

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, Grannies & 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!

For those of you who already have their nice shiny 2006 diaries, here are the dates up to December 2006. Speakers will be confirmed in future editions of [trialogue](#) and on the email mailing list.

December 14: [Open Door Project](#), who offer support services to folks with Asperger syndrome from 16-25

January 11: Quiet meeting to help us recover from the festivities! BYO turkey sandwiches and mince pies!

February 8: **March 8:** **April 12:**

May 10: **June 14:** **No Meeting In July**

August 9: **September 13:** **October 11:**

November 8: **December 13:**

contact details

We greatly appreciate the assistance of members on the projects the group has undertaken. However, if you would be interested in assisting with the running of SLNAS in any way, please make contact.

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please keep me up to date your email address!!!!

I have cleared out the email addresses I have. Therefore, if you have received a print copy of this edition of [trialogue](#), but have previously been on the email list, please send an email to mail@slnas.org.uk and I'll add you to the list. Also, you will receive news updates/info as I get it. No "spam" guaranteed! Many thanks.

obligatory legal notice!

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wallace & gromit at VUE cinema



We have booked a private viewing of *Wallace & Gromit* at the VUE cinema at Palace Towers, Palace Ground Road, Hamilton.

The event will take place on the morning of Saturday 10th December (start time will be confirmed later, probably around 10/11am) with admission FREE to families who are members of the group. But if you'd like to make a donation, you are most welcome to!

This viewing will NOT be open to the public. Therefore, if you would like to come along, please contact Ross ASAP with your details and how many folks in your immediate family are coming along. We will then send you out a confirmation letter which you should bring along with you on the day. Contact details are provided on the back page.

pan-Lanarkshire autism forum

The Pan-Lanarkshire Autism Forum (PLAF) group met in September and a sub-group was formed to look at creating a 'service map' for people and families post diagnosis. This is with a view to making the post diagnosis experience smoother for folks while identifying potential gaps in existing services.

The sub group consists of representatives from South Lanarkshire Education and Social Work departments, NHS Lanarkshire and Ross from SLNAS. The group has now met twice and has created a set of recommendations for the main PLAF meeting in December. We'll keep you posted as to the outcomes.

SIGN guidelines on ASD

The Scottish Intercollegiate Guidelines Network (SIGN) was formed in 1993 with the objective of improving the quality of health care for patients in Scotland by reducing variation in practice and outcome. This is achieved through the development and dissemination of national clinical guidelines containing recommendations for effective practice based on current evidence.

SIGN guidelines are developed by multidisciplinary working groups with representation from across Scotland. The guideline development groups are selected in consultation with the member organisations of SIGN Council. Each guideline is based on a systematic review and critical appraisal of the current scientific literature. This means that the evidence base for the guideline is identified, selected, and evaluated according to a defined methodology. In this way, potential sources of bias in the guideline are minimised and the likely validity of the recommendations is maximised. The guideline recommendations are graded according to the strength of the supporting evidence. This provides groups of practitioners working in NHS Scotland with information to help select and prioritise recommendations for local implementation, depending on local needs, priorities, and resources.



National open meetings are held to discuss each SIGN guideline in draft form. The national meetings are widely publicised and are open to all, providing an opportunity for health care professionals, patients, health service managers, and other interested groups to comment on the draft recommendations and to influence the final form of the guideline.

The draft guideline on the assessment, diagnosis and clinical interventions for children and young people with autism spectrum disorders was presented at a national open meeting held at the Royal College of Physicians in Edinburgh on 3rd October.

Ross went along to this and put a couple of questions to the panel. Firstly, of concern to all the speakers was the lack of good quality research on which to base their recommendations. Ross asked if recommendations regarding research would be made and the answer was yes. Secondly, Ross was concerned that, although the SIGN group could not make recommendations regarding some intervention strategies (due to lack of research) there should be some professional advice available to parents considering these strategies. Although this is not part of the SIGN guidelines at this point, the panel agreed that this would be a good idea.

The guideline makes recommendations for diagnosis and assessment, interventions and service provision and the full report should be ready for publication in 2007.

education packs & the undiscovered workforce

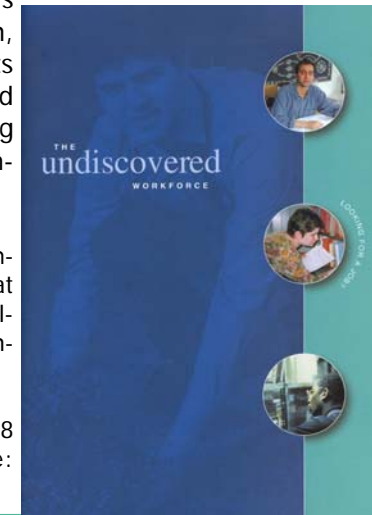
Our education packs were given a mention in the Autumn edition of *Communication* (the NAS members magazine). Since this article, we have been taking calls from around the country and so far have sent packs to Northern Ireland, Lincoln, Surrey, West Dumbarton, and Moodiesburn! We are well chuffed with the response, and have decided to expand on this project.....

In November 2004 The National Autistic Society launched the Undiscovered Workforce Employment Campaign. The campaign has focused on raising awareness among employers, Government and employment professionals to recognise the skills that people with autism can bring to the UK workplace, as well as the support that they need to release their potential.

SLNAS will be joining this initiative by providing packs to Job Centre Disability Coordinators and Careers Scotland which contain an employee brochures created by the NAS, and an excellent book, *Employing People with Asperger Syndrome* by Martha Fausset that has recently been published. The book is aimed at employers and covers recruitment, selection, getting started, successful management, support and lots more information. It is based on the experience and knowledge of people who really know about employing people with Asperger syndrome: the NAS Prospects Employment Consultancy Team.

Prospects seeks to enable people with autism to return to employment in an unsupported environment after a process that includes training with the employer and immediate work colleagues. The support given to *Prospects* clients includes training and assistance in finding employment as well as support.

Prospects Glasgow can be contacted by telephone: 0141 248 1725 or email prospects@nas.org.uk or website: www.autism.org.uk/prospects



merry christmas



It's maybe a little bit early, but here's wishing you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year from all at SLNAS!

Any left over mince pies and unwanted iPods(!) are welcome at our first meeting of the New Year on Wed. 11th January 2006!