

autism london

Bi-Monthly Bulletin

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Contributors

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Production: Thanks to Desmond Meldrum for producing the Bulletin

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We would welcome any feedback related to information printed in this publication.

The views and opinions expressed in Autism London's bulletin
are not necessarily those of the organisation.

Dear Reader

Welcome to the April - May issue of the Autism London Bulletin.

Firstly, I must apologise for the late arrival of your Bulletin. This is partly because there has been some staff annual leave over the past few weeks, but mainly because we needed to wait for some important information to be confirmed by the MCCH Board on 13th April. As you know, we have been trying to get funding for our service some time now, but with no success. MCCH have agreed to continue their support to March 06 to give us more time to secure funding. There will however be some changes to the services we can offer, and the way you can access them; please see overleaf for more details.

We will keep you informed as developments arise, and please be assured that while some changes may be inevitable, we shall continue to be here for our Supporters, providing information, advice, and support.

Feedback – thank you!

A big thank you to all those of you who sent in your feedback sheets; we really appreciate you taking the time to do this.

I also would like to thank those organizations/ professionals who have sent letters of support to us: we cannot work in isolation and really value the links we have with others who are working to support people affected by ASD. Thank you!

Summer Day Trip

Many of you have commented on the lack of New Year Party this year, and we were sorry not to be able to run that event due to lack of funding. However, we are planning to go ahead with a summer day trip, along similar lines to recent years. Plans are in the early stages, but we can tell you that we will be going to **LEGOLAND on Wednesday 24th August.** Please keep this date in your diary, and watch out for more details to follow in the June Bulletin.

Funding for the trip. The trip usually costs around £3000 and in previous years we have been fortunate to have funding from Help a London Child. They are not able to help this year, but we do have a generous donation from IPCSEN of £1000, which we have agreed to put towards the summer trip. We are looking for ways to raise the rest of the money, but need your help to do so. If you have any ideas of how we can reach the total required, please let us know- see back page!

Supporter Subscription renewal

Its that time of year again! Here at Autism London subscriptions are renewed each year in April, and so you will find enclosed a renewal form. If you have joined us for the first time between January and March 05, then your subscription is valid now until March 06. Otherwise, please just complete the form to ensure we have your correct details up to date, and return it to us with the subscription fee. Please note that our subscription fees have changed this year as follows:

Individual /families	£10.00
Unwaged	£4.00
Professionals/organizations	£15.00

N.B. If you are sending in a cheque as payment for your subscription, or for anything else, as of April 05 please make your cheques payable to MCCH Society Ltd.

Also in this issue:

Please see inside for all our regular features, including a Support Services update with dates for future support meetings, Supporters Forum, Book Reviews by Louis Baworowski, and Notices and Conferences section.

With best wishes,

Gill Lea-Wilson – Service Development Officer

News about Changes to Autism London Support Services

Funding changes

The story to date: As you know, Autism London is a voluntary organisation and registered charity. As of October 03 we have been a subsidiary of MCCH Society Ltd. Until May 2004, Support Services were funded by money from grant-giving bodies such as the Community Fund and other trusts, as well as some donations. This funding has been invaluable in enabling us to offer a London-wide support, advocacy and outreach service at no charge to service-users. However, while we know that the need for the service remains, it has not been possible to obtain further funding to continue the work in this way. There are many voluntary organisations out there competing for grants, and while we may be able to obtain some grant funding for specific parts of our work, we now need to find alternative ways of generating the bulk of the income to fund Support Services.

For the next year: Since May 2004, our parent company, MCCH, have provided funding to sustain our current level of staffing/service, and I am happy to say that I have just received confirmation that they will continue to do this up to the end of March 2006. After that time we need to have in place a way of securing income to pay for the services we provide.

For the longer term: In order to do this, over the next few months we will be approaching a number of Local Authorities within North and East London to pay for the services for people living within those boroughs.

Implications for existing services; how will these changes affect you?

