

autism london

Bi-Monthly Bulletin

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Contributors

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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 December- January issue of the Autism London Bulletin.

Winter draws near, which brings with it the festive season and New Year. For the past few years we have organised a New Year party for our Supporters, some time during the month of January. Unfortunately this year we have had to make a decision not to run this event, due to staff changes and pressures on staff time. However, we know that it is always a popular event, and, not wanting to lose it altogether, hope that instead we will be able to offer a similar event slightly further into 2005, more of a Spring Party. We shall of course keep you posted about this. See **Notices** re volunteers needed for this event.

Staff changes

I mentioned staff changes above. Katia, who has been working as our administrator on a temp basis since Ingrid left in June, has moved on to a permanent position elsewhere. Her time with us has been short and sweet- she really threw herself into the work of the team here, and successfully took on the considerable task of organising the summer trip. We are very sorry to see her go, and wish her well for the future.

Meanwhile, we are pleased to be able to tell you that we have recruited a new temp administrator. Her name is Quynh (pronounced Quin), and she will be working 21 hours per week.

Fundraising

Here at Autism London we are currently working to renew funding for services, and are keen to consider alternative funding sources. Perhaps you can help us with this? If you work for, or know of, a company or business which may be interested in donating to an organisation like ours, or perhaps making us their "charity of the year" etc, please get in touch.

In this issue:

We have all our regular features; in the Support Services update, Dee and Ethney give you some interesting feedback on issues they have been involved in recently; i.e. the role of the Local Government Ombudsman, and the work of the Islington ASD Pathway Project.

Also, a last minute addition which is not listed opposite, is an article by Ofer Golan, of the Autism Research Centre, Cambridge, about his research study into the "Mind reading" computer programme.

Xmas cards

Just a reminder, that if you haven't bought all your Xmas cards yet, you can still buy Autism London cards, its not too late!

Wishing you all a very Happy festive season!

Best wishes,

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)

Seasons greetings to all our supporters, and as always welcome to all new comers. Thank you very much to all the parents who attended our parent/ carers support group recently held at the Limes in Walthamstow. We were very pleased to have a record number of attendees at this venue, which demonstrates how useful parents find these types of groups. Please continue to join us for these events and please remember to give us feed back as to whether or not they are useful to you. Its also helpful for us and other parents to hear your ideas and experiences of caring for a person with autistic spectrum disorder.

Local Government Obudsman, LGO

Recently I have supported some families who, for various reasons, are going through the complaints procedures against their local authority; some of these have gone to the Ombudsman. Here is a brief overview of the role of the Ombudsman.

The Ombudsman – known formally known as the Commission for Local Administration – investigates complaints of injustice arising from mal-administration by local authorities and certain other bodies, for example the independent appeal panels, set up to hear exclusion and admission appeals. Regarding education complaints, the Ombudsman does not deal with complaints directly concerning the teaching, conduct, curriculum, internal organisation, management or discipline in a school. It would, however deal with a complaint about an LEA'S failure to respond in a reasonable way to your complaints about a school.

The Ombudsman is concerned with the way a decision is reached, not with the merits of the decision itself. The Ombudsman could investigate a complaint about how an appeal hearing was conducted and make recommendations, for example that a new panel be convened to re-hear an appeal, but they cannot overturn an appeal panel's decision. The main test of whether there has been mal-administration is whether an authority has acted reasonably within the law, its own policies and generally accepted standards of local administration. The objective of the ombudsman is to secure satisfactory redress for the complaint and to promote better administration for the authorities. Any complaint should be made within the year and must give the authority the opportunity to investigate and reply to the complaint prior to taking it to the Ombudsman. The Ombudsman cannot investigate if the complaint has an alternative remedy, such as a right of appeal to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal. ACE (Advisory Centre For Education) publish many helpful fact sheets to assist parents and give them guidance on such matters.

Hopefully this has given a small insight as to how and what the Ombudsman can do. Until next bulletin, keep safe and keep warm .

