

# Newsletter

January 2004



The National  
Autistic Society  
South Lanarkshire  
[www.slnas.org.uk](http://www.slnas.org.uk)

Happy New Year to one and all! I think we can safely say that our trip to the panto was a roaring success, with all who attended having a great time! Congratulations to those who won a prize in the raffle, we also raised over £100 for branch funds, which will go towards our next outing. Thanks to all who came along. Talking about fundraising.....

## Mock Auction

We will be holding a mock auction at the Bruce Hotel on **Friday 27th of February**. Tickets will be priced at £5.00 and this will include a disco afterwards. So we can really make a night of it!

We are therefore looking for items to auction, so please keep any unwanted Christmas new/nearly new goodies you'd like to donate! *Please contact one of us to arrange delivery/uplift of donations.*

For tickets, please send your details and a cheque (payable to South Lanarkshire NAS) to South Lanarkshire NAS, 9 Halfmerk North, Maxwellton, East Kilbride, G74 3EH.

## Renfrewshire Autism & Asperger Group Conference

This event will present selected recorded presentations from the 12<sup>th</sup> DEFEAT AUTISM NOW! CONFERENCE which was held in USA in October 2003. It will take place on **8<sup>th</sup> March 2004** at The WYND CENTRE, Paisley from 9:30am til 4pm. Host will be Dr Ken Aitken of DAN! and AAA. Coffee breaks and a buffet lunch will be provided and the conference is free of charge.

Screened presentations will include:

An overview of DAN! Findings on causative factors – JON PANGBORN PhD, Case Presentation – KENNETH BOCK MD, Abnormal Methionine and Glutathionine Metabolism in Children with Autism – JILL JAMES PhD, The Effects of Mercury on Methionine Synthase – RICHARD DETH PhD, Emerging Picture of Persistent Measles Vaccine virus in Autism – ANDREW WAKEFIELD MD

Final Programme will be issued with confirmation of place. Send your Name, Address, Phone & Email Details to:

C. Macvicar, 1 Millbrae, Bridge of Weir, Renfrewshire, PA11 3LD. Please indicate parent/professional.

## Contact Us:

Branch Officer: Linda Johnson 01355 523361, Treasurer: Colin Jarvie 01355 223584, Communications: Ross Macfadyen 01355 238712 Email: [mail@slnas.org.uk](mailto:mail@slnas.org.uk) Web: [www.slnas.org.uk](http://www.slnas.org.uk)

Future Meetings: Feb 11 (Speaker: Kitty Welsby), March 10, April 7, May 5, June 9. District Court Suite, Civic Centre, East Kilbride.

## Some Things To Do...



Betsy Love at the Caper House, opens her doors for Special Needs children on the first Monday of every month. The session is from 6pm until 8pm and costs just £3.00. Children up to 8 years old are most welcome, with a height restriction of 4 foot 6 inches. The Caper House is situated beside Safeway at Macneish Way, Stewartfield, East Kilbride. More details from Betsy on 01355 579536.

### East Kilbride Parents & Carers Support Group for Children with Special Needs

This is a small group of parents offering support, shared information and advice to other families, and social play opportunities to special needs youngsters and their siblings.

They meet every Tuesday night at [Lammermoor Play Centre, Kenilworth, Calderwood, East Kilbride](#) from 6:30pm - 8:30pm.

There are arts and crafts available, toys and games, face painting can be arranged a week in advance, and also a soft play room.

While children play under the watchful eye of two experienced and fully vetted playleaders, parents have the opportunity to have a cup of tea and a chat with other parents with similar experiences. The children also have a drink and a biscuit.

More information from: Michelle & Stephen Gallagher (01355 276604 or 07870822638), or Tommy Rees on 01355 520134.

### Health Care and the Autism Spectrum: An essential JKP guide for health professionals, parents and carers

"Don't worry about the needle - you'll just feel a little scratch then it will all be over."

But when the patient happens to have autism, these routine medical procedures are very unlikely to go so smoothly. Communication difficulties, sensory overload and extreme discomfort with physical contact are all traits common in autism that make basic patient care extremely difficult.

In a patient who is exquisitely sensitive to touch, how do you go about taking blood pressure or dressing a wound? How can you be sure that your autistic patient has given 'informed' consent to treatment if you aren't sure that they have really understood the implications? What do you do about it? Equally, if you are a person with autism, or the parent or carer of someone on the spectrum, healthcare issues loom large in daily concerns.

In *Health Care and the Autism Spectrum*, Alison Morton-Cooper addresses the ethical issues as well as the practical challenges that everyone involved has to deal with. Every health care professional will have an increasing number of autistic patients on their list as diagnosis of this condition spirals - this book is urgently needed.

Alison Morton-Cooper has had many years of experience in the field of health care, in health services journalism, as a health educator and latterly as a senior nurse and lecturer in continuing professional education. She is the mother of a teenage son diagnosed as having high functioning autism, and lives in Dumfries and Galloway, Scotland.

*Health Care and the Autism Spectrum* by Alison Morton-Cooper (ISBN 1853029637 £13.95 US\$19.95 in original paperback) is published by Jessica Kingsley Publishers.

### Distribution of the Newsletter

Can we remain folks that it is much easier (and cheaper!) to distribute the Newsletter by email. Those who are currently on the email list also receive more frequent messages, as we can distribute "news as it happens". If you have email facilities, please email us [mail@slnas.org.uk](mailto:mail@slnas.org.uk) and we will add you to the emailing list. Many thanks.