Advocacy/outreach support - there are two main ways in which this is changing:-

- We will from now on be limiting the new cases we take on to a number of boroughs in North and East London, i.e. Camden, Islington, Enfield, Hackney, Haringey, Redbridge and Waltham Forest. This is in order to reduce travel time and staff costs and to enable us to establish working relationships with a smaller number of local authorities. People living outside these boroughs will still be able to access other services, see below.
- We will aim to charge your local authority for this service.

New referral procedures have yet to be worked out and we will keep you posted about this. Please note that if you are currently on our list of active cases, you will have heard/ be hearing from us separately about how the changes affect your individual position.

Other services: the exact nature of our other services may change over the next few months as we identify potential funding sources, but much of our services will be continuing the same, including the following:

- Our support groups/ meetings will continue to run, and are accessible to anyone who can get there and for whom the group is relevant- see Bulletin for details.
- All Supporters will continue to receive the regular Bulletins.
- Wherever you live in or around London, you can still call our Helpline on 020 7359 6070, or email us at info@autismlondon.org.uk, for advice and information, including our fact-sheets, and also details of other advocacy organisations.
- Information about autism, Autism London, as well as links to other websites is available on our website at www.autismlondon.org.uk.

New roles for Support Services

Autism London Support Services will also be taking on a new role, supporting existing residential services which are not ASD specific, to better meet the needs of people with ASD. We will also be advising on the development of new specialist services for people with ASD and developing a new specialist person-centred planning system.

I hope that this has adequately explained the current situation, and we will keep you informed of any further developments as they occur.

Gill Lea-Wilson

Service Development Officer

Support Services Update

(A bi-monthly update on the services we offer you from our Support and Helpline Officers)

On Monday the 14th February I attended a one-day conference on Autism and Aspergers Syndrome called, *Established Ideas....New Perspectives*, which was held at the Resource Centre in Holloway Road. Gill Lea-Wilson and Desmond Meldrum also attended. The conference was organised by ASD-UK (Association for the Study of Developmental Disorders), and the emphasis was to provide the most up to date information on theory and intervention. Set to appeal to a multi disciplinary audience, the speakers included Professor Dermot Bowler who gave an overview of current thinking on reasoning, memory and mental state understanding. Paul Shattock, secretary of the World Autism Organisation, presented 'Environmental factors in Autism, implications for therapy and intervention'. Ros Blackburn, an adult with Autism, provided a very entertaining and valuable insight into many aspects of her world and Dr Dougal Hare, an experienced Clinical Psychologist and researcher who presented a study on Cognitive Behaviour Therapy for people with Aspergers Syndrome. The conference was well attended and concluded with quite a lively question/answer session.

All in all it was indeed a good way to spend Valentines Day, well it certainly took my mind off how many cards I *didn't* get!!

Ethney Anderson

Support Officer

Hello all, I hope everyone has had a great Easter and everyone did not overload on Easter eggs!

We have just had our monthly ALAG group, where the group topic was "Mental Health". We will be revisiting this subject some time in the future, as on this occasion there was a lot of other business to get through. We are currently reviewing future topics for the group and we would welcome any suggestions for topics that you may wish to discuss.

At ALAG this month we also had some visitors from Hoffman Foundation for Autism who came to share some information with us. Hoffman Foundation is expanding its resources and programs for people with Asperger's Syndrome. The expansion includes the opening up of a day centre at 2 Park Avenue, Wood Green N22 7EX as a Saturday drop in centre and social club for members and guests, organized and run for and by people with Autism and Asperger's Syndrome.

Dee King

Support Officer

I hope you all had a lovely Easter break!

But as we all know time does fly – and before you know summer will be here – which brings me on to letting you know that I have now completed the new version of our holiday factsheet. Can I thank Desmond for helping me compile the information and getting it printed up ready and available to for you. If you would like a copy you can either log on to our website (details on the inside cover of this bulletin) and download a copy, or call our office and request one.

The recent number of helpline calls coming in the past few months, have been requesting information regarding Transition. We are at the moment working on gathering information regarding this issue and hope to have a factsheet available very soon. Please take note of our forthcoming meetings.

