

North Somerset Branch

Newsletter



Hi Everyone,

Welcome back we hope you have enjoyed the recent school holidays. As all of you will know from the last newsletter Jackie Edwards has stood down as the Branch Officer this took place in May. We also lost Wendy Humm as the Branch Treasurer David Hughes our fundraiser, and Maggie Williams Project leader of the Breakthrough Club.

Jackie Edwards who has worked very hard promoting Autism awareness across North Somerset and on into Bristol. She has also arranged many Talks from people such as; Tony Attwood, Wendy Lawson, Ros Blackburn to name just a few, those talks have been attended by both parents and professionals alike and given us all a greater understanding of Autism. Jackie is now working with the Valuing People team and has promised to keep in touch.

Wendy Humm has worked very hard over the last few years as Branch Treasurer. This work has enabled the branch to promote Autism awareness in the form of the above Talks.

David Hughes for all his efforts with fundraising this has helped us to provide our much needed support group meetings.

Maggie Williams for all her great work at the Breakthrough Club was invaluable to all who attended the Club.

We wish them the very best of look for the future and thank them for all their hard over the last few years without which we would not have been able to do so much .

I would now like to say thank you to the rest of the committee members for their help and support with my new role as Branch Officer. We would all like to welcome our new committee members Katherine Lambert the new Branch Treasurer, Angela Jones, Suzanne Rhodes and Wendy Lovell all of whom have already been invaluable to the Branch.

I am sure the new team will help to continue with the good work North Somerset Branch is best known for as well as bringing some new ideas to the Branch. I am really looking forward to working with everyone.

Liz Kelly North Somerset Branch Officer.

Branch Events

10 Pin Bowling October 3rd 9.30—12.00 Weston AMF Bowling

Peter ParkHouse 19th November Ravenswood School 8.00PM

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Committee Members

Liz Kelly — Branch Officer
01934 628287
07765 232622
Katherine Lambert — Treasurer
Maggie Potter — Regional Councillor
Mary Marsh — Events Co coordinator
Helen Gilmore — Publicity
Jacky Hayler — Minute Secretary

The National Autistic Society
Regional office

Ben Higgins Regional Coordinator
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The National
Autistic Society

I exist; CAMPAIGN UPDATE

I Exist: local impact!

Responses from local authorities to **two** autism-specific questions in an annual self-assessment survey reveal that local authorities are taking note of I Exist and are looking to make changes to local practices. The questions were included for the first time this year in direct response to demands from the NAS.

In their responses, several local authorities stated that they were re-examining their service provision in light of the I Exist report. This was a key win as the omission of ASD in previous inspections gave little incentive for local authorities to improve their provision. It's now essential that we build on this momentum to ensure that real progress is made for adults with autism locally.

Local campaigning: share your experiences

We are developing a selection of resources which will empower our **supporters to campaign for** a better deal for people with autism in their area, be it as part of one of our national campaigns, or to achieve a specific local change. We know that many of our branches, as well as other local autism organisations, already have experience of campaigning, and if you are a member of one of these groups, or have even run your own campaign, we want to hear from you!

We would like to know what support has helped you to campaign in the past, what hasn't been so good, and what more we could offer in the future. It's also your chance to give us feedback on our past and current campaigns and to tell us what issues are most

NATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Last year HM Treasury and the Department for Education and Skills (now the Department for Children, Schools and Families) carried out a joint review aimed at improving services for disabled children in England. The report from the review, *Aiming High for Disabled Children: Better Support for Families*, committed the government to providing an additional £430 million to transform services for disabled children. This includes an extra £370 million which has been allocated to local authorities in England from April this year to develop additional short breaks services for disabled children and their families. It's really important that the money is spent in a way which will benefit children with autism and their families, and we have prepared a briefing which explains how you can influence this. Please visit www.autism.org.uk/andc to find out

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENTS

Filton College; The NAS has submitted a prop.osa! to the LSC council to build a partnership with Filton College. The partnership would improve access to further education for people with autism and Asperger syndrome in the South Gloucestershire and Bristol region.

Gloucestershire Resource Centre; Our new resource centre in Cheltenham was officially opened by Mark Harper, the shadow minister for disability, on 24th July. The centre is joint funded by Gloucestershire LA and the NAS.

Radstock supported living scheme, Building work has now started on the new supported living scheme in B&NES for the transition of students leaving Fosse Way School.



National Conference.

