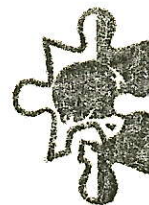


NEWSLETTER



THE NATIONAL SOCIETY FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN

1a Golders Green Road, London, NW11

LATE PRESS - SEPTEMBER, 1982

WE'RE MOVING

Since 1967 the administrative office of the Society has been rented at 1a, Golders Green Road; now we have purchased a house in Willesden which will allow us to expand our activities. The ground floor will be devoted to a Conference/Meeting/Seminar room with a small refectory. The administrative offices will be upstairs.

The Inge Wakehurst Memorial Trust has agreed to equip the meeting room so that we shall be able to increase our "education about autism" activities. The room is being designed so that it can be used for family purposes too.

We hope that if the demand is there, we shall be able to arrange parties for children; teen-age activities; parent gatherings and so on. Obviously these can only be available to those living within a reasonable distance, but we would like to think that eventually Willesden Lane will become a meeting place on occasions for all members of the Society.

We hope to move at the beginning of December and our address will be :

276, Willesden Lane,
London, N.W. 2.

DON'T FORGET

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

on

2nd OCTOBER, 1982

WE'RE TWENTY-ONE NEXT YEAR

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Next year the National Society for Autistic Children comes of age, and the Society's 21st Birthday is seen as an opportunity to emphasise what still needs to be achieved for autistic children and adults and for raising the money to allow this to happen.

The Society's 21st Birthday will be launched in March next year. It will start with something for children . . . a special Birthday edition of 'TAKE A SEAT', which has been undertaken so successfully on two previous occasions. There will also be an 'adult' launch of an entirely different nature, still to be decided.

██████████ and ██████████, together with the Fund-Raising Committee, are developing a schedule of all sorts of appeals and events. New literature is in preparation and it is hoped that there will also be a poster campaign.

1983 should provide some tremendous opportunities, nationally and for every local Society as well. It is hoped that everyone will use the 21st Birthday as a means of furthering their own appeals, getting into their local press and onto local radio and television. Press kits carrying the anniversary message will be prepared and sent by Group 70 Press Office to all Local Societies. Even now it would be a good idea for each Society to appoint 'spokesmen', not only to speak to the media, but to take up appointments as speakers for Rotary lunches, W.I. meetings, etc., etc. In the near future there will be a chance to discuss the campaign and your involvement - possibly at the A.G.M.

The aim throughout the year is to highlight the achievements as well as to pinpoint the existing and future needs of the National and Local Societies. There will be lots of opportunities to attract media support, and because maximum impact is important it is the intention of the Press Office to have a fairly low key National Autistic Week this November It would after all, be foolish to fire all our guns in the autumn when we will need them again in the Spring

We look forward to working with you for this exciting year.

██████████
Group 70 - Press Officer

FUND

RAISING

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A STUDENT IN THE FAMILY ?

PLEASE HELP US TO PAVE THE WAY!

If you are the brother or sister of an autistic child and currently attending a university or polytechnic, we have a special request:

PLEASE TELL US HOW TO CONTACT THE PERSON OR PERSONS
RESPONSIBLE FOR ORGANISING YOUR RAG WEEK

The first stage of our 21st ANNIVERSARY CAMPAIGN will be launched later this year and schools, universities and polytechnics will be approached. We hope in particular, to attract as much support as possible through Rag Week activities, so please assist us by forwarding information as soon as possible.

We hope you might also be prepared to pave the way by talking about the Society and by dropping our literature whenever and wherever you can.

DON'T FORGET - the National doesn't only raise funds for the National, it also supports the bricks and mortar projects of its local affiliates.

TAKE A SEAT

The "SECRET OF NIMH" is the film being shown at the National's "Take A Seat" in March, 1983. This event is being arranged to coincide with the launch of our 21st Anniversary Campaign.

Hundreds of London's handicapped and underprivileged children will be invited to join the special celebrations - but why restrict festivities to London when there are other equally suitable city centres to consider?

Local Societies are invited to organise satellite events and thus make the 21st Anniversary "Take A Seat" a truly NATIONAL event.

Written guidelines are now available. Please contact [redacted] or [redacted] at Head Office.

