

# AWARE News May 2007

Registered Charity 1089617

Issue 87

[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.

May Dates	Time	Activity & Location	Cohort/Age Group	Cost
Mondays 14, 21 <i>No club 7&amp;28 May</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 4, 11, 18 & 25, <i>No club 1 June</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
Tuesday 8	7.30pm	Monthly meeting at the Child Development Centre, Airedale Hospital <i>Just turn up</i>	Parents, Carers, Professionals, anyone interested	Free
Saturday 12	6 – 7pm	Swimming, Aireville Pool, Skipton <i>Just turn up</i>	All family	£1/ person
Saturday 19	11am	Trampolining, Addingham Youth Centre <i>Ring to book</i>	All family	£2 /family + £1/friend
Sunday 20	11am	AMF Bowling, Keighley <i>Ring to book</i>	All family	£2.50 pp or BOGOF
Sunday 27 	10.45am	Cinema – Charlotte's Web, Odeon, Gallagher Leisure Park, Thornbury, Bradford <i>Just turn up</i>	All family	£2.50 per child, adults free
Thursday 30 Friday 1 June	10am- 3pm	Playscheme, Addingham Youth Centre	All family	£2/family *£8/supported <i>*Ring to book</i>

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.

## **AWARE meeting Tues 8<sup>th</sup> May, 7.30pm at the CDC, Airedale Hospital**

The speaker for May will be Claudia Dickinson, Clinical Psychologist, talking about her research project (in which AWARE parents were involved) on how mothers bond with their ASD child.

The April speaker was Katie Taylor, School Improvement Officer for Bradford. The meeting was very interesting: parents who attended were concerned about the lack of appropriate provision for children with an ASD. There is only one primary DSP – designated special provision - which is Denholme Primary (which has about 14 places available) and two senior provisions (Grange Technology College & Holy Family RC School) for the whole of the Bradford district. Katie said Education Bradford are trying to find an appropriate school to develop another DSP but they haven't yet found a school prepared to take on this role.

The June speaker will be Janet Browne, Education Bradford, who will talk about the use of Social Stories with children with an ASD.

### **Project Worker**

We are now ready to appoint an additional Project Worker to assist Jo with the running of AWARE, as the job is now too much for one person, and also we need someone to cover in case of holidays and sickness. A copy of the job advertisement is enclosed, if you know anyone who might be interested in applying, ask them to get in touch with Jo for further details and an application form.

### **Librarian STILL needed urgently!**

Jenny, one of our fantastic volunteers, has recently been helping do the library. However she has just had a major operation and can no longer do 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.

### **Easter and spring bank play schemes**

The Easter play scheme days were again very well attended with 25 children and their families attending each day. **Play scheme days at spring bank will be Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May and Friday 1<sup>st</sup> June.** If you would like a supported place for your child, please get in touch now: cost is £8/child/day. If you would like to attend with your children, (up to age 16) just turn up: £2/family/day + £1 per friend.

### **Advance notice of summer play scheme**

We are pleased to say we have again received a grant from BBC Children in Need to pay our summer play scheme support workers, so will be able to offer up to eight supported places per day, the scheme will be on for two weeks from **Monday 13 August – Friday 24 August.** **Bookings are now being taken for supported places.**

### **Summer trips**

Bradford Play Development organise trips for play schemes to attend – they provide the buses and pick up from our venue at a reasonable price. If you are interested please contact Jo asap. The suggested trips are:

2<sup>nd</sup> August Chester Zoo      9<sup>th</sup> August Flamingo Land      16<sup>th</sup> August Scarborough

We also plan to organise some trips, your suggestions would be appreciated - please let Jo know.

### **Bradford Toy Library**

The Toy Library and Laura Jackson Book Library offer a free loan service of specialist toys and play equipment to children with special needs. For further information, call 01274 365463 or [toy.library@bradfordhospitals.nhs.uk](mailto:toy.library@bradfordhospitals.nhs.uk) It's well worth a visit! (Editor's note)

### **NAS Harrogate**

For information about their summer term meetings, contact: [barbara.grant1@ntlworld.com](mailto:barbara.grant1@ntlworld.com)

### **Parent Carer Support Group**

A support group in Settle which meets the first Wednesday in the month from 1.30 until about 3.00 is looking for new members. Aimed at parents of children with any kind of a disability, the group is currently more of a get together over a cup of coffee and a chat, but hopefully when members establish what they want from the group, they can move forward with definite direction. The meetings take place at the Play Barn in Settle, which is handy for parents who need to bring along young children. There is no cost involved (except for a cup of coffee!) – for further information call Barbara at The Carer's Resource (01756 700888) or Melanie (01729 823472).