Dee King – Support Officer

ASD Pathway Project Consultation: 5th & 6th October 2004

The ASD Pathway Project is a new project looking at how Islington provides services for children and young people with Autistic Spectrum Disorders and their families. The Pathway Project is headed by Ana Santo. The Project started in October 2003 and will end in June 2005 with changes made until March 2006.

The aim of the project is to bring together professionals from Health, Education, Social Services, voluntary organisations and parents to look at new national guidelines. These guidelines will then be used to improve the way children, who may have ASD, are identified and supported through the process of diagnosis. If a child is expected to be on the Autistic Spectrum, the project aims to cut down the waiting time for assessment and provide a key worker to support the child and family. During the assessment, the team will be identifying the child's strengths and difficulties so that appropriate support can be given.

The purpose of this consultation group was to hear parents' views on their experiences with ASD, the services they use and the information they receive. These views will be fed back to the project and used to help improve how things are done in Islington.

The consultation meeting was well attended on both days. Parents' comments and feedback were recorded by Clare Courtis-Pond, Parent Participation worker at Centre 404.

Look out for information about follow-up consultation meetings where you can have a say about services for Autistic Spectrum Disorders in Islington.

Ethney Anderson – Support Officer

Helpline Update

It's almost here!! This year seems to have gone by so fast and now it's time to order that turkey and make sure there's enough mince pies for Santa!

Here at the Helpline we have been inundated with calls on various issues, the main one being diagnosis. Getting an accurate diagnosis is an important point in the life of families and individuals affected by ASD. As we all know, obtaining an assessment can be both time consuming and also confusing, as there is so much to learn and to take in all at once. It can also be very a very emotional and tiring time. Here at Autism London we try to help all callers, giving reassurance, information and advice. We also encourage all callers, (e-mailers too!) to keep us in touch about their progress with any good or bad news! We also have a factsheet on diagnosis – so please feel free to let us know if you would like a copy, or you can download a copy via our website. If you have any experience of assessment centres, new or old, good or bad, that you would like to share with us, please get in touch.

December Office Closing

The office will be closed from **Friday 17th December** for two weeks and will re-open on **Tuesday 4th January 2005**. We will be checking the answer phone during this time, so if your call is urgent, please leave your name and contact details.

Below is a list of alternative Helpline numbers:

Helplines	Contact no:
National Autistic Society- Autism Help-line	0870 600 8585
AFASIC (for people with speech and language impairment)	08453 55 55 77
IPSEA (Independent Panel of Special Educational Advisors)	0808 018 4016
OAASIS (info and support re special needs)	0891 633201
Contact a Family (for families of children special needs)	0808 808 3555
Carers UK, Carers Line	0808 808 7777
Shelter line (housing/homeless help-line)	0808 800 4444
Benefit Enquiry Line	0800 88 22 00
Supportline (emotional support to any individual)	020 8554 9004
NSPCC	0808 800 5000
Disability Alliance (right's advice line)	0207 247 8743
Disability Living Foundation (information service)	0845 130 9177
Refuge (safe accommodation for women and children)	0808 808 9999
Network 81 (special education needs)	0870 770 3306
Samaritans (emotional support)	0845 790 9090
Mencap (learning disabilities helpline)	0808 808 1111

Remember our Helpline operates Monday – Friday 11am to 2pm on 0207 359 6070 or alternatively you can email me: tanya@autismlondon.org.uk

Have a peaceful and enjoyable Christmas and good wishes to you all for the New Year!

Tanya Camilleri - Helpline Officer

autism London

Parent/Carers Support Group

Invites you to attend a series of talks.