JIGSAW LUNCHEON CIRCLES

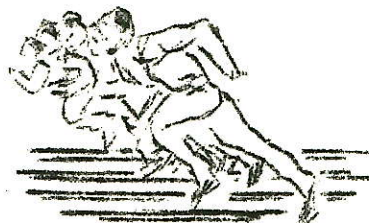
IT'S EASY to be a Jigsaw Luncheon Circle Hostess . . . why not take advantage of our sociable and very simple way to raise many thousands of pounds for autistic people?

WANT TO KNOW HOW? Don't delay - 'phone or write now to [redacted] or [redacted] at Head Office, who will be only too pleased to tell you more.

LONDON MARATHON

Nearly all of our 32-strong team completed the 26.2 mile Gillette London Marathon on 9th May. Between them they have to date raised in excess of £4,500 - a really splendid achievement.

It is nice to know that there's more money to come and that other keen athletes are continuing to support us through their participation in various events this summer and autumn.



WIN A BEST WESTERN "GETAWAY" BREAK

..... POSTAGE STAMPS TO ENTER OUR A.G.M. DRAW

Best Western Hotels have kindly donated a two night "Getaway" Break for two people at their Hotel Norwich in Norwich.

The holiday, which must be taken before 1st March, 1983, includes bed, breakfast and dinner or lunch. It has a value of £80. approximately.

If you would like a chance to visit one of Britain's most historic cities and stay in a premier hotel, simply fill in the coupon below and send it together with 50p. in UNUSED POSTAGE STAMPS to:

The National Society for Autistic Children,
1a, Golders Green Road, London, NW11 8EA.

For more than one chance, send multiples of 50p. in unused postage stamps.

Entry coupons received by Friday, 1st October, 1982 will be included in the A.G.M. Draw on 2nd October.

BEST WESTERN "GETAWAY" BREAK DRAW

I enclose POSTAGE STAMPS to the value of I
would like chance/s in the Draw.

Name

Address

.....

..... Tel. Number

Please attach
stamps lightly
here.

CLOSING DATE - 1st OCTOBER, 1982

STOP PRESS!!

Books of tickets for the Annual Jigsaw Raffle will be circulated in the December issue of the Newsletter. Anyone requiring more than One Book should contact Head Office by 15th October, 1982.

COURSES AND CONFERENCES

NATIONAL SOCIETY CONFERENCES

10th November, 1982 - One Day Conference 'Problems of Communication and Learning in Children' The N.S.A.C. in association with University College, Cardiff.

28th - 30th September, 1984 - The Society's National Conference will be held at Bath University.

Further information will be given at a later date.

THE INGE WAKEHURST MEMORIAL TRUST FUND

11th - 13th March, 1983 - A Study Week-end on 'Autistic Adolescents and Adults' at Burton Manor in the Wirral. Suitable for all those who work with autistic people.

Programme will concentrate on giving practical help. Fee: £30.00.
(For further details, contact [REDACTED] at N.S.A.C. Head Office)

A similar Course is being run on 29th - 31st October, 1982 at Urchfont Manor, Devizes, Wiltshire. This is now fully booked, but we might have cancellations.

THE WESSEX SOCIETY

5th - 7th November, 1982 - A Conference at Pontin's Wick Ferry, Christchurch, Dorset. Well known specialists from various disciplines will speak on diagnosis, assessment, education, language development, family support and future prospects. There will be a section devoted to the International scene.

Accommodation £40. plus Conference Fee of £25.

Day Attendance £10. per day.

Application and enquiries to: The Conference Organiser,
Portfield School, 14, Stour Road,
Christchurch, Dorset, BH23 IPS.

EUROPEAN ASSOCIATIONS FOR AUTISTIC CHILDREN

10th - 12th June, 1983 - A Week-end Conference in Paris.

Further enquiries from: ASITP, 237, rue Marcadet, Paris, 75018.

ROYAL SOCIETY FOR MENTALLY HANDICAPPED CHILDREN AND ADULTS
123, Golden Lane, London, EC1Y 0RT

15th October, 1982 - One Day Conference at the Mermaid Theatre, Blackfriars, London, E.C.4. 'Partnership in Care' - Details from R.S.M.H.C.A.

