

NEWSLETTER



FROM

276 WILLESDEN LANE
LONDON NW2 5RB

LATE PRESS - DECEMBER, 1982



By the time this Newsletter reaches you, the Society Office will have moved - on the 12th November - to the address given above. A map showing where Willesden Lane is and travel directions, is enclosed.

At the time of going to press we do not have our new telephone number, but we hope to be able to insert it at the last moment.

At the Annual General Meeting, members voted for our new title to be -

THE NATIONAL AUTISTIC SOCIETY

and we are awaiting confirmation that the title is acceptable to Companies Registry - if all goes according to plan we should be able to formally announce our new name at the commencement of the 1983 Anniversary Year.

FUND RAISING

21st ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN

Appeal to Schools and Colleges

Nearly 35,000 schools and more than a thousand universities and colleges have been circulated with special literature inviting support for our £250,000 appeal target.

We're still hoping to hear from brothers and sisters of autistic children who are prepared to help us develop this campaign within their own school, college or university.

There's nothing like the personal touch to bring about results, so please contact [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] with your ideas and offers of help.

Just think - if every school and college responded with even a £10. donation, then we'd surpass our appeal target by more than £100,000!!!

TOY TICKETS

Harrods and at least 200 other toy retailers in the UK are helping to promote and sell our 'Toy Ticket Lottery'. The lottery, backed by four generous sponsors - Lego, Corgi, Palitoy and Waddingtons - will run until the end of February, 1983. The tickets are 20p each and there are a thousand prizes of toys to be won.

Please look out for toy shops selling our tickets - a word or two of encouragement often works wonders.

We expect to raise at least £10,000 from this lottery - with your help we could make even more. We still have some boxes of tickets at the office, so we hope we can count on you to persuade your local retailer to take some. There are 500 tickets in a set and we also supply a colourful poster and a cash register sticker.

TAKE A SEAT

The appeal launched in September continues to gather momentum and already nearly £9,000 has been raised. Our plan to show 'The Secret of Nimh' has unfortunately had to be altered, and we are now waiting to be advised of a more suitable alternative.

TAKE A SEAT will mark the official launch of the 21st Anniversary Appeal in March, 1983 and as such we are hoping to have some additional treats for our young audience.

Local Societies are still being invited to organise satellite events, thus making TAKE A SEAT into a truly National event. Please contact [REDACTED] at Head Office, for written guidelines.

PIANO RECITAL

On 25th November, we are organising a concert at Lauderdale House, Highgate. [REDACTED] a student at the Royal Academy, has most kindly agreed to perform for the benefit of the Society. Our thanks to [REDACTED] and also to one of our parents, [REDACTED] for her sterling efforts. From the outset [REDACTED] has been determined that her friend's concert would succeed and has left few stones unturned in the Hornsey and Highgate area, in her endeavour to raise money for the Society. To date there have been numerous small donations, many requests for tickets, and we extend thanks to all those who have responded to [REDACTED] appeal.

JIGSAW LUNCHEON CIRCLES

These Circles are proving to be a steady source of income. It's easy to be a Jigsaw Luncheon Circle Hostess - so why not take advantage of our sociable and very simple way to raise many thousands of pounds for autistic people.

Want to know how? Then write to, or telephone [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] who will be glad to send you an explanatory leaflet.

This being the season of good will, there could be no better time to start your Circle.

GIVE & TAKE DRAW

We are pleased to be able again to offer our membership the chance to enter the Give & Take Draw. Enclosed in this Newsletter is a special leaflet illustrating the super prizes and giving details of how to enter. The centre spread of the leaflet displays a beautiful set of six Royal Worcester Fine Bone China Plates, produced exclusively for us.

Built in to the retail price of these 'Age of Elegance' plates is a substantial donation to the Society. To do justice to the fine detail and the variety of colour tones, these plates really have to be seen.

We look forward to the support of our membership, their families and friends for the Give & Take Draw and the purchase of the plates.

We would like to record our warmest thanks to our generous sponsors, Grand Marnier, Tia Maria, Selective Editions and of course our old friend, Diners Club - it is their generosity that has turned this fund raising idea into reality.

MENTAL HEALTH FLAG DAY

If you can spare the time to shake a tin or better still, to organise a group to do the same on 3rd May, 1983, in central London, then [REDACTED] at the Mental Health Flag Day Office, would like to hear from you. Remember - 75% of the proceeds of each tin can be allocated to a specific charity - why not ours? [REDACTED] can be contacted at [REDACTED] Telephone [REDACTED]

BEST WESTERN GETAWAY BREAK - We are pleased to announce that [REDACTED] has won the week-end for two in Norwich. The draw for this holiday took place at the A.G.M. on 2nd October. Congratulations to [REDACTED] - commiserations to the losers - and of course, thanks to all of you who participated by sending us postage stamps.

