

future meetings

We meet every second Wednesday of the month in the District Court Room, Civic Centre, Andrew Street, East Kilbride (beside the Ballurup Hall) from 7:30pm until 9:30pm. Mums & Dads, Gran-nies & Grandpas, Aunties & Uncles, Carers and Professionals are all welcome. We work to have guest speakers at our meetings, but sometimes the meetings without speakers are very lively too! Dates are as follows:

April 13: **Margo Mooney & Dorothy Brownlee** will be talking about the role of **Integrated Family Ser-vices**.

May 11: **Helena Kelman** of the Princess Royal Trust will be telling us of a new Carers Support Group in the South Lanarkshire.

June 8th: **Sheena Henderson/Louise Gordon** of South Lanarkshire Leisure Ltd will be telling us about Summer holiday activities available in the area.

No meeting in July. Resume August 10, September 14, October 12, November 9, December 14.

library amnesty

If you have any old library items, can I ask that you make arrangements to return them to me ASAP? The library has undergone a re-vamp recently and I'd like to include all items in the make-over. It also means that I don't go out and buy duplicate items and therefore will save money!

committee & contact details

There are **situations vacant** on the management committee. If you would be interested in assist-ing with the running of SLNAS in any way, please contact me.

Ross Macfadyen (Branch Officer) Tel: 07941 252 485
email: mail@slnas.org.uk web: www.slnas.org.uk
Branch Address: 9 Halfmerk North, Maxwellton, East Kilbride, G74 3EH.

Email List

If you have an email address, please let us know as it is much cheaper and less time consuming to email **trialogue** than to envelope stuff it! Also, you will receive news updates as they happen! No "spam" guaranteed! Please send an email to mail@slnas.org.uk and I'll add you to the list. Many thanks.

boring legal bit!

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trialogue



The Newsletter of South Lanarkshire NAS

Number 1 : April 2005

welcome to triaologue

Our newsletter has undergone a little transformation, and will now take the form of an A5 booklet. We have added a new name too, **trialogue**, which relates both to the triad of impairments in autism (communication, social interaction and imagination) and also to communication (a triaologue being a dialogue between three people!). We hope you like the new look and will enjoy reading the latest news! Comments and suggestions are appreciated. Contact details are on the back page.

autism awareness event

Dr Gordon Bell came to speak at a special event in the County Buildings, Hamilton on Tuesday 15th February as part of an awareness event.

As well as our own members, we had folk from CAS (Lanark) and the NAS Glasgow and Ayrshire branches. The MSPs for the South Lanarkshire area were all invited and we were delighted to have representatives of Linda Fabiani and Donald Gorrie in attendance.

The purpose of the evening was to hear Dr Gordon Bell's talk on EFAs and heavy metals, but the event also allowed us to highlight the number of people with autism in Lanarkshire.

At the event, Ross revealed recent figures for autism diagnosis published by the Scottish Executive. The report *Audit of Services for People with Autism Spectrum Disorders: Statistical Report (2004)* states that there are 561 children and 37 adults in the Lanarkshire area with an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD).

Ross said, "These figures are somewhat short of the real picture. The National Autistic Society statistics suggest that 1,240 children and 4,430 adults in North & South Lanarkshire could be affected by autism and Asperger syndrome."

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autism awareness event

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Further, Dr Bell showed the audience graphs showing a rising incidence of ASD diagnosis since the early 1990's as part of his talk on Essential Fatty Acids and heavy metals in relation to autism. Ross said, "The figures show that autism is not a rare condition, and neither is ASD just a childhood condition. Our autistic children are becoming autistic adults and therefore services need to be in place for all age groups."

Dr Robert Moffat, who is National Officer for the NAS in Scotland, told the group of two centres funded by the Scottish Executive in Lothian and Glasgow. The adult centre in Maryhill, Glasgow has been set up as a "one stop shop" for adults to gain information, diagnosis and support. The centre is designed as a drop in centre for people with autism, their carers and professionals. We'd like to thank all who attended and helped make the event a success!

pantomime



It seems like a long time ago, but our second visit to the KYBO Theatre Company's pantomime *Treasure Island* was a huge success.

We had a full house of about 90 folk and the event was once again funded by *Cash For Kids*.

Thanks again to Colin and Linda Jarvie, who applied for the funding on behalf of SLNAS. We're looking forward to this year's visit!

tomatis listening therapy

At March's meeting, we had the pleasure of having Mary Troup from the Glasgow Listening Centre, talking about the above therapy. The purpose is to re-educate the way we listen, to improve learning and language abilities, communication, creativity and social behaviour. There was lots of interest in this therapy at the meeting. If you would like to add your name to a hypothetical list of interested parties, please contact Ross. More details can be seen at <http://www.tomatis-group.com/uk/frame.htm>

caperhouse

Our friend at the CaperHouse, Betsy Love, opens her doors for Special Needs children on the first Monday of every month. The session is from 6pm until 8pm and costs £3.00 per child. Children up to 8 years old are most welcome, with a height restriction of 4 foot 6 inches. The CaperHouse is situated beside Safeway, oops Morrisons!, at Macneish Way, Stewartfield, East Kilbride. More details from Betsy on 01355 579536. Parents are responsible for their own kids. See you there!

quiz night - june 3rd

Caroline Tait has organised a quiz night for us at the Salmon Leap, Calderwood Square, East Kilbride on Friday 3rd June. Tickets are £2.50 each (teams of no more than 5 people). We are also looking for donations for raffle prizes. Send your details and a cheque to [South Lanarkshire NAS](#) indicating how many tickets you'd like (address is on back page). All encyclopaedias/WAP phones will be confiscated at the door!

schools information project

As part of our awareness raising aims, we provided 80 GPs with a pack including Alison Morton-Cooper's book *Health Care and the Autism Spectrum* in October 2004.



Understanding difficulties at
break time and lunchtime
guidelines for pupils with autistic
spectrum disorders

By Patricia Thorpe



This strategy will continue with 150 nurseries, 150 primary and 21 secondary schools in South Lanarkshire receiving an information pack soon. All educational establishments will receive the excellent NAS booklet *Understanding Differences During Breaktime and Lunchtime* as well as general information on autism and Asperger syndrome.

Nurseries will also receive *ASD in Young Children: a Guide for Early Years Practitioners* which includes information on toileting, tantrums, eating and play.

Primary schools will be sent *Moving from Primary to Secondary: Guidelines for Pupils with ASD*. This leaflet is aimed at teachers, support staff and parents alike.

Secondary schools will also receive *Working with an Asperger Pupil in Secondary Schools* and *Exam Advice for pupils with ASD*.

The aim of the project is the same as before: namely to provide schools with useful tools for assisting our children while raising awareness of both autism and Asperger syndrome. The project will be promoted in the local press, assisting in the aim of raising autism awareness in the general public.

database update

It has been a couple of years since we have updated the branch database, therefore we have included a database form with this newsletter. Please fill in and return the form (even if you already have!) if you'd like to remain on our mailing lists. FYI: we are registered with the Data Protection Agency and personal details are NOT passed onto anyone else! Thanks for your support in this!