Best Regards

Tanya Camilleri

Helpline Officer

**Parent/Carers Support Group
Invites you to attend a series of talks.**

Date and Time	Venue Details	Speaker	Topic
27 th April 1.30pm – 3.00pm	Autism London 1 Floral Place Northampton Grove London N1 2FS	Steve Proctor	Parent of a young child with ASD in mainstream primary school.
11 th May 1.30pm – 3.00pm	The Limes William Morris Hall 6 Somers Road Walthamstow E17 6RX	Penny Gosai Family Support Officer	Waltham Forest Mencap
25 th May 1.30pm – 3.00pm	The Kulubi Centre 2c Falkland Road Kentish Town London NW5 2PT	Support Officers from Autism London: Dee King & Ethney Anderson	Open meeting for parents to come along and talk.
15 th June 6.30pm – 8.00pm	Oakleigh School Oakleigh Road North Whetstone London N20	Support Officers from Autism London: Dee King & Ethney Anderson	Open meeting for parents to come along and talk.
<p>To help us cater for demand, if you would like to attend any of these groups/talks please let us know you will be coming by calling 020 7704 0501 and leaving a message specifying the date of the meeting you will be attending.</p>			

autism london Women's Asperger's Group

Dates for meetings from April - September 2005 are: -

Thursday 28th April
Thursday 26th May
Thursday 30th June
Thursday 28th July

The group meets at Floral Place. Come along and give it a try; if you are coming, please try to arrive by 2pm. Light refreshments, i.e. teas and coffees etc will be available.

Contact Dee/Ethney for further information on: 020 7704 0501

Or email us at: dee@autismlondon.org.uk or ethney@autismlondon.org.uk

autism london Asperger's Group

This is a support group for adults with Asperger's syndrome living in the London area. It is a chance to meet others, to talk about common issues, and to support and help each other.

The group meets at the Autism London offices at: 1 Floral Place, off Northampton Grove, London N1

**The group currently meets on the first Tuesday of the month
in the evening from 6.30pm to 8.30 pm.**

Dates for meetings from April - August 2005 are: -

Tuesday 3rd May
Noise/Sensory Issues
(Optional 2nd topic – Sleep Problems)

Tuesday 7th June
Depression/other mental health issues

Tuesday 5th July
Asperger's Syndrome in the past

Come along and give it a try; if you do come along, please try to arrive between 6.30pm and 7pm. There will be light refreshments/ snacks available.

Contact Gill for further information on: 020 7704 0501 Or email: gill@autismlondon.org.uk

Supporters Forum

Where you share your news, ideas and creations!

If you are reading this, then perhaps you would like to send something in for others to read next time? This is your space, whether you are a person with ASD, or a sibling, partner, parent, carer, or friend. Whether as an article, story, poem, or picture, we welcome your experiences, views and ideas to share with others. I will try to give you some ideas to get you started. Why not tell us:-

- ✓ About your experience of ASD, either at school, at work, at the shops, on holiday,
- ✓ How you coped with a particular situation
- ✓ About an interesting course/ conference you have attended
- ✓ About a service you have found helpful
- ✓ About a place you have enjoyed visiting
- ✓ About your favorite hobby
- ✓ What are your hopes for the future
- ✓ Or anything else you would enjoy writing about and like to share!

Please send any articles to Bulletin- Supporters' Forum, Autism London, 1 Floral Place, London N1 2FS, or email them to info@autismlondon.org.uk.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Mrs Ozugurlu would like us to wish her daughter Seriee a very Happy Birthday for the 9th April. Hope you had a good day, Seriee!

MARTIAL ARTS- by David Shamash, ALAG member.

I have been doing Martial Arts for eleven years and thought about doing it before. I started in January 1994 when I moved to North London. Every Thursday Evening at Jewish Care we have a Martial Arts Class. I am sure there are other places where one can learn Martial Arts or Gymnastics. Perhaps in future Autism London or the National Autistic Society might have classes, which improves Coordination.