### **Disability Advice Bradford Holiday Information**

This service provides clients with information on specialist holidays, locations, accommodation and leisure activities. Clients who are unable to afford a holiday can also apply to the scheme for support in applying to certain trusts and charities. Please contact Martin Brooks on 01274 594173.

A similar service for carers called The Bradford Carers' Holiday Scheme is also run from DAB by Kath Davies on the same number.

### **Carers' Small Grant**

The Carer's Small Grant is a one-off payment (up to £200) to carers to be used to promote the carer's own health and well-being, eg gym membership, learning a new skill, social outing. For further information, contact Carers' Support Resource on 01274 366332 or Jo can send you an application form. N.B. Closing date for applications is 25 May 2007.

### **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 Signpost to personalised information on ASD**

Signpost is a new web resource that has been designed to give parents and carers and people with ASD personalised information relevant to their situation. Signpost matches information about ASD, entitlements and services to the user's profile: age, diagnosis and location. You can find Signpost at: [www.autism.org.uk/signpost](http://www.autism.org.uk/signpost)

### **NAS news**

The NAS has launched a new report about the educational experiences of children from minority ethnic communities with ASD called 'Missing out?'. The report is available from the NAS website and hard copies can be requested from the NAS Campaigns Department, Tel: 020 7923 5799 or email [campaign@nas.org.uk](mailto:campaign@nas.org.uk)

This month is also the last chance to take part in the NAS survey on the experiences of adults with an ASD <http://www.nas.org.uk/nas/jsp/polopoly.jsp?d=1278&a=12637> The NAS's next campaign will be about improving services for adults with an autistic spectrum disorder. Help to make the campaign a success by filling in their online questionnaire.

### **Complete Guide to Asperger's Syndrome with Professor Tony Attwood & Mr Chris Mitchell**

Newcastle Marriott Metro Centre Hotel, Gateshead, 9th of May 2007.

There are still places available on this seminar involving the leading authority on practice relating to Asperger's Syndrome, Professor Tony Attwood, from the Minds & Heart Clinic, Australia.

Centre for the Development of Autism Practice (CDAP) is also hosting a seminar on 17 July at the Centre for Life Newcastle, involving the remarkable Jackson Family, inspiration for the BBC drama *Magnificent 7*, starring Helena Bonham Carter. Please contact Bryan Craig, Director of CDAP on 01246 583826, email [autism.centre@virgin.net](mailto:autism.centre@virgin.net) for further details.

## **Autism and Asperger Syndrome Conference**

The Royal Society of Medicine have organised a conference in association with the National Autistic Society entitled "Autism and Asperger Syndrome" to be held at the Medical Education Centre in Bristol on Thursday 10 May. See <http://www.rsm.ac.uk/academ/zo-autism.htm>

## **Reminder ref survey on 'quality of life'**

Do you believe that doctors and the NHS should do more to improve the quality of life of patients and people with a disability? If you do, one problem is that the medical profession, managers, civil servants and politicians cannot always be expected to know what you (and everyone else) mean when you use the phrase 'quality of life'.

To help overcome this problem, The QALYity Project (an alliance of prestigious patient groups, medical professionals, academics, and journalists) is conducting the study in order to develop an index that can measure how effective each individual medical treatment or form of care/ support is at improving the quality of life of people with a long-term medical condition (or a disability)—*as determined by the individuals themselves, not by clinicians*. The results of the survey, and the tools that emerge from it, will be made publicly available, will be submitted for peer review, and will also be presented to the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), the government-funded body that decides which treatments and care should be paid for by the NHS [for more about the QALYity project: <http://www.patient-view.com/qalyity.htm>]

## **Fundraise for AWARE, collect old mobiles, used stamps and ink cartridges!**

Please collect old mobile phones, used postage stamps (with as much paper cut off as possible please) and empty printer ink cartridges 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.

## **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:**

### ***Bradford Carers' Grant***



*The Cow & Calf, Ilkley*