Date and Time	Venue Details	Speaker	Topic
1 st December 10.30am-12pm	Autism London 1 Floral Place (off Northampton Grove) Islington London N1 2F	Steve Proctor	Sure Start – An informal talk about the ASD Pathway project
12 th January 1.30pm – 3.00pm	Autism London 1 Floral Place (off Northampton Grove) Islington London N1 2FS	Dee King & Ethney Anderson (Support Officers at Autism London)	Open meeting for parents to come along are talk.
26 th January 10.30am – 12.00pm	The Limes William Morris Hall 6 Somers Road Walthamstow E17 6RX	Jo Radford	Lovaas Programme & LEAP Organisation
9 th February 10.30am – 12.00pm	The Vida Walsh Centre 2b Saltoun Road Brixton London SW2	Kate Walton	DASL Service – Information on the Direct Payment Scheme
23 rd February 10.30am – 12.00pm	Camden Black Sister's Group 2c Falkland Road Kentish Town London NW5 2PT	Jo Radford	Lovaas Programme & LEAP Organisation
9 th March 6.30pm – 8.00pm	Oakleigh School Oakleigh Road North Whetstone London N20	Dee King & Ethney Anderson (Support Officers at Autism London)	Open Meeting for parents to come along are talk.
23 rd March 1.30pm – 3.00pm	Autism London 1 Floral Place (off Northampton Grove) Islington London N1 2FS	Dee King & Ethney Anderson (Support Officers at Autism London)	Open Meeting for parents to come along are talk.

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.

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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. We have also had one trip so far, and hope to plan more for this year.

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 (this may sometimes vary due to bank holidays).

Dates for meetings from January to March 2005 are:-

DATE	TOPIC
7 th December 2004	Different cultures and Asperger's syndrome
4 th January 2005	<i>Employment</i>
1 st February 2005	Bullying
1 st March 2005	Occupying time; courses, voluntary work

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

*Contact Gill for further information on:
020 7704 0501, or email us at:*

gill@autismlondon.org.uk

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Women's

Asperger's Group

This is a support group for women with Asperger's syndrome living in the London area, which has monthly meetings facilitated by one of the Autism London Support Services Officers. The meetings are a chance to meet other women facing similar difficulties, to talk about common issues, and to support, and gain support from 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 last Thursday of the month in the afternoon from **2pm to 3.30pm.**

Dates for meetings from January – March 2005 are:-

No meeting held in December 2004

§ Thursday 27th January

§ Thursday 24th February

§ Thursday 31st March

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 for further information on:

020 7704 0501, or email us at:

dee@autismlondon.org.uk

Meeting this week!

We'll be having a Parent/carers Support meeting at Floral Place, Islington on 1st Dec 2004. Steve Proctor, a Sure Start representative and parent of a child with Aspergers syndrome, will be attending and giving an informal talk about how the ASD Pathway project will be implemented. We look forward to seeing you there.

Help us to help you!

This is a reminder to all our service users; please remember that if you want to meet with one of our Support Officers here at the office, you must ring in advance to arrange an appointment. If you do turn up at Floral Place on the off-chance, you will be advised to go home and ring to make an appointment for another day. This is partly because our staff have busy schedules, and there may not be anyone available to see you at that time. Also, the safety of our staff is very important, and therefore staff are not able to open the door to anyone that is either unknown to them or unexpected. Your understanding and assistance in this will be much appreciated!

Gill Lea-Wilson - Service Development Officer

Residential Service Update

(The latest news from our Supported Living home)



Hello, from all the staff here. We have had a busy time over the past few weeks preparing for our inspection which we believe went well.

Our service users continue to attend their various activities which they thoroughly enjoy. There will be lots more coming up during the Christmas holidays and we do hope to be very much involved.

As we haven't had a Christmas party for the service users for some time we do hope to be organising one for this year as it will be a chance to reminisce and celebrate the past year.

One of our service users will be jetting off to sunny Barbados with his family for three weeks. We do hope he has a wonderful time and brings some sun shine back with him (as we will need it this winter).

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome two new staff to the team. Carmen Edwards who is a support worker and Sharon Harris who is the senior support worker. We hope you enjoy working with us.

It's that time of year again where we all wish you a splendid Christmas, good health and prosperity for the coming year.

From all of us here!

Supporter's Forum

Where you share your news, ideas and creations!

Many thanks to David Shamash for these two contributions to the supporter's forum.

WHAT ANIMAL WOULD I LIKE TO BE AND WHY

It is difficult to choose which animal I would like to be but I would choose to be an animal which would make me feel useful and at the same time be wanted.