ASSOCIATION OF RESIDENTIAL COMMUNITIES FOR THE RETARDED

24th - 26th September, 1982 - The ARC is holding a Residential Seminar at All Saints Pastoral Centre, St. Albans.

For details apply to: ARC., c/o. P.O.Box 4,
Lydney, Glos. GL15 6ST.

COURSES AT CASTLE PRIORY COLLEGE, OXON.

20th - 24th September, 1982 - Behaviour Modification

4th - 8th October, 1982 - Disabled School Leavers

14th - 17th October, 1982 - Workshop: Behaviour Modification, Observation Techniques and Goal Planning with 'problem' children.

31st October - 5th November, 1982 - Technology and Disabled Children.

For further details apply to: Castle Priory College,
Thames Street, Wallingford, Oxon. OX10 0HE

BRITISH INSTITUTE OF MENTAL HANDICAP

24th September, 1982 - Advising Parents in the Home

30th September, 1982 - Who can we count on - The future care of People with Mental Handicap

24th September, 1982 - Risk Taking

24th September/1st October/8th October/15th October, 1982 - The Nature of Mental Handicap and Assessment.

22nd October/29th October/5th November/12th November, 1982 - Working with Children

19th November/26th November/3rd December/10th December, 1982 - Working with Adults.

12th - 15th October, 1982 - Counselling and the Nurse.

8th October, 1982 - The Care, Treatment and Management of the Mentally Abnormal Offender.

8th October, 1982 - The Mentally Handicapped Offender.

4th October - 8th October, 1982)

11th October - 15th October, 1982) Course for Community Nurses

1st November - 5th November, 1982) Working in the Field of Mental Handicap.

8th November - 12th November, 1982)

24th September, 1982 - Ethnic Minority Families with a Mentally Handicapped Child.

For further details apply to: British Institute of Mental Handicap,
Wolverhampton Road, Kidderminster,
Worcestershire, DY10 3PP.

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.

TOY LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION

1. ACTIVE Worksheets

Four new Worksheets have been added to the range of design for play, leisure, learning and communication aids.

2. ACTIVE Autumn Conference and Exhibition

Date: Saturday, 30th October, 1982

Venue: London College of Furniture, Commercial Road, London, E.1.

3. "Developing a Toy Library"

Date: 17th - 19th September, 1982

Venue: Digby Stuart College, Roehampton Lane, London, S.W.15.

This week-end residential course will focus on ways of developing an existing toy library and will include speakers with direct experience in the field of children with special or social needs.

Further information from: The Toy Libraries Association,
Seabrook House,
Darkes Lane,
Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 2HL.

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OFFER OF HELP

Psychology student living in Uxbridge, with previous experience of working with autistic children, is willing to "baby-sit" for families in her area. If you are interested, please contact:



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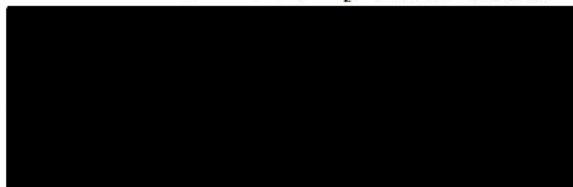
CONTACTS WANTED

A family with an autistic boy, moving to York in the near future, would like to contact other families with autistic children in the area. Please get in touch with:



The mother of a six year old autistic girl, now living in Nigeria, would dearly love to correspond with a family in this country. She feels very isolated and uncertain about how to help her child, and would like to be in touch with other parents here.

She is:



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CHRISTMAS CARDS



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Cards are available now for distribution, and everyone's help in selling them would be much appreciated.

If you can take some on a sale or return basis, and sell them at your place of work, please let me know. If you can persuade your friends to send in an order, that also will help.

Could you give a Christmas Card Party, or could you run a Card Stall somewhere? Any bright ideas?

Just ring [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] or write to her at:



Overprinting can be arranged at the following rates:-

Up to	50	Cards	-	£9.00	+	VAT
" "	100	"	-	£10.50	+	VAT
" "	200	"	-	£12.50	+	VAT
" "	300	"	-	£14.00	+	VAT
" "	500	"	-	£16.50	+	VAT
" "	1,000	"	-	£23.00	+	VAT

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EALING PARENTS GROUP

A group of parents of autistic children living in or near to Ealing is being started by [REDACTED] - discussions and socials.

