

Having begin by a Broadcast on BBC Women's Hour I went on to found the National Society for Autistic Children in 1962, and for six years was the General Secretary. During this time the basic structure of the Society was organised - an Information and Advisory Service (based on the Vassar note-card system) in the National Office, and Local Societies in various parts of the country. To my mind the best achievements were the two schools - the first to give specialised education to autistic children based on the assumption that they were handicapped not "emotionally disturbed" (except as a result of the handicap). My son was the first pupil at the first school - simply because I was able to persuade his teacher that she was obviously the best person to start our school. The second school was founded in Gravesend, Kent last year, and I was initially horrified to discover that they named it after me, as before I resigned as General Secretary of the Society (April 1968) I had advised them to find a generous millionaire and name it after him. However, it does the ego good to have a school named after one, and I am so impressed with the Principal (whom I found through a friend of mine at Oxford) and the parent who helped her found the school,

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that it is a real pleasure to have an excuse to keep in close touch with the school's activities. The enclosed leaflets, some of which I helped to compose, give some idea of the work of the Society. The best one, I am unable to enclose - an Appeal Leaflet for the Helen Allison School, as it is still in the proof stage. I also am unable to send an issue of the Society Newsletter, "Communication", which with some of the most able people in my office, I edited while I was General Secretary.

Helen Green Allison
Helen Green Allison '44