update

“We are delighted to announce that the Daily Mirror has thrown its weight behind the Every Disabled Child Matters campaign, and has called on its readers to sign up as supporters.

The article states that the Mirror has teamed up with the campaign to help families with disabled children get what should be theirs by right - services, support and the chance to lead an ordinary life. We hope that the Mirror campaign will ensure that our number of supporters will continue to grow and demonstrate to Government that disabled children really do matter. We want 25,000 supporters to sign up to the campaign by July 2007. If you would like to sign up to the campaign, you can visit <http://www.edcm.org.uk> and to access the article go to:

http://edcm.org.uk/Page.asp?originx_2682wb_656650915651i9p_20072135043h”

From: Louise Franklin, Campaign and Policy Officer, Every Disabled Child Matters

The National Autistic Society (NAS) EarlyBird Plus Training programme

The next EarlyBird + information meeting will be held at Strong Close Children's centre, Airedale Road, Keighley, BD21 4LW on Wednesday 14th March at 9.30pm. The meeting should last for about 1 ½ hours and will give more information about the programme and details of how to apply. This is a new training program for families whose children have received a later diagnosis (4-8 years) the program 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: Jean Sanders 01274 385833

NAS Prospects student support service

<http://www.nas.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=1273&a=12594>

Prospects can offer support to students with Asperger syndrome who are in further or higher education, ensuring that staff at a student's college or university are aware of Asperger syndrome, and helping to put relevant support strategies in place.

NAS Fundraiser: The Night of 1000 Voices

<http://www.nas.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=495&a=12249>

If you love musicals, come and hear the best performers in the world performing some of the greatest songs at 'The Night of a 1000 Voices' on Sunday 6 May 2007 at the Royal Albert Hall.

Improvements to online NAS autism services

<http://www.nas.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=1277&a=12632>

Great improvements and new online autism services from The National Autistic Society from 6 March 2007.

In Focus: Dads – thanks to BADASG for this

Being a dad today does not mean the same as it did 50 years ago, and the typical role of fathers in their children's lives has become more involved. Yet, as Barry Carpenter writes in Fathers Direct, fathers of disabled children seem to find it difficult to assert their involvement, and are assumed by professionals to be less involved than the mother. So why is this the case?

A study of parental involvement in autistic children, mentally delayed children and typical children by Mary Konstantareas and Soula Homatidis, does suggest that mothers have more parental involvement than fathers. They also found that the father's involvement was lower in cases where their child was a first born or only child with autism. In addition to this, a later study from the University of Florida by Jennifer Elder echoes these findings. She believes that it is usually the mother who takes on the primary caring role for a child with autism, and that fathers felt that they could not connect with their child. She also believes that this difficulty in connecting leads to a great deal of frustration for fathers. However, it is not all bleak news for dads. The University of Florida has investigated how father-child relationships could help the child. They gave 18 dads specialized training involving learning to initialize play, repetition of the child's actions and vocalizations, following their child's lead, and waiting for a response from the child before continuing play. Following this training, they found that the child's communication improved and that it had helped fathers to feel empowered as parents. Of course all the family can take this approach to play, but the particular emphasis on fathers here shows that dads can make a difference.

If you would like to read more about these studies, you can visit:

www.medicalnewstoday.com/medicalnews.php?newsid=22593

www.fathersdirect.com/index.php?id=15&cID=22593

www.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-

[2445%28199202%2954%3AMAFSOI%3E2.0.CO%3B2A&size=LARGE](http://www.jstor.org/sici?sici=0022-2445%28199202%2954%3AMAFSOI%3E2.0.CO%3B2A&size=LARGE)

Capture a Moment Project

Bradford Council would like to capture what living in Bradford in 2007 is like for all disabled people and those with a sensory loss. The end result will be a unique photographic exhibition. They have a professional photographer, John Furlong, who will be working with them throughout the year to achieve this and are looking for people willing to be photographed and also places, venues and events that you may be visiting or participating in. This may be anything from your regular jaunt to the local shops, an exercise class, swimming pool, visit to the gym, a family wedding or christening or attending an event here in Bradford like the international markets, the Lord Mayors Parade etc. Ideas for photographs are welcome.

If you are interested please contact them now or at any time through 2007.

Sue Haddock 01274 435001 or email sue.haddock@bradford.gov.uk Minicom 01274 435013

Nick Farrar 01274 43 7996 or email nick.farrar@bradford.gov.uk Mobile 07789 29005

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.

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.

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

PARIS (Public Autism Resource and Information Service): 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

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

AWARE thanks the following for their support this year:



Bradford Carers' Grant
Betty's and Taylor's Group

