



Press Release SL06/02/04

For Immediate Release

29th February 2004



**MOCK AUCTION FOR
SOUTH LANARKSHIRE NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY
RAISES £2,000**

A 'Mock Auction' held in aid of funds for The South Lanarkshire Branch of The National Autistic Society raised £2,000. Colin Jarvie, Treasurer, said "The success of the night has been way beyond our expectations. We'd like to thank everyone who bid on the night. Linda Johnson and Lesley Burns have done a sterling job of gathering items for the auction. Due to the scale of the success, we can now look to widen our ideas for our summer trip."

The night began with Linda Johnson (Branch Officer) and Ross Macfadyen (Communications) saying a few thank yous and talking about autism and Asperger's syndrome [*editors: we would be grateful if you could use some of the material below*]. Ross then handed over the night to compare, Raymond Burke from the KYBO Theatre Company.

Many superb items were donated to the auction. Click Flooring of Wilson Place donated £200 of hardwood flooring which sold for £135. Rosbey's bedding sold for £39. A Debenham's teddy sold for £8. Three watches donated by Figaro Jeweller's of Hamilton sold for a total of £107. Sunday lunch at the Crutherland Hotel was auctioned for £45. A leather handbag donated by Crichton's of Hamilton raised £21. A mountain bike was sold for £35, while a skateboard raised £12. A Photo Faire voucher worth £125 was sold for £45. A last minute donation of a SIGNED Celtic football top raised £135.

A few donations were made before the event. The committee would like to thank Roy Wilson for a kind donation of £100. We would also like to thank the Jim McCann, manager and staff of the Bruce Hotel for helping to make the night very relaxing and also for their donation of £100.

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

NOTES TO EDITORS:

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, telephone and email support, and our web site, www.slnas.org.uk.

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.