The class is meant to make one defensive NOT aggressive. What we learn is good for people with Asperger's Syndrome or any one else for that matter. It could be a little harder for some one with Asperger's Syndrome if one is not well coordinated and also people with Asperger's Syndrome might in a fight find it difficult to know what the opponent is going to do, as we are not supposed to know what other people are thinking. The teacher told me that.

We do physical exercises and self-defence, which is very good for coordination. We practice various things including trying to set ourselves free when being held, and punching a punch bag. We are also taught that it is good to avoid fighting and the best method of self-defence is to run away. There is nothing wrong with being a coward. He also taught us that the law only allows you to hit someone in self-defence. It is NOT self-defence to run after some one who has hit you to hit him back. Retaliation does not count as self-defence. It is the job of the police and the courts to punish.

BOOKS

Louis Baworowski's career has included social work, academic research and journalism. For several years, he also worked as a volunteer writer for the National Autistic Society, preparing abstracts (summaries) of scientific and general articles on autism and special needs for the Society's database. He is the father of Osian, a 24 year-old with autism. The aim of this regular column is to cover works of interest to readers of Autism London Bulletin irrespective of publication date. Where non UK-English spellings appear in

By Louis Baworowski

Judy Barron and Sean Barron, *There's a Boy in Here: A Mother and her Son Tell the Story of his Emergence from Autism* (London: Chapmans Publishers, 1993) ISBN 1-85592-634-2

This personal account – or rather accounts as it includes contributions by both the subject of the story and his mother – is interesting for a number of reasons. It helps raise questions about the nature of autism, it provides both a parental and autistic individual's perspective on a set of events, and, most unusually, it contains a watershed episode in which a life was changed by a film.

Here, in his own words, is what happened to Sean when, at the age of 17, he watched *Son-Rise* on television – this being a film based on a book of the same name, which I reviewed in the February-March 2003 issue:

"I sat and watched this kid on television. I was fascinated, The more I saw, the closer the similarities were between him and me. He did the same things I had always done, and I couldn't believe my eyes! He was fascinated with spinning objects, with chains, all of it! For the first time in my life I saw another person like me! I said nothing as we watched the show – I wanted to wait until it was over to find out if what I suspected was true.

But by then I was too scared to ask my question, the thing I wanted most in the world to know. How would Mom react? What if she got mad and thought I was only asking something I already knew? My feelings were very mixed up – I felt a little sick, yet at the same time I had a growing sense of relief, a funny kind of peacefulness inside me. Could it be that what made me like this was a disease of some kind and that I was not a horrible person after all? I had to take the risk.

'Mom,' I said, 'I'm autistic too, aren't I?'

'Yes,' she said. We sat very still and looked at each other for a long, long time. I had the strangest feeling, one that was entirely new to me. All at once I knew that I could ask Mom anything, say anything I wanted, and that it would be all right – she would understand me. Inside me a dam burst open. I knew I could use words like everybody else." (ps. 228-9)

The mother writes that this was "the first real conversation" that she had ever had with her son (p. 230). For Sean the event was life-changing: "I went on a crusade...I knew that I was separate from the problems I had and that I could overcome them. I declared war! I was going to fight against the behaviors I had obeyed all my life" (p. 232). By the time *There's a Boy in Here* went to press, Sean was a university graduate and had embarked on work as a rehabilitation aide. It is obvious that had Sean not already been high functioning, the film would not have been able to register at a sophisticated level and act as the catalyst it did. No one would suggest that there are droves of people with ASD predisposed to respond to a movie as he did. Even so, there seems no basis for questioning the good faith or accuracy of Sean and his mother's reports. It is also useful for us to be reminded that autistic people can be the agents of their own responses and should not be viewed as a bundle of "symptoms."