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

CONGRATULATIONS to [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

a 7lb Son - [REDACTED]

31st May, 1982

NEWS

FROM REGIONS

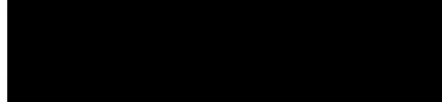
AND AREAS

AND LOCAL SOCIETIES

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SOMERSET COURT

Newsletter Correspondent:



It has been some time since I wrote about Somerset Court. The residents are kept busy with craft and woodwork, printing, weaving, looking after the animals and the garden and the music group and bell-ringers are much in demand at local festivities.

The appalling weather last December culminated in the failure of electricity in Brent Knoll and the Court was without light, heat or hot water for five days. However, the staff managed to cook Christmas Dinner - Turkey cooked by calor gas - and a Christmas Party. One of the members of staff worked long and hard fixing up generators and emergency schemes so that the Court could have some light where most needed and power to save the food in the deep freezer. The young people reacted very well to the inconvenience, apart from the odd one demanding that [REDACTED] should stop the snow and turn on the light! However, it was very apparent that another generator was needed and the parents will be holding a Bazaar in Ealing on the 6th November, in order to raise money for it.

By the time this Newsletter appears, Somerset Court will have had its own Summer Fair - on the 7th August - and hopefully this will be a great success, as usual. It is certainly always a very pleasant occasion.

[REDACTED] and her family have purchased and arranged for a grove of trees to be planted at Somerset Court in memory of [REDACTED]. The Mid-Counties Autistic Society have given money to purchase materials to make a garden seat which will be suitably inscribed and placed where the trees are planted.

MID-COUNTIES AUTISTIC SOCIETY:

Hon. Secretary:



In this Newsletter we can report much progress. Due to the considerable assets, now in excess of £110,000, it was decided to register the Society as a company limited by guarantee. This means that the former Oxford and Mid-Counties Society for Autistic Children, is now re-named Mid-Counties Autistic Society.

Title has now been acquired to the property near Minchinhampton, formerly called Longfords School, and now renamed Stroud Court. Substantial progress has been made in renovating the buildings in preparation

for the opening in 1983.

Mention must also be made of the very enlightened help MIDCAS had from the Department of Health & Social Services in buying this property. Substantial repayment liabilities were due to the D.H.S.S., when the Department relinquished its interest in the property. This arose from major capital expenditure which they had funded and were entitled to recover. However, MIDCAS were able to persuade D.H.S.S. to transfer this liability as a form of loan to the Society whilst the house is used for the benefit of autistic people.

Now that the D.H.S.S. and Treasury solicitor have successfully worked out the complicated legal processes involved, they are prepared to consider extending this scheme to other Societies. There are a number of other large properties notably in Kent, Sussex, nr. London, Wales, etc., where outstanding liabilities might be deferred to suitable voluntary Societies. Enquiries should be made to [REDACTED] D.H.S.S. Tel. 01-407 5522, Ext. 6467.

Finally we bring to your attention the Treasure Sale which will be held in the grounds of Stroud Court on Saturday, 2nd October, 1982. Some 80 lots have already been collected, comprising objects d'art, jewellery, guns, wines, pictures and similar desirable items. [REDACTED] of Messrs. Bruton Knowles & Co., has agreed to value the lots. Donors of further items would be welcome for this professionally conducted event - please telephone Cunmor 2827 with offers.

DEVON & CORNWALL SOCIETY

Hon. Secretary: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] has been appointed to the position of Principal of St. Erme House Autistic Community, and will take up his post later this year. [REDACTED] is married with four children and we are all looking forward to getting to know him and his family better when they move to Cornwall.

St. Erme is looking a bit sorry now, because the builders have taken possession! But it is exciting to watch as the work progresses and things begin to take shape.

Some stalwart work is being carried out by one of our parents, [REDACTED], and members of the local Round Table who are managing to keep the garden looking respectable, in spite of builders' skips and rubble. The Round Table are already planning a Bonfire Night Party, and there are long-term plans for garden fetes, folk dances, etc.

