

Welcome to the August - September 22 issue of Surrey News

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Please note: Some of the articles in the front of the newsletter include information for young people and adults.

We are delighted to welcome Paul Clements as our new Chair after he was voted in at our AGM on 27th June, following two months as acting Chair.

"I have now been involved in our wonderful Branch for about three months and wanted to give you all a quick overview of what is happening.

Like everything else during the pandemic, many of our Branch activities had to stop, and those that continued all took place virtually.

Your Committee very much hopes that you will again attend events we put on or take part in. A few of the recent ones have been very poorly attended and no doubt this is due to the fact that we have all got out of the habit of meeting others in person.

Such events offer a good opportunity to meet and share experiences, so please do make an effort to attend and support each other and your Branch.

We are seeking to particularly focus on what the Branch can do for those of you who are parents of children, so watch this space.

I well understand that what all of you want and need is far better services across the board in Surrey to support those with autism, or who care for someone who is neuro-diverse. This, of course, extends through education, preparation for adulthood, housing for adults, employment and above all else, proper and speedy diagnosis and then care, support and help at all necessary health levels. Please see my update on the All Age Autism Strategy on page 3.

With my warmest best wishes to you all.

Paul M. Clements,
Chair

NAS Surrey Branch

Email: surrey.branch@nas.org.uk

Website: <https://NASSurreyBranch.org>

Facebook: @NASSurreyBranch

Donations: www.justgiving.com/nassurreybranch

NAS Surrey Branch Contacts

General Information

Branch Mobile: 07423 435413
surrey.branch@nas.org.uk

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Paul Clements

Deputy Chair /

Spouses and Partners Group

Sara Truman strumansurrey@gmail.com

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Parents of Girls' Group

Sally Roberts

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Parents of Adults' Group

Hilary Dyce hilarydyce@yahoo.co.uk

Parents of Children with PDA Group

Sara Truman strumansurrey@gmail.com

Other Activities:

Jill Goulding

Jo Dilworth

Lisa Mangum

Rachel Pearson

Rachel Boyce-Davies

Jacqueline Bouette

Jason Malschuk

POSTAL ADDRESS

NAS Surrey Branch
c/o Walton Charities,
2 Quintet, Churchfield Road,
Walton on Thames KT12 2TZ

NB: No NAS staff / volunteers work here.

Other Useful Contacts

Unless clearly stated, organisations are not endorsed by NAS Surrey Branch or the NAS.

NAS website: <https://www.autism.org.uk/>

NAS membership: <https://bit.ly/3l84tBW>

Education Support

NAS Education Rights: <https://bit.ly/3BTfux6>

SEND Advice Surrey: 01737 737300

www.sendadvice.surrey.org.uk

SOS!SEN charity to support EHCPs etc, Tel: 020 8538 3731, Web: www.sossen.org.uk

Family Support & Representation

Mindworks www.mindworks-surrey.org

Portage – support for children with SEND

under 3.5 years <https://bit.ly/3zLW635>

Family Voice Surrey parent representation

www.familyvoicesurrey.org

Action for Carers tel: 0303 040 1234

<https://www.actionforcarers.org.uk/>

Parent Programmes

NAS Stepping Up For Autism course

Email: Surrey.FamilySupport@nas.org.uk

Activities for children and young people

NAS Resource Centre, Godalming: 01483

521743 SEResourceCentres@nas.org.uk

interAKtive, Epsom-based charity for children with ASCs and other difficulties
07876 762178 www.interaktive.org.uk

Adult Services

Surrey Adult Social Svcs: 0300 200 1005

NAS Surrey Service Tel: 01483 861600,

email: surrey.service@nas.org.uk

Employment Support

Employability for people with disabilities including ASCs Tel: 01483 806806

<https://bit.ly/3f8WXTu>

AS Mentoring specialist mentoring and employment support for autistic people
<https://asmentoring.co.uk/>

Benefits advice

For children: <https://bit.ly/3xblygN>

For adults: <https://bit.ly/3ydoXNq>

Cerebra Downloadable DLA guide:

<https://bit.ly/3lpEoyh>

Surrey All Age Autism Strategy Update

From Paul Clements, Chair, NAS Surrey Branch:

"The commencement of the five year process under the Surrey All Age Autism Strategy, our part of the National Strategy driven by the government began in September 2021. Using my own years of experience both in business and through having a 39 year old son with autism (and thus, over the last 25 and more years, having gone through all the trials and tribulations and now able to see the outcome of society's lack of attention), I am not only taking a very close interest in the Strategy, but have become deeply involved in it on your behalf.