Jasmine Lee O'Neill, *Through the Eyes of Aliens: A Book about Autistic People* (London: Jessica Kingsley, 1999) ISBN 1-85302-710-3

This is not an autobiography but an euphorically upbeat view of autism by an autistic author, whose message is that bearing "an autistic child is not losing that child. It's gaining a very special new son or daughter" (p. 120). Autism is a "mysterious, unusual, potentially beautiful type of personality" and there is a "refreshing purity and innocence about autistic people" (ps.11 and 79). While Sean opted to think of his autism as something separate from himself, on which he declared war in an effort to improve his life, Jasmine O'Neill takes a diametrically opposite stance, claiming that it is not possible to strip autism away but, if it were, "there would only be a shell left. The essence of the person would be removed...only a puppet would remain, a puppet trained to eat, sleep, act, dress, dance, laugh, and think like everybody else" (p. 118). Her attitude is somewhat similar to Jim Sinclair's insistence that autism is "a way of being" in which it impossible "to separate the person from his autism" and that when parents say they regret their child's autism, they are really expressing the wish that their child did not exist.¹

Autism is classed as a developmental disorder and it is in the nature of "disorders" to be framed in negative terms. All that this implies, however, is that particular combinations of features are taken to be either forms of the autism itself or signs of its presence. It by no means excludes the notion of co-existing positive traits nor even of striking spiritual qualities, which are indeed probably best understood as the luminous, flip side of the autism coin. Therefore, although the "idea" of autism as a clinical abstraction consists of deficits, impairments and aberrant behaviours, it is unsurprising that this does not do the condition justice, either as experience from within or as an encounter with autistic people in real life. *The attributes that most impress are not necessarily always to be found in diagnostic manuals.*

There are numerous reports, not only by parents but by the most respected of professionals, that border on the reverential. It would be completely implausible to argue that this is unconnected to real characteristics possessed by a proportion of autistic people. Lorna Wing's *The Autistic Spectrum* opens with aesthetic, mythological and religious references. Uta Frith, on the very first page of *Autism: Explaining the Enigma*, writes of the "haunting...other-worldly beauty" of the young autistic child, as well as devoting a section to exploring the connection between autism and the "blessed fools" (a species of holy man) of old Russia. Gillberg and Coleman remark on "the beautiful, non-stigmatized faces of so many children with autism."²

Autistic people, Jasmine O'Neill maintains, are great just as they are and not suffering from any condition which we need to "cure:" the problem does not lie in autism but in society's non-acceptance. Of course we can agree that there are cultures that tolerate behaviours that we do not. In India, for instance, certain ascetics known as the "sky-clad" wander around naked. This, however, seems of limited relevance to families seeking to prepare children for a future in Cheltenham or even Peckham. Nor do we need to become ontologists to determine whether autism constitutes part of a person's "being" or not. Elementary experience shows that working to prepare someone – autistic or otherwise! – for a successful future need not imply the slightest undervaluing of that person in the present. Gardeners are not suspected of desiring to grow oaks by virtue of a hatred of acorns and, to labour the obvious, people do not *literally* "become someone else," or acquire a need for new passports, along with an acquisition of skills.

Footnotes

1. J. Sinclair, "Don't Mourn for Us", Our Voice, newsletter of Autism Network International, Vol. 1, No. 3, 1993.
Also on Internet at <http://members.xoom.com/JimSinclair/dontmourn.htm>
2. C. Gillberg and M. Coleman, Clinics in Developmental Medicine No. 126: The Biology of Autistic Syndromes, 2nd ed. (London: MacKeith Press, 1992) p. 305

What's happening at the Autism London Residential Service

Things are moving on at the residential home in Leyton. We have had two good inspections from the Commission for Social Care Inspectorate in the space of six months. We had an announced inspection on the 25th October 2005, and an unannounced one on the 7th February 2005. Our team training is also move forward in the right direction. The recent team training that we have received includes 'Person Centred Approach' in care delivery and 'Adult protection'. This has boosted staff confidence and moral. Other statutory training and the NVQ in care is going on very well, and in three months time most of the staff would have achieved the NVQ at various levels, through the MCCH Training Department and the City and Guilds Examination board. Service users went on two weekend breaks to Clacton on Sea and they had a wonderful time. This is to compensate for the summer holidays that they did not have during the summer of 2004. The house is a lot more settled and the service users seem very happy at the relaxed atmosphere that the staff team has created for them.