DISABLED PERSONS RAILCARD SCHEME

British Rail has announced that it's Disabled Persons Railcard Scheme is to continue beyond 31st December, 1982.

The Railcard will still cost £10.00 and entitle the holder and one accompanying adult, to half rate fares on full and Awayday travel.

There are two changes in the Scheme, as originally conceived:-

- (i) all Railcards are now issued to give a full twelve months validity from date of issue.
- (ii) requests for renewals of current Railcards do not require certification by the Post Office and applications can be posted direct to the Railcard issuing office at York.

Copies of the new brochure, with application form, are available from stations and Post Offices.

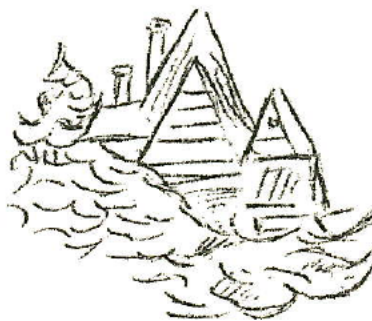
FAMILIES

Family with eight year old autistic boy are planning a ski-ing holiday next February. They would like to share the experiences of other families who have taken similar holidays. Please contact:

Mother of five year old autistic girl would like to meet other parents living within striking distance of her home in Dorking. Please write or telephone:

Seventeen year old N.N.E.B. student would like to meet a family with an autistic child (preferably between ages of 5-16) to help her prepare a case study for her Course. In return she is willing to "baby-sit" or help in holidays. St. Albans/Luton/Dunstable area preferred. Please contact:

COURSES and CONFERENCES



NATIONAL SOCIETY CONFERENCES

21st May, 1983 - There will be a Conference held by the National Society for Autistic Children, in association with the University of Exeter. Details from [redacted] Department of Education, The University, Exeter.

28th-30th September, 1984 - The Society's National Conference will be held at the University, Claverton Down, Bath. Further information at a later date.

THE INGE WAKEHURST MEMORIAL TRUST FUND

11th-13th March 1983 Study Weekend on Autistic Adolescents & Adults to be held at Burton Manor, Wirral - Few places still available.

4th-6th November 1983 A Weekend focusing on Autistic Children is now being planned. Details will be available in the New Year from [redacted] at N.S.A.C. Office.

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATIONS FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN

10th-12th June, 1983 - A Weekend Conference in Paris. Speakers from the U.K. will include Professor Rutter, Dr. Newson, Dr. L. Wing and M.G. Baron. Further details from ASITP, 237, rue Marcadet, Paris 75018.

THE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON PSYCHIATRY LAW AND ETHICS

20th-25th February, 1983 - An International Congress to be held in Haifa, Israel.

Further details from: [redacted] P.O. Box 394,
Tel Aviv 61003, Israel.

CASTLE PRIORY COLLEGE
Thames Street, Wallingford,
Oxon, OX10 0HE

Runs weekend courses on the problems of autistic children.

Write to the College for further information

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HANDICAP
Wolverhampton Road, Kidderminster,
Worcs. DY10 3PP

Organises short courses in many parts of the country.

Write to the Conference/Course Organiser for particulars of their activities.

2nd - 7th October, 1983 - International Symposium on THE FUTURE OF THE MENTALLY ILL IN SOCIETY will be held in Jerusalem, Israel, under the patronage of "Enosh" The Israel Mental Health Association.

Further information from: Symposium Organisers, International Ltd.,
10 Rothschild Blvd.,
65121 Tel Aviv, Israel.

BOOKS FOR PARENTS

Parents looking for Christmas Presents for their autistic children, might be interested in the following publications:

HEAR & SAY - Toys for children with hearing, speech and language difficulties. A Noah's Ark Publication, published by The Toy Libraries Association, Seabrook House, Wyllotts Manor, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, Herts. Price - £1.10.

HELPING YOUR HANDICAPPED CHILD - Penguin Books, Ltd., Harmondsworth, Middx. 1980. Price - £1.95p.

TOYS & PLAYTHINGS in Development and Remediation. A Pelican Book, published by Penguin Books, Harmondsworth, Middx. Price- £1.50p.