"I attend all the Workstream meetings and have started a dialogue with a range of senior people within Surrey CC involved in the planning. The first 9 months has achieved little other than structural organisation and I am pushing to ensure that we begin to see real results, but that has yet to happen, as most of you will be aware.

"We have to temper desire with realism. Everything comes down to funding and you don't need me to tell you there is precious little of that available these days. But, we all have to see improvement and by the end of the project in 2026, something very tangible. I will keep you all advised of any progress.

"We need more members, as that not only helps us organise things, but increases our profile within Surrey County Council. Please mention the NAS Surrey Branch whenever and wherever you can and please also remember that if you pay a subscription to the NAS, you can nominate the Branch to receive a share of what you pay."

You can download a copy of the Strategy here: <https://bit.ly/3zFy4cF>

NAS Award for Our Treasurer, Haywood Drake

The NAS Surrey Branch's Treasurer, Haywood Drake, has been given an award for longstanding commitment to NAS branches. It was presented in an online ceremony by NAS CEO Caroline Stevens and Chair of Trustees, Stephen Ladyman.

Haywood has been a member of the NAS Surrey Branch for more than 25 years, having attended his first meeting in 1996, when the branch was only 9 months old! He joined the committee in 1999, representing autistic adults, and the following year set up our Branch Library. In 2013 he took over as Treasurer, and has held that post ever since, having been voted in once again at our AGM in June.

He has also been heavily involved in the development of Surrey's Autism Strategy. He is part of a reference group of autistic adults who have been consulted throughout the development of the strategy, and attends two working groups which are implementing different parts of the strategy. He does all this while working full-time, and sometimes has to take time off work to attend meetings. Many congratulations to Haywood for this well-deserved recognition.

NAS Art Competition

As part of its 60th anniversary celebrations, NAS is running an art competition for aspiring autistic artists around the theme of 60 years of the National Autistic Society. They are looking for art or photography that illustrates how far the charity and attitudes towards autistic people have come over the last 60 years, and what things might look like in the future for autistic and neurodiverse people.

The competition closes on 14th August. For details, go to: <https://bit.ly/3S0baUM>

If you have problems clicking on any links, you may need to paste them into your browser

Talk on Autistic Experience, Gender and Sexuality – 22nd Sept

We are delighted to be hosting Dr Annette Foster PhD from Aucademy <https://aucademy.co.uk/>, to deliver an online seminar on *Autistic Experience, Gender and Sexuality* on Thursday, 22nd September from 7.30 to 9:30pm.

Annette will give a critical perspective on autism, presenting a tangible and varied autistic experience perspective and explain why autism is not a white male experience. The session includes:

- Defining what “autism” is and what is autistic experience
- Busting myths and providing the language of autistic culture
- Why are we seeing more autistic females?
- Why do there seem to be more LGBTQIA+ autistic people than neuro-typical ones?
- Masking and the bias in literature and diagnosis
- Gender and sexual fluidity and diversity
- Why autistic people are NeuroQueer (even if cisgender and straight)
- Autistic gender and sexuality

Dr Annette Foster describes herself as: *“An autistic, dyslexic, dyspraxic, non-binary person with attention differences. I was diagnosed at the age of 39, after years of feeling confused, frustrated and alienated, because I was aware of my difference but I didn't know how I was different. After years of misdiagnosis and a lifetime struggle with mental health issues, I finally had an answer. I am different, and I know why - I am autistic!”*

To book a place at this exciting seminar, please click on this Eventbrite link <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/autistic-experience-gender-and-sexuality-registration-385026684177> (Please only book one place per device, regardless of how many people will view the event on the device).

Have Your Say on Surrey's Young carers strategy

Surrey County Council and its NHS partners have drafted the Young Carers Strategy for 2022 – 2024, which you can read here: <https://www.surreysays.co.uk/csf/young-carers-strategy-consultation/> Easy read versions are also available.

They are looking for feedback on the draft strategy to ensure nothing is missed, that it accurately reflects the needs of Young Carers in Surrey and that the strategic aims will allow them to best meet those needs.