I think I would choose to be a dog. I would want to have a job to be sure I am wanted and not thrown out on to the streets. I would not choose to be a guard dog as I might even be put down for biting a criminal in the course of my duties.

I would choose to be a Labrador and a guide dog for the blind. I would be really useful. I am sure my master would look after me well. In many ways it would be better than being human. I would not worry about the future. I would not worry about death. If I became ill I would be looked after. When I became incurable I would be put down painlessly and not be allowed to suffer like humans. Anyway I have to accept but I am a human animal.



MY EMPTY STOMACH SPEAKS TO ME

My Empty Stomach speaks to me
Tells me to go to Synagogue
There
I become even hungrier
Enjoy the beautiful singing
Which is a lovely form of prayer
Not a concert
On this very special day
Makes me reflect
On world hunger
On how to be a better person
On how to be a better Jew
Before I depart this earth
How many more Yom Kippurs will I fast

Composed 3 weeks after a lovely hungry service at Hendon Reform Synagogue



We are always keen to hear from our supporters with news of what they've been up to so that we can include it in the bulletin. Likewise, any siblings, relatives or carers who have anything which they would like to share just send it in to:

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 ASD for the Society's database. He is the father of Osian, a 23 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 titles, names or quotations, it is due to the spellings employed in the relevant sources.

By Louis Baworowski

Virginia Walker Sperry, *Fragile Success: Ten Autistic Children, Childhood to Adulthood, Second Edition* (London: Jessica Kingsley, 2001) ISBN 1-85302-955-6

This unique book provides a highly readable account of the lives of ten people on the autistic spectrum, over a time span of around 30 years. From 1966-72, Virginia Walker Sperry was the director of the Elizabeth Ives School for Special Children in New Haven, Connecticut. Nine of the ten people featured in the book attended the school in the 60s and early 70s, with diagnoses of "autistic", "autistic-like" or "personality disorder with autistic overlay". The author conducted a study to see how they fared subsequently and this (2nd) edition of *Fragile Success* tells their stories up to the late 1990s. Although by this stage one of the ten had died, eight of the former Ives pupils were in their 30s and doing substantially better than their childhood performance and behaviour might have led one to expect.

For instance, by the time of the author's 1997 meeting with him, a man referred to as Tom Brown was reported to be, "...a far cry from the bland, hard-to-reach little boy who came to Ives School some 30 years before...He had a...sense of self-confidence and directness of communication that he did not possess while in his twenties or even early thirties" (p. 43). Another individual, Bill Kolinski, who as a child had been known to the author as someone who would run around the room, "often babbled nonsense syllables" and who was placed in front of a mirror by teachers in a perfectly serious and literal attempt to show him that he was not an animal (ps. 97 and 99), went on to marry, have children and work in a repair department of an electronics company. (p. 103)

The children admitted to Ives were between the ages of three and seven years. "...many were nonverbal or minimally verbal. Many had severe perceptual-motor and eye-hand control problems...they were considered uneducable...[they had] little sense of self. Most...had no idea which side of their body was left or right; sometimes they seemed to have no understanding that they had a body at all" (p. 18). It was usually difficult or impossible for the children while still at Ives to do complete psychometric tests, because of their lack of ability to undertake such tasks (p. 9). However, in eight of the cases discussed in this book, IQ tests were administered subsequently. These resulted in scores mostly in the 50s and 60s. Only two people attained significantly higher results and only one of these, Bill Kolinski, was within the range of 85 to 115, the average which includes some two-thirds of the population. Despite this, five achieved paid employment and three were working as volunteers, trainees or in supported schemes.

ARTICLE: Lotte Sahlmann, "Autism or Aphasia?", *Developmental Medicine and Child Neurology*, 1969, 11, ps. 443 – 448

Occasionally I have felt justified in reviewing articles in addition to books, even if, as in the present case, the article is an old one. The fact that a combination of symptoms may result in a person being diagnosed as autistic, does not imply that we can always be confident of the accuracy of such a

diagnosis (or, indeed, that we can be sure of what exactly even a correct diagnosis presupposes). It is true, of course, that the World Health Organization's *International Classification of Diseases*, The American Psychiatric Association's *The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual*, and the "triad of impairments" set out criteria but despite this, the situation can be less than clear.