PLAY FOR THE HANDICAPPED CHILD - This is a Pamphlet for parents of mentally handicapped children, designed to help them help their child develop play. Available from Wiltshire County Council, Education Dept., County Hall, Trowbridge, Wilts. BA 14 8JB. Price - 50p. plus 15p. postage and packing.

SHORT-TERM CARE PLACEMENT

May we remind parents of the need to book short-term care placements for their children well in advance, as places quickly fill up.

We are compiling another "HOLIDAY LIST" which will be available in the New Year from Head Office on request with a stamped addressed envelope.

WANTED - GARDEN PLAY EQUIPMENT

Mother of a five year old autistic boy, living in Kingsbury area of London, would love to hear from anyone who has any unwanted garden play equipment such as swings, see-saws, slides, etc. Please contact:

HOUSE-PARENT at National Society School, would be glad to find some week-end work with autistic children, such as baby-sitting, taking children for walks, etc., Northolt area.

Contact: [REDACTED] Boarding Dept., Sybil Elgar School, Ealing.
Tel: 840 2568

MOBILITY ALLOWANCE

We receive many enquiries from parents wishing to claim the Mobility Allowance on behalf of their child. Recent developments have made it easier to claim for those who are physically able to walk but who cannot do so, or to any appreciable extent, because of a disability.

The parents of an autistic boy have recently been awarded the Mobility Allowance after a second appeal. Other parents may be encouraged to apply - leaflet N1. 211 from your local Social Security Office - bearing in mind that a diagnosis of autism covers a wide range of abilities and disturbances and common sense dictates that the degree of associated problems be taken into account. It is likely that most claims will still have to run the whole gamut of initial claim, appeal to Medical Board and appeal to Medical Appeal Tribunal.

HELP WANTED

To look after a 20 year old autistic young man for holiday periods from Centre, while mother is at work.

Please contact: [REDACTED]

Lady wanted to look after mentally handicapped 18 year old girl with autistic tendencies, in Hampstead Garden Suburb.

Daily basis or residential for period January 4th - 21st, 1983 or any part of that period.
Also for three weeks after Easter and four weeks during August or any part of these periods.

Hours and salary by arrangement.

Please contact: [REDACTED]

EALING PARENTS GROUP

[REDACTED] is endeavouring to organise a group for parents of autistic children living in or near to Ealing - there will be discussions and social events.

If you would like to be included, do ring [REDACTED] on:

[REDACTED]

NEWS... from regions and areas and local societies

NORTH EASTERN SOCIETY:

Hon. Secretary: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has now left the area and his place as Chairman has been taken by [REDACTED]. We are very sad to lose [REDACTED] and have asked the National Society for Autistic Children to print his recent Chairman's letter as this vividly describes his years with the North Eastern S.A.C.

During or around Autistic Week we have two stalls at Stockton and a street collection - the first for approximately 5 years, so we are hoping to do well. New tins and flags have been bought this year, so we are ready for the go.

On the 26th November, two of our parents and their friends and [REDACTED] (escort) and [REDACTED] (driver of our bus) are going to Paris for the week-end; we are all looking forward to that.

[REDACTED], another parent, did very well on her sponsored slim.

[REDACTED], headmaster of the Bellingham Unit, has taken over another school and we wish him well, and now welcome [REDACTED] as our new Headmaster. In the short time he's been at the school, he's won respect from teachers and parents; nothing is too much for him.

[REDACTED], head teacher of the Unit and other staff must be looking forward to next week's half term holiday; I have never known a school where so much work is done yet they seem to find the time for parents, meetings, outings. I saw part of a film of the children made at school and it was really moving.

CHAIRMAN'S LETTER 1982.

"In the beginning was the Word..... and the Light shineth in the darkness and the darkness did not comprehend it." I seem to remember referring to those words from the Gospel of St. John in an earlier Chairman's Letter as being particularly apt to the beginning of our own Society.

For years before the founding of the Society - as Area Organiser of the National Society and Chairman of our own small pressure group of parents - I was that Word, the voice crying in the wilderness, the light shining in the darkness, in my battles against the Local Authorities. The Town Clerk didn't want to know, the Director of Education said he thought ours was a health problem, the Medical Officer of Health thought it was more of an educational problem and "experts" argued as to the possible causes of autism whilst parents were interrogated and case histories investigated. In the meantime anxious, frustrated parents fought to cope with confused, terrified children unable to adapt to life as we know it - unable to communicate.