Richard Tucker

Registered Development Manager

ASPERGER'S SYNDROME FROM THE HORSE'S MOUTH

*By Desmond Meldrum, an adult who has recently been
diagnosed with the condition*

Desmond Meldrum is available to give talks on his personal experiences as well as general advice in coping with Asperger's Syndrome to organisations and support groups for a negotiated price on application.

Desmond has over three years experience in communicating to groups and organisations on this subject and has also written a book published through Autism London which shares his observations and experiences of the condition.

Excerpt from book

'I started developing strange habits such as standing in the playground with my head cocked sideways and my mouth wide open staring into space, thus attracting even more attention. I also used to jump about in a peculiar manner while indulging in a fantasy world of my own' (Desmond Meldrum 1994)

Since 1993, Desmond also has been an active volunteer in the field, providing much valued support to the work of Autism London and in 2001 became a member of Autism London's Management Committee.

*For more information please contact Desmond Meldrum at
Autism London on 0207 704 0501*

Family Needed for a little boy with ASD – Enfield Adoption Team

We are looking for a family who can help a little 6 year old boy meet his full potential. An enhanced adoption/fostering allowance will be payable to reflect the time and skill needed to care for Aaron. A support package including respite care will be put in place.

Background

He has lived with his foster parents for the last year and settled well showing significant improvement in all areas of his development. He has an Autistic Spectrum Disorder and attends a special school which he enjoys.

Aaron is beginning to speak in fuller sentences and can usually convey what he needs. He is a gentle, affectionate boy and likes to snuggle up on the sofa and be read to by his foster mother. He loves to play with his train set and animals. He needs a family who can have a clear routine and set firm boundaries.

Aaron's needs will change as he gets older and he may be best supported in a residential setting as he reaches young adulthood. However we are keen for him to continue living in a family during his childhood, and the Local Authority will work in partnership with any family to assist in carefully planning for Aaron's future.

For further information please contact:

Jacqui Carlebach, Enfield Adoption Team

Tel: 020 8361 1742

Email: jacqui@inbox.as

Website: www.enfield.gov.uk/adoption

Notices & Conferences

Parentline Plus

Parentline Plus provides a unique email helpline for parents with a whole range of problems including: bullying, tantrums and adult relationships.

For further information:

Email: parentsupport@parentlineplus.org.uk or visit their website: www.parentplus.org.uk

Art studio for adults with Asperger's Syndrome

Would you like to meet like-minded people? Try out new art techniques? Explore issues that are important to you? This is an art group for adults with Asperger's syndrome.

Venue: Resources for Autism

When: Tuesdays at 3pm - 4.30pm

Cost: £10 per session

For further information call Resources for Autism and ask to speak to Ginny: 020 8458 3259

Chicken Shed Theatre Company

National Inclusive Theatre Training & Development Programme

Venue: Stoke Newington Secondary School

Clissold Road

London N16 9EU

Day: Tuesdays

Details: The project has two groups, a children's theatre for 7 - 11 years and a youth theatre for 11 - 16 years olds. (The Children's workshops are usually from 5.30 - 6.45 p.m. and the Youth Theatre from 7.30 - 8.45p.m.) For more information please contact Andrew on: 07950 838 238

Please note there are many more projects over different boroughs for further information call: 020 8351 6161

Notices & Conferences

Walk Far for NAAR (UK)

The National Alliance for Autism Research (NAAR) would like you to join them in a walkathon. All money raised will go towards research.

Venue: Windsor Great Park

When: Sunday 10th July 2005

For further information please call Lynn Hart: 0149 141 2311

The Essex Autistic Society

Details: Holds a 'drop in' discussion group for parents of children with autism.