In the June/July issue, for example, I reviewed *The Child with Special Needs* by Drs. Greenspan and Wieder. They seem to call into question, among other things, even the notion that those with ASD are invariably destined to experience problems in the area of empathy. On p. 8 they state: "We have worked with a number of children diagnosed with autism or PDDNOS [Pervasive Developmental Disorder Not Otherwise Specified]...who, now older, are fully communicative...creative, warm, loving, and joyful...We have introduced the term *multisystem neurological disorder* to characterize children who have communication problems and are perseverative [engage in repetitive movement or speech] but can relate or have the potential for relating with joy and warmth."

Greenspan and Wieder go on to say (p. 21): "Current diagnostic categories generally summarize a child's *symptoms*, but often don't tell us enough about the processes underlying a child's challenges – how the child takes in, processes, and responds to information from the world...A child may be diagnosed with autism, for example, because he has difficulty relating to others, when his underlying problems are actually more specific and involve difficulty processing auditory information... As a result...the speech of the people around him is confusing and assaulting...To protect himself, the child withdraws and becomes aimless, earning the diagnosis of autism."

Lotte Sahlmann makes an analogous distinction between the underlying and the manifest in "Autism or Aphasia?" Aphasias are neurologically caused disorders of speech. In Broca's aphasia there can be relatively good understanding of language but difficulty in speech production; when speech is present at all, it is laboured and halting. Wernicke's aphasia, resulting from damage to a different part of the brain, results in the opposite pattern; there is the ability to enunciate but poor understanding. Injury to certain auditory areas of the brain, may make it impossible to differentiate between similar-sounding sounds. Other damage, can impair the accuracy of articulated speech and result in a confusion of similar speech articulations, e.g. the lip consonants b-m and the point consonants d-l-n.

Sahlmann writes: "The paramount question is whether we have to deal with (1) primary aphasia and secondary autistic withdrawal, or (2) communication difficulties due to [true autism]... The therapeutic approach to these two conditions is completely different...in the true autistic child, verbal communication, gesturing and miming improve along parallel lines...In the primary aphasic, on the other hand, personal and social improvement far surpasses linguistic achievement." The author refers to a group of 60 children who, even back in 1964-8, had been labelled as autistic or psychotic. Of these, 24 were "non-communicating children with definitely autistic behaviour." Of the 24, "16 were of the...primary aphasic type with secondary autistic reaction. Thus, 26 per cent of the [60] children thought to be suffering from childhood psychosis lost their reactive behaviour once their original genuine aphasic condition was recognized and attended to."

According to Bryna Siegel, some 25-40 per cent of autistic children remain more or less mute throughout life (B. Siegel, *The World of the Autistic Child*, Oxford University Press, 1996, p. 51). Thus lack of speech, while not regarded as a defining symptom of autism, is most certainly a very much higher-than-chance corollary! Although, in the great majority of instances, it does not seem likely that autism is the direct or indirect product of purely speech-related difficulties, the possibility that this holds for a fraction of diagnosed cases cannot be ruled out.

Notices & Conferences

Volunteer Entertainers or Helpers!

Are you or any of your friends entertainers? If so would you/they be interested in volunteering an afternoon of your time to work at our New Year Party (Date TBC). Face painters, mime artists, puppeteers, clowns all considered. A knowledge of ASD desirable but not essential. We are also looking for people to set up and tidy up on the day.

Call: 020 7359 6070 or email: info@autismlondon.org.uk

Play Group for Children with Autism (5-16)

Organiser: NAS (Lambeth Project coordinator)

Location: Slade Gardens Adventure Playground, Lambeth

When: One Saturday/month 4-7pm until March 2005

Details: A playgroup for children aged 5-15 with autism, their families and friends. An opportunity to relax and meet others. Climbing, games, jumping, playing, swinging, music, reading, running!

Costs: Free. First come first served.