Despite a seemingly hopeless situation our small group of parents struggled to educate their children (for evidence showed that 'tailored' basic education could help) in their own homes and later in organised playgroups

in Church halls until - after constant harassment of local Education and Health departments - we were allowed to use infant classrooms and Carlow Street Clinic at week-ends. In addition to this "do-it-yourself" education, and extremely difficult home situations, the parents worked hard at fund-raising with a view, not only to highlight and publicise our plight, but also to try to build our own school. Oh, what hectic days those were! Coffee mornings and evenings, garden fetes, raffles, stalls at Stokesley Shows, sponsored events, making things to sell, sending appeal letters out. So much work for so little financial return - we soon realised that to build and staff our own school and to maintain it was beyond our capabilities. The pressure upon Local Authorities therefore, had to go on, they had to be made to accept their responsibilities - our children must not be denied their right to education.

The rest is history. We successfully associated with Teeside Education Department and contributed half the building costs of the first unit of it's kind in the country. Our expertise was sought in the design of the special unit attached to the Rievaulx School at Billingham. Since then we have continued to raise funds to provide equipment for the unit and to take the children on outings. Unsuccessful at persuading the North East Council of Education Committees to consider a regional residential school, we had meetings with our closest allies, the Tyneside Society, and helped towards their own school at Sunderland by making a substantial financial contribution and, later, an interest free loan. This liaison with Tyneside should continue, I feel, for only by strength of numbers and organisational ability can there be any hope of future adequate provision for our children after school-age if further economic restraints reduce the already limited facilities supplied by the Local Authorities.

It has been my privilege over the last thirteen years (not to mention the halcyon years before) as your Chairman to be asked to give talks to, and receive cheques on your behalf from many organisations in the area. When I retire from office at the A.G.M. it will be for the last time, and this time there can be no chance of re-election, I'm afraid, due to my imminent departure from the area. Over the years there have been many requests for information to my home (the registered office of the Society), both in the form of letters and telephone calls at all hours - often from people curious about this "new" type of handicap, but also from anxious, desperate parents - and I have been pleased to pass on information and give practical help where I could. To ensure our children did not "miss out" in any way, I found it necessary to seek help from other local organisations, official and voluntary.

This led to my membership of Community Health Councils (South Tees, 2 years, North Tees, 4 years), Chairmanship of the Primary Health Care Team (3 years), Boards of Governors for County Primary, Secondary and Special Schools (6 years) and the Committee of the Cleveland Liaison Group for the Mentally Handicapped (3 years). I've been hounded by the local media from time to time for comments following our publicity campaigns, and have not only been quoted (often wrongly!) in the press, but also 'appeared' on radio (Durham Cleveland, Tees and 4) and television (both channels, long before the current PSA broadcast!). Life will seem tranquil in the West Country after all this!

My membership of the National Executive and sub-committee will continue, of course, and besides my own personal interest I hope to go on helping others achieve the best for their autistic children for many more years

to come. Both my wife, [REDACTED] and myself will retain our contact with the North East, returning from time to time to visit relatives and friends, and we will closely monitor the progress of the Society.

May I thank the existing and past committee members for the support they have given me over the years, and wish the new Chairman, Committee and members every success for the future."

[REDACTED]

WIRRAL SOCIETY

From: The Chairman, [REDACTED]

September was memorable as a "Hail and Farewell" month for our Society members and associates. On the evening of the 16th we gathered at Raby Hall to make a presentation to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] prior to their departure at the end of the month for Stroud Court. Amongst those present were our stalwart (and currently 'acting') deputy Principal, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED], who has recently been appointed by the Management Committee as [REDACTED] successor.

More than 50 parents, staff and friends, as well as a number of residents were present to enjoy the wine and buffet organised by [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and Raby Hall Secretary, [REDACTED], and although something of a party atmosphere prevailed, everyone shared the usual mixture of emotions experienced on this type of occasion.

The [REDACTED] were presented with a very fine set of wine glasses and decanter in hand-engraved lead crystal, specially designed by a local artist. The sort of 'objet d'art' that parents of autistic youngsters would perhaps not venture to buy for themselves, but which those who cope so admirably with their delightful but exhausting off spring deserve to receive.

So, after coming to us in March 1979 - originally to help us out temporarily but, happily for us, deciding to stay on - [REDACTED] and his family have now taken up the new challenge presented by opening from scratch, Stroud Court in Gloucestershire. [REDACTED] charismatic personality drive and determination, plus unflappable calm will ensure success, just as at Raby Hall, his qualities of leadership were recognised at all levels, from senior local government officials to the young volunteers who came to help at the Hall. Anything from a blocked cesspit to a raging autistic tantrum was dealt with in the same resourceful manner, (often with an extra puff or two on his pipe when things had settled down).