Venue: Woodcroft School, Loughton, Essex

Day: Tuesdays 3pm – 4.30pm

For more information please contact Paula Muir: 01206 577 678

Memory Gardens

Details: For children between the ages of 8-14 on the autistic spectrum; build outdoor sculptures, care for plants and feed wildlife. Places are limited.

Day: Every other Sunday 11am – 1pm starting in April

For more information please contact Ruth Solomon: 020 8806 1129

Resources for Autism

Details: Activities for youngsters with autism and Asperger's Syndrome – youth group for 12-16 year olds.

Day: Wednesday 6pm – 8.00pm

For more information contact: 020 8458 3259

ABA tutor required to join team

Details: for 2 sessions per week with high functioning 4 year old boy, afternoons.

5 minutes walk from highgate tube station. Please contact Mandy on 07985 981547 or

mandy_hellawell@yahoo.co.uk

Coffee mornings at Centre 404

Details: For parents of children with a special need.

Day: First Tuesday of each month 10.30am – 12 noon

For more information please contact Caroline or Anna: 020 7697 1325

Next Step Youth Club

Details: The club is aimed at any one between the ages of 12 and 19 who is on the autistic spectrum. You need to be reasonably independent, able to get to a variety of community venues and wanting to have lots of fun. There will be play staff available but not working on a one to one basis.

Venue: Resources for Autism

For more information please contact Catherine: 020 8458 3259

Email: catherineely@resourcesforautism.org.uk

Notices & Conferences

NAS launches first ever-online autism service directory

The National Autistic Society (NAS) has launched a new online service called PARIS (Public Autism Resource and Information Service). The free online resource, which is supported by Vodafone UK, will lead the way in providing access to autism-specific services across the UK.

Details: www.info.autism.org.uk

Cinema Cards

The Cinema Exhibitors Association have introduced a national concessionary card which can be used to verify that the holder is entitled to one free ticket for a person accompanying them to the cinema. You will need to check with your local cinema to ensure it is participating in this scheme. To apply for the card, you need to be in receipt of DLA, or be a holder of a disabled person's rail card. You will need a passport photo and a copy of your DLA letter to go with the application form. For more information please contact The Card Network: 0151 348 8020 or visit their website: www.ceacard.co.uk

The Hyperactive Children's Support Group

Details: The Hyperactive Children's Support Group has been in the forefront of sharing information and research into links between diet and behaviour for 28 years. During that time thousands of children and their families have received help and advice on dietary intervention. HACSG has been delivering workshops in the London region for several years and now are available as in-service training to teachers in schools, as well as parent's support groups. For more information telephone HACSG London Office: 020 8946 4444

Volunteer assistant

Details: Recent American graduate seeking to assist a family with autistic child from end of June 2005 for 8 weeks. 19 years old, trained in ABA, 18 months experience, excellent references, will work for room and board only. Contact Elizabeth at gigi1986@msn.com.

The Limes

Details: The Limes is a community and children's center where children (and adults) disabled and non-disabled can play and work together. The Limes offers an adventure play area, fun day service (on Sunday's), 16-25 evening group and a Saturday club for 5-11 year olds.

Venue: The Limes

William Morris Hall
6 Somers Road
Walthamstow E17 6RX

For more information please contact The Limes: 020 8509 8985

Raw Arts Festival

Details: The second Raw Arts Festival will be held at the Candid Arts Trust, 3 Torrens Street, EC1 1NQ (Behind Angel tube station). Free entry to the public May 16th-21st 12-6pm.

Autism London

Needs your help!

Can you think of a way to help us raise money for our summer trip?

Perhaps you could organise a jumble sale, a cake sale or do a collection from your friends and family....



In order for this years summer trip to be possible we need to raise funds!

We would also like to hear from anyone interested in:

- Volunteering as a steward for the day.
- Helping to co-ordinate the summer trip: *This would involve a few hours on a regular basis, working closely with the staff team at the Autism London office from now until August. .*

Please contact Gill on 020 7704 1123

Donations will be gratefully received

Thank you!