A reminder that this year's National Autistic Society 2008 Conference will be held at the Novato! London West Hotel from Friday 19 - Saturday 20 September 2008. The theme of the conference is 'Research into Practice', and the event will provoke interesting debate, provide opportunities to hear of the latest developments and learn more about best practice in the care and education of people with autism spectrum disorders. Keynote speakers include Simon Baron-Cohen, Rita Jordan and Vilanyur Ramachandran, while there will be interactive seminar sessions on a variety of themes, ranging from sexuality through to autism in the prison population. The conference will also be promoting the work of Research Autism. Most importantly, delegates will have plenty of opportunities to network and discuss current issues with others living and working with autism.

Support group meetings

have been arranged, to be held
Grey Friars Church Hall, Marine Hill in
Clevedon from 10.00 am to 12 noon on
the last Thursday each month
Thursday 25th September
Thursday 28th November
Also at the

NAS Lynx Centre, 14/15 Lynx Crescent,
Weston Super Mare BS24 9DJ Second
Wednesday of each month
Wednesday 8th October from 7pm -9pm
Wednesday 12th November "
Wednesday 10th December "

Please contact Liz on 01934 628287 for
more details Our Library of books and
videos are available via the Support
group meetings. Please contact Liz on
Tel: 01934 628287 if you would like to
take out a book or video and if you have
one to be returned

Training Courses

Safe and Sound:

An introduction to child protection

19th November – Weston-super-Mare

This training is designed for anyone who has contact with children within their working environment. Participants will gain a thorough understanding of how to provide a safe setting for children and how to recognise and respond to abuse. They will develop their knowledge of the legislative framework designed to protect children as well as an awareness of their own roles and responsibilities within a multi-agency context.

WHO SHOULD ATTEND: Any staff from voluntary, statutory, private and independent agencies with children and families.

COST OF THE TRAINING: £40 + VAT for the one-day training course, including lunch and refreshments.
y on 0117 937 5500

Email: tlcinfosouthwest@barnardos.org.uk

Or send your application to: Barnardo's Training Learning Consultancy, Verona House, Filwood Road, Fishponds. Bristol.
BS16 3RY

SPSC

Supportive Parents for Special Children
Meeting dates

Mendip Green School Weston-S-Mare
Thursday

- Sept 18th
- Nov 13th

**Please note the talk due to take place
on the 18th has been Cancelled.
The meeting will still take place.**

The Folk Hall, High Street Portishead
Thursday

- Oct 14th
- Dec 9th

Contact Details:

Jackie Oxley. Local Co-ordinator
Support line 0117 989 7725 Mon, Wed & Fri
during term time



Lynx Resource Centre

The Lynx Resource Centre has been developed by the N.A.S to offer a range of Vocational Training, Social Enterprise and Sheltered or Supported employment opportunities to adults with ASD. Located on an industrial estate, with good transport links, the Centre has a large workshop area, fully equipped to provide woodwork and metal craft training and the space to develop other vocational training activities if required. An IT suite enables the Centre to offer training in IT skills, social skills, work skills and basic literacy and numeracy. In addition to offering specific individualised support programmes for adults with ASD to reach their own potential, the centre facilitates a number of social activity groups in and around the local area, for various age groups and abilities.



Other Activities include

- Saturday Morning Children's Funclub
- Walking Group
- Craft Evenings

For more information please contact Nikki Edwards The Lynx Resource Centre 14/15 Lynx Crescent Weston-super-Mare North Somerset BS24 9DJ

Telephone: 01934 412 575

Out of Schools Clubs

There are two clubs: one is for children aged 8-13 years and meets on Tuesday evenings from 7-8:30pm. This club caters for ten children/families. A second club for children aged 13-18 years also meets on Tuesdays. Please contact Helen Hydes for further information as children can only be accepted through a referral procedure.

Church Road Filton Bristol BS34 7BD **Telephone:** 0117 9748437

**COME AND JOIN US AT THE THEATRE FOR A
MATINEE PERFORMANCE OF**

THE PIRATES OF PENZANCE



Being performed by the Weston Operatic Society **at** the
Weston Playhouse

(starring one of our very own Crossroads employees!)
we'd love you to join us for what we are sure will be a
really enjoyable afternoon!



Saturday, 1st November at 2.30 pm

There will be a charge of £6.00 towards your ticket and your own transport will be needed. Please note that you will have to use stairs in the theatre. •

**Please
phone Jeanette on 01934 411855 to book your place.**