We shall all miss them greatly, but nevertheless are pleased that they will still provide a source of strength within the autistic net work, and we wish them and our friends in MIDCAS a very successful future.

[REDACTED] most fortunately, was able to spend almost nine months as our Deputy before [REDACTED] departure, and thus added to his already considerable Dedisham experience during that time. Certainly a young man of great promise in this field, he accepted without

hesitation our request that he take over as Acting Principal for a two month period, and we are pleased to take this chance to record our gratitude and appreciation for all he has done, and is doing, to ensure a smooth continuation of the good work. In this he has been fully supported by an excellent staff.

And so now welcome to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] comes to us from the C.A.R.E. Village of Stanley Grange, near Preston, Lancs., where she has been Matron since September, 1980. She has wide and varied experience in residential care, both of children and adults, including some autistics, and has visited both Raby Hall and Somerset Court to glean further knowledge. At Stanley Grange she has been deeply involved in its expansion from eleven to forty residents within a period of two years. As a S.R.N. her career has also included some hospital work, and she has also managed to bring up a family of five children. Her husband, [REDACTED], is currently working on contract in Saudi Arabia, but has assured us of his interest and active support for the work of Raby Hall during home visits. We feel confident that [REDACTED] will prove a worthy successor to [REDACTED] and welcome her and her family most warmly.

Other staff changes include the departure of [REDACTED] first a CSV at Raby and subsequently a houseparent. [REDACTED] has moved back to London and, we are pleased to report, is now working at the Sybil Elgar School at Ealing.

[REDACTED] has also left us to take up a post as re-settlement Officer at Denbigh Psychiatric Hospital in North Wales. She has served splendidly for some years now and we all wish her well in her new career. [REDACTED] who came to us from Scotland in the New Year, is moving on to the local ESSN school where she will teach in the Autistic Unit. We wish her every success in this new role.

We welcome back to the fold our former senior Houseparent, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]. After a period away she has agreed to fill a recent vacancy on our team of craft instructors and is now busy acquiring expertise in type-setting in order to take over the printing work. A newcomer is [REDACTED] who is rapidly proving her worth with our 'special care' group.

So we have had a couple of months with many changes but so far, happily, a minimum of unrest. This again is itself a tribute to [REDACTED] and all our staff. It is most heartening and encouraging to realise that if things are well set up and structured, even major staff changes such as ours can be taken quite calmly by most of our residents, contrary to what has often been thought by workers in the field - though not including Sybil Elgar.

Apart from all this, fund raising for the projected Maximum Therapy Unit continues fairly steadily for these times of recession. We now have over £50,000 in our Development Fund. Inevitably, . . . modifications to the original plans are being considered and we may need up to £120,000 in total to carry it all through. So it may take a little longer than first anticipated before we start.

BUT, rest assured, we will start just as soon as possible. The need is urgent and must be met.

SOUTH WALES SOCIETY

Hon. Secretary: [REDACTED]

Since our last report to the Newsletter, we have had the very great pleasure of seeing our project to convert the Annexe to Longford Court into further accommodation for fully residential use, almost completed.

Money for this project has come from many sources, the largest amount being raised by the Apprentices of B P Wales on a sponsored walk. Not content to helping in this wonderful way, the local B P Apprentices are putting the finishing touches to their complete decorating of the Annexe, and when this is completed, hopefully in early November, the Neath Round Table are to fully carpet the Annexe from the proceeds of the Neath Carnival.

Eight more autistic youngsters will then have a home at Longford Court, and it is hoped that the Annexe will allow a degree of freedom to the youngsters, and encourage self help in a caring environment.

Just what can be achieved by the young people given the chance and plenty of encouragement, is demonstrated by the fact that [REDACTED], one of the residents at Longford, and [REDACTED], a member of staff, completed the Cardiff Marathon in September, twenty six long, hard miles. Months of hard training went into this event, and to make it more special, we are to have a third share of the marathon money. The money from the Marathon will be used to provide further staff accommodation, so that rooms at present used by staff living in, will be free to place additional residents. This will be our next project.

A Flag Day was held in Swansea in September, raising £185. and a stall was arranged at the Afan Lido Motor Show, also in September. This raised £300. and we were very pleased to sell toys made at Longford to [REDACTED] who opened the show.