For details telephone: Monica Graham 07881 980 157

Sun Tae Kwon Do Club for Children and Young People with Special Needs

Venue: Dulwich Leisure Centre, 45 East Dulwich Road SE22

Day: Fridays 5 – 6pm.

Details: Tae Kwon Do is a form of martial arts that supports the development of co-ordination, balance, concentration and provides a form of physical exercise. It is a great activity offering many benefits for children and young people with autistic spectrum disorders and other special needs.

Contact: Master Ahn on 07950 441 1871 or Annette Broomfield after 4pm on 07880 964 358

V&A National Competition

Organiser: V&A South Ken, Theatre Museum, Bethnal Green Museum of Childhood, Manchester Art Gallery, Tyne and Wear Museums.

Details: The annual competition to celebrate Adult Learners' Week gives you an opportunity to have your work exhibited. It is open to part time adult learners (no more than 16h/week) attending any decorative arts, crafts, multi-media or photography course. You should visit one of the participating museums and submit a piece of work inspired by one of the collections there.

For more info/an application form contact: Laura Elliot 020 7942 2196, l.elliott@vam.ac.uk

Shaftesbury Resources Centre Annual Toy Fayre 2004

Date: Thursday 16th December 2004, 10-4pm

Venue: Shaftesbury Resources Centre, 93 Camberwell Station Rd, Camberwell, London SE5 9JJ

Details: Open to anyone in need at Christmas time. Many brand new and quality items available for very reasonable prices.

Cost: £112.50/day/person (members) or £125/day/person (non-members)

For more information telephone: Debbie Roye on 020 7737 7475

Email: src@shaftesburysoc.org.uk

Notices & Conferences

Autism Consultant: Jocelyn A.M. Clinton, M.S.Ed.

Specialising in educational home programming and school integration for children with autism and related special needs

Mobile: 079563 27051/Tel: 020 8373 1709

Email: joss@homeschoolautismsupport.com

-] Service provision includes consultation, supervision, direct support of students and their families in home, school and community settings.
-] Based in North London; originally educated and trained in Boston, Massachusetts
-] 18 years experience working with children 18 months-15 years of age with varying special needs, (primarily autism and pervasive developmental disorders) across public and private school, community, and home settings
-] training staff, parents, caregivers in ABA, functional communication skill acquisition
-] implementing home and school objectives using ABA approach
-] implementing other strategies such as PECS, sign, social stories, Baron-Cohen's emotions programme, Schroeder's social skills programme

Research project involving adults with Asperger's syndrome or high-functioning autism

Duration: 1-1.5 hours on 3 separate days (flexible)

Organiser: Institute of Child Health (London, WC1N 1EN)

Details: A research study paying £50, involving simple and enjoyable computer based tasks and an interview. Could be conducted in the person's home or at the Institute in central London. The organisers are flexible on times and days.

Contact: Ben Corden 020 7905 2168, Behavioural and brain Sciences Unit, Institute of Child Health, 30 Guilford Street, WC1N 1EH

Has the Internet changed your life, or are you just not interested?

A PhD student at the University of Nottingham is keen to hear from adults (16 years old and over) with a diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome or high functioning autism, who would like to take part in a project investigating how and why they are using the Internet. She is particularly interested in how it is, or is not, being used as a means of communication.

She is looking for a fairly large number of volunteers who would be willing to provide her with their names and addresses. You would then be sent a questionnaire and a free-post envelope for its return after completing it, should you decide to do so. The questionnaire is available as a web page if that is more convenient.

If you would be willing to help, or would like further information, please write, phone, fax or email with your name and contact details:

Contact: Penny Benford, University of Nottingham, School of Community Health Sciences, ADRU, B Floor, The Medical School, Queens Medical Centre, Nottingham, NG7 2UH

Telephone: 0115 8466382

Fax: 0115 9423618

Email: mcxpb@nottingham.ac.uk

New Organisations

Do you have details of any new organisations or support groups relevant to the field of autism? If so, then please let us know. We are always interested to hear about these new services and pass them on to other supporters or callers.

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 020 7704 0501

Or on E-mail: desmond@autismlondon.org.uk