All the responses will be collated and used to further develop the strategy, which will then sit alongside the Adult Carers Strategy to provide an all-age strategy for carers in Surrey. The consultation closes on 8th August.

Holiday Activities at Elysian Animal Assisted Therapy and Learning

Elysian Animal Assisted Therapy charity based at Lordshill Common near Guildford are running a series of holiday activities including opportunities for families to volunteer with the animals – including their 'Gleeful Goats' event! They also run summer camps and private family sessions.

For details go to: <http://elysianuk.org/events/>

New Home to School Transport Policy Published

Following the recent home to school transport consultation the new policy has now been published and can be viewed here:

<https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/schools/transport>

For those who claim a travel allowance, mileage will now be calculated using road routes rather than as the crow flies.

Family Voice Surrey has been campaigning for improvements to SEND transport and say they are now working closely with the Surrey County Council transport team on developing a parent guide which they will share with members as soon as it is available.

If you have any questions about the new policy you can contact

travel.assistance@surreycc.gov.uk

Family Voice Event Annual Event – Online and In-Person

The Parent Carer Forum Family Voice Surrey is holding its **annual event and AGM** over five days from 14th – 18th November.

There will be online events with specialist speakers, panel discussions, presentations, and training from experts from organisations including NHS, Surrey County Council and Contact, then an in-person meeting on Friday 18th November from 10am-2pm at Eastwood Leisure Centre in Woking.

Topics include growing up guidance, parent and child wellbeing, reasonable adjustments, paperwork and preparation and much more.

Speakers include author Yvonne Newbold who will discuss supporting anxiety-driven behaviour challenges, and SEN lawyer and expert Sarah Palmer from The Children's Legal Practice who will talk about reasonable adjustments and legal rights.

Tickets to the free day event are limited and **must be booked in advance** via Eventbrite. They will be issued on a first come first served basis.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/friday-18th-in-person-event-fvs-annual-event-and-agm-2022-tickets-339852145917>

SEND and Mainstream Disney Frozen Workshop in Guildford

Synergy Dance is running a dance workshop on the theme of Disney's Frozen on 11th August at Guildford Spectrum. The session is suitable for children with SEND and those in mainstream.

Spaces are limited. For details of this and other events or to book, go to

<https://bit.ly/3bhw2Gj>

SEN dance classes in Horley

A new dance school in Horley called 'All Dance Abilities' is offering classes for children with special educational needs on Friday afternoons from September. The cost is £7.00 per class if paid termly, or £7.50 per class if paid half-termly.

For details go to <https://alldanceabilities.co.uk/>

If you have problems clicking on any links, you may need to paste them into your browser

NAS SURREY BRANCH CALENDAR August - October 2022

Please note, all dates are provisional and could change due to unexpected events. Please contact the host if you are planning to attend a meeting so that they know numbers and to confirm that the meeting is going ahead.

ZOOM SUPPORT GROUP FOR PARENTS/CARERS OF AUTISTIC CHILDREN IN SURREY

Meets monthly during term-time. Your child does not need a diagnosis for you to attend. For Zoom links for these meetings, email support@nassurreybranch.org

Wednesday 14th September 10.00 am

Monday 17th October 8.00 pm

LOCAL IN-PERSON SUPPORT GROUPS

In-person support groups run by parent-volunteers for parents/carers of autistic children in Surrey. Your child does not need a diagnosis for you to attend.

Ashted – The Leg of Mutton and Cauliflower, 48, The Street, Ashted KT21 1AZ

Contact: Tarah Basu tarahbasu@googlemail.com

Wednesday 21st September 10.00 am

Wednesday 19th October 10.00 am

Frensham - Squires Garden Centre, The Reeds Road, Frensham GU10 3BP

Contact: Christine Malik christinemalik@btinternet.com and

[Bonnie Noyce JBNoyce@yahoo.com](mailto:BonnieNoyce@yahoocom)

Monday 12th September 9.15 – 11.00 am

Monday 10th October 9.15 – 11.00 am

Guildford

Contact: Sara Truman strumansurrey@gmail.com

Mon 12th Sept 7.30 – 9.30 pm **The White House, 8 High Street, Guildford GU2 4AJ**

Fri 14th Oct 10.00 am – 12.00 noon **Caffe Nero, 66 North St, Guildford GU1 4AH**

Hinchley Wood – via Zoom

Contact: Emily Gorvy email: emily.gorvy@hotmail.co.uk

Friday 30th Sept 9.30 – 11.30am

Woking – Edwins Garden Centre, Egley Road, Mayford, Woking GU22 0NH

Contact: Sarah Norris sarahnorris2003@gmail.com

Wednesday 7th Sept 10.00 – 11.30 am

Wednesday 5th Oct 10.00 – 11.30 am

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Parents of Girls Group – Woking and Guildford

Contact Sally Roberts sallyaroberts@hotmail.co.uk

A group for parents of girls. Meets about once a month during term-time.