We have arranged an Open Day at Longford Court on 13th November, and are confident that the response by the local Community will be favourable, as it has been in the past.

We in the Society have been very pleased that a Conference has been arranged in Cardiff in November, and hope that it will be a great success. [REDACTED], vice-president of the Society, has been very active in this field, and also in setting up a further Conference in the Spring at Hensol Castle Hospital, where there are many autistic persons.

HAMPSHIRE SOCIETY

Publicity Officer: [REDACTED]

There are a number of changes to report in the Hampshire Society, in particular the election of a new executive committee, including three professional members, and a planned change in status from registered charity to company limited by guarantee. When this is approved, it is hoped that the name of the Society will be changed to The Hampshire Society for Autistic Children and Adults.

Both our units have had a busy year, and the fetes at Hope Lodge (organised by [REDACTED]) and Anglesey Lodge (organised by [REDACTED]) and [REDACTED] each raised over £700 towards their respective Mini-Bus Appeals. An exciting innovation at Hope Lodge is the imminent arrival of two computers, as part of a research project to investigate the use of computers in teaching autistic children. This has come about thanks to the determination of [REDACTED] and a generous grant from the Mental Health Foundation. Also at Hope Lodge there has been a "face-lift", with the painting of the exterior now complete, and a connecting porch between the two buildings well under way, the total cost being around £10 - 11,000. Anglesey Lodge is being expanded to provide three additional places, bringing the total number of trainees to twenty.

We are now turning our thoughts to the all important area of long-term care, and proposals are being drafted for a possible new unit to be set up in partnership with the Departments of Health and Social Services. The cost for a unit with about sixteen places is likely to be in the region of £60 - 80,000, and it is likely that a major appeal will be launched in the not too distant future.

In another new venture the Society is in the process of appointing a part-time salaried Welfare and Executive Officer, whose job will be to assist parents with the welfare aspects of dealing with their autistic children, and we are delighted to be the first local Society to be taking this step.

Finally we are sorry to report that [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] have decided to take a rest after 8 years with the Southampton Action Group, but would like to place on record our thanks and admiration for the magnificent sum of £13,000 which they have raised, and which has been used in the setting up of Anglesey Lodge and as grants towards Hope Lodge.

JOURNAL OF AUTISM AND DEVELOPMENTAL DISORDERS, 1983

The NSAC will soon be arranging a bulk order for the above journal for 1983. The price has not risen again and is considerably less than that charged to individuals.

As we cannot accept orders after we have sent our bulk order to the U.S.A., it is essential, if you wish to receive the Journal, to let us have your reply by week ending 11th FEBRUARY, 1983

The price for 1983, including postage and packing, is £15.00.

To: The National Society for Autistic Children,
276, Willesden Lane, London, NW2 5RB.

I wish to order the Journal of Autism and Developmental Disorders for
1983 - one year (4 copies)

NAME: (Block letters
please)

ADDRESS:
.....
.....

I enclose cheque/postal order value £15.00

EALING LEAP DAY CENTRE

6, Florence Road, Ealing, London, W5 3TX.
Tel: 01-579 6281

The Ealing LEAP Centre is a day provision for the 16 years and upwards age group. Emphasis is placed on increasing and developing life, social and occupational skills. The Centre aims to promote independence and self awareness in the students. It is not a long term facility, but provides a preparation for adult life in future placement.

Although courses average at 5 year duration, each individual's long term needs are the deciding factor. Moving on from LEAP takes place after the fullest consideration by all those involved. Very close links are kept with parents, who are invited to make regular visits to the Centre. Social skills and work experience are developed in the urban community within which the Centre is set.

Applications should preferably be made through a social worker, careers' officer, present school or placement. Involvement of the student's local authority is essential since fees and transport costs are paid by them. We invite applications on behalf of young people for whom daily travel to Ealing would be feasible.

PETERHOUSE SCHOOL

Applications for children aged from five to sixteen years, may now be submitted to the Selection Board.

Applications must be in writing and should ordinarily be made by the Local Education Authority responsible for the child, although parents may send additional information direct if they wish. In any case they will be asked to fill in a Questionnaire. All applications should be accompanied by or followed up with Medical, Social, School, Psychological and Psychiatric reports.

It is suggested that parents should either ask their Consultant Psychiatrist to approach the Local Education Authority, or get in touch with them direct. In any cases of difficulty, the National Society will, of course, be pleased to advise.

Applications should be sent to: The Selection Board,
Peterhouse School for Autistic Children,
32, Chambres Road, Southport,
Merseyside, PR8 6JG.
