



Press Release SL05/02/04

For Immediate Release

23st February 2004



**SIGNED CELTIC FOOTBALL TOP
TO BE AUCTIONED BY
SOUTH LANARKSHIRE NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY
AT 'MOCK AUCTION' FUNDRAISER**

The South Lanarkshire Branch of The National Autistic Society has today confirmed that they will have a SIGNED Celtic football top to auction at the above event. The auction will provide funds towards a summer outing for the children in our group.

Other items for sale will be £200 worth of Hardwood Flooring, courtesy of Click Flooring, Wilson Place, East Kilbride, £125 Voucher from Photo Faire photographers, a personalised Whisky Decanter kindly donated by Roy Wilson, a Cherrywood Mirror donated by MFI, Hamilton, a Greenhouse heater donated by Homebase, Hamilton and a selection of Roseby's bedding.

Many South Lanarkshire businesses have also contributed vouchers, including Yours Faithfully, Cannons Health club, CaperHouse, McDonalds Restuarants, The Body Shop, Burger King, UCI Cinema, Sainsbury's, Strathclyde Valeting Services, Esporta, Littlewood & Beaton and Pizza Hut.

The 'Mock Auction' fundraiser will take place at the Bruce Hotel, Cornwall Street, East Kilbride on Friday 27th February 2004 at 7:00pm. The hotel has kindly donated the use of their ballroom for the night.

Tickets are £5.00 each, and will be available "on the door" on the night. Alternatively, tickets may be purchased by calling Ross Macfadyen on 07941 252485 or email mail@slnas.org.uk.

The next monthly meeting of South Lanarkshire NAS is on Wednesday 10th March in the District Court Rooms, Civic Centre, Andrew Street, East Kilbride. Our guest speaker will be Gerry Ward, Sleep Scotland Counselor. Further information can be accessed on our website www.slnas.org.uk.

ENDS

About autism & Asperger syndrome

People who have autism or Asperger Syndrome are said to have a 'triad' of impairments. Both conditions are commonly referred to as autistic spectrum disorders or ASD. This is because all people with the condition tend to be affected in different ways and to differing degrees of severity. It is a lifelong developmental disability, affecting around 500,000 people in the UK.

People with an ASD find **communication** difficult and often fail to understand the subtleties of language that the rest of us take for granted. Some never acquire speech. Body language and facial expressions are a mystery.

Perhaps because of this, people with ASD do not seek to **interact socially** with others and are often seen as 'loners' and have difficulty in making and keeping friends. Thirdly, people with ASD can have problems with **imagination**. This leads them to seek repetitive activities and predictable routines. This makes them seem very rigid in their everyday lives, as change is very difficult for them to deal with. Challenging behaviour can also be an issue as affected people are frustrated by their lack of understanding and lack of ability to make themselves understood.

Autism is often referred to as an 'invisible' condition. Because there are no physical traits, people with ASD can appear to others to be aloof, arrogant, rude, anti-social and badly or oddly behaved. People with ASD are unaware that their behaviour comes across in this way and often do not understand that others have thoughts and feelings too.

How We Help

South Lanarkshire NAS group aims to help through regular monthly meetings. These are held on the second Wednesday of the month in the District Court Suite, Civic Centre, East Kilbride. Our next meetings are on the 10th of March and 14th of April.

We also wish to provide opportunities for social contact for the children and to allow them to share experiences with the whole family. This can be very stressful for parents and siblings, particularly in situations where the general public do not understand why a seemingly normal child is behaving in an inappropriate manner. Therefore we provided a visit to a pantomime before Christmas 2003. The entire audience was made up of our group which meant that parents could relax, knowing that they were in company that understood any behavioural issues, while the children got to enjoy a night out at the theatre.

About SLNAS

The South Lanarkshire NAS branch has over 150 members and can be contacted through Ross Macfadyen, Communications Officer, 07941 252 485, email: mail@slnas.org.uk

South Lanarkshire NAS holds monthly meetings on the second Wednesday of the month in the County Court Rooms, Civic Centre, Andrew Street, East Kilbride. We aim to support families and carers of those with Autism and Asperger syndrome through these meetings and telephone and email support

The National Autistic Society

The National Autistic Society (NAS) is the UK's leading charity for people with autistic spectrum disorders and their families. Spearheading national and international initiatives and providing a strong voice for autism, the Society provides a wide range of services to help people with autism and Asperger syndrome live their lives with as much independence as possible.

The NAS Autism Helpline is supported by Barclays: 0870 600 8585 Opening Hours 10am-4pm, Monday to Friday.