In the meantime, there is the ever-present need to raise funds

SOUTH YORKSHIRE SOCIETY

Hon. Secretary: [REDACTED]

It has been pointed out to me that it is many years since our activities were reported in the Newsletter. The following reminiscences attempt to rectify that omission:

(I suppose that reminiscing about the past few years may be useful in that the same could happen to other Societies. Conversely, perhaps each

Society is in a sense unique; different people working in different environments, meeting and solving different problems in a different way).

We were formed in the early 70's by the usual group of parents and their friends. Our aims were to bring the problems of autistic children to the notice of the appropriate local authorities and to provide a school. We achieved these aims by the founding of Storm House School and by the establishment of good relations with most (not all) authorities in our catchment area. Storm House, now run by the N.S.A.C. provides 9 residential and 3 day places for children up to the age of 16. We had the usual traumas at the start, not enough money and little response from the authorities, but happily these are now behind us and the school goes from strength to strength.

The founding of the school formed a watershed for our Society. We found that numbers, energy and commitment reduced markedly after N.S.A.C. took over. We in fact "wound down" in a number of ways. We reduced from an active dozen or so to a passive half-dozen. We did little in the way of fund-raising or of pressurising authorities. These activities were taken up by the staff of the school (an excellent bunch) and some of the parents. (It should be noted that no children of Society parents attend Storm House, which is perhaps significant). Some of our members retain links with the school in a variety of ways such as membership of the Managing Body and/or "P.T.A."

The South Yorkshire Society, therefore, does not play an active day to day part in running the school. We do, of course, take a great interest in it and retain a great fondness for it. We use it once a month or so for our meetings (and constantly marvel at the transformation that has taken place) and some of our members still think of it as our school, despite what N.S.A.C. might think!

We are involved, to some degree or other, in two initiatives being taken at the moment. The first is the creation of an adult unit, and this is being lead very enthusiastically by the parents of the Storm House children. We don't take a very active part in this, but we did, I think, help them to get started.

The other is the creation of what we call a "half way house". This is the purchase of a small house within reasonable distance of the school, that would be used by two house parents and four or five of the older pupils. This would allow a more normal environment for these children and hence help their development. It would also, if done in conjunction with other structural alterations at the school, allow us to increase the number of pupils from twelve to (say) sixteen. This is a project, the brain child of one of the teachers, that we are very committed to for a number of reasons:

- it will enhance the development of the children,
- it will allow us to help more children,
- and it will show that we are capable of development, both in the structural and educational sense.

We doubt if we can achieve this alone and we are presently discussing ideas with the N.S.A.C. but we have looked at some property, explored planning permission and have got a bit of money to put into the kitty. We are, therefore, not moribund, despite our small numbers and our lack of news over the years.

A final note on goodwill. We did at one stage consider disbanding, but decided to continue to meet, to tick over, and hence, to keep the name alive. This has paid off occasionally. For example, in 1982 we received a gift for auction from Clarence House, with a card signed by the Queen Mother, and in the same week, two cheques for £400 each. One from a local charity and the other from the Jubilee Trust. The other point about continuing is, of course, the continued presence in the area of a group of people, however small, with the interests of autistic persons at heart.

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GULWORTHY SCHOOL

Gulworthy School for Autistic Children will have vacancies for termly boarding boys in 1983.

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:

██████████ Principal,
Gulworthy School,
The Old Rectory, Gulworthy,
Tavistock, Devon, PL19 8JA.
Tel: Tavistock 832281

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ST. ERME HOUSE
Nr. Truro, Cornwall

Applications for young people over 16 years may now be submitted to the Selection Board of this small residential unit.

Parents will be required to complete a Questionnaire and to provide permission for confidential Medical, Social, School, Psychological and Psychiatric reports. If there is any difficulty the Devon & Cornwall Society for Autistic Children, will be pleased to advise.

Applications should be sent to:

The Selection Board,
Devon & Cornwall Autistic Community,
c/o. St. Lawrence's Hospital,
Bodmin, Cornwall.

and marked "For the attention of ██████████

(Hon. Medical Adviser)

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