Woking: Twelve Thirty Café, Christ Church, Jubilee Square, Woking GU21 6YG

Guildford: Costa Coffee, Spectrum Leisure Centre, Parkway, Guildford GU1 1UP

Wednesday 14th September 10.00 am – 12.00 noon Guildford

Tuesday 11th October 10.00 am – 12.00 noon Woking

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS / Cont'd

Parents of Adults Group

Face-to-face meetings in West and East Surrey alternate with Zoom meetings.
Contact hosts for venues/links.

Thurs 11th August 2.30 pm **Zoom** Contact Hilary Dyce hilarydyce@yahoo.co.uk
Weds 24th August 7.30 pm **Zoom** Contact Sara Truman strumansurrey@gmail.com
Tues 6th Sept 7.30 pm **Guildford** Contact Sara Truman strumansurrey@gmail.com
Weds 21st Sept 2.30 pm **Redhill** Contact Sara Truman strumansurrey@gmail.com
Thurs 6th October 2.30 pm **Zoom** Contact Hilary Dyce hilarydyce@yahoo.co.uk
Thurs 20th October 7.30 pm **Zoom** Contact Sara Truman strumansurrey@gmail.com

Spouses and Partners Group, Guildford

Contact Sara Truman strumansurrey@gmail.com

Evening meetings in Guildford for the partners of autistic people (no diagnosis necessary).

Wednesday 28th September 8.00 – 9.30 pm

Wednesday 26th October 8.00 – 9.30 pm

Parents of children and young people with Pathological Demand Avoidance

This group meets over Zoom. To receive the Zoom link contact Sara Truman strumansurrey@gmail.com

Thursday 25th August 8.00 – 9.00 pm

Thursday 29th September 8.00 – 9.00 pm

Thursday 27th October 8.00 – 9.00 pm

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Report: Talk by Michael Barton: *What Has Autism Ever Done For Us?*

The speaker at the NAS Surrey Branch AGM on Zoom in June was local author Michael Barton, who has written *It's Raining Cats and Dogs* and *A Different Kettle of Fish* (published by Jessica Kingsley).

His latest book, *What Has Autism Ever Done For Us? How the Autistic Way of Thinking Revolutionised the World*, looks at people through history who were probably autistic such as Isaac Newton, Alan Turing, Bill Gates, Albert Einstein and Andy Warhol and how much they contributed.

His talk was entitled *The Autism Advantage – Making the Most of Autistic Talent*. Michael began by describing himself as 'an optimistic autistic person'. As he explained, autism is becoming more prevalent with US statistics now suggesting that one person in 44 is on the spectrum. Yet according to the Office for National Statistics, only 22% of autistic people are in employment and those who are in work are paid an average of 33% less than their neurotypical co-workers.

Michael offered attendees tips about how to fit in in environments that can prove challenging for some autistic people, such as university or the workplace.

When he started university, he said he joined the Cheese Appreciation Society and the Dr Who Society, where he met people that he had plenty in common with!

He conceded that for many autistic adults, maintaining good mental health could be a challenge. But as he concluded: "The key is looking at your strengths."

Action for Carers Events

Action for Carers is running various events, including one specifically for carers of an autistic adult:

Coping with Caring for an Adult with Autism

Thurs 8th Sept 7.00 – 8.30 pm Led by Marie-Anne McKee from Space 2BU.

Carers Rights: Understanding Carers' Assessments

Friday 16th Sept. 10.30 – 12.00 noon Leatherhead Community Hub

Thurs 22nd Sept 10.30 – 12.00 noon online

This workshop will also be held in other Action for Carers Hubs in the next few months.

Places on these workshops must be booked in advance. To book, or for more information, email CSAdmin@actionforcarers.org.uk or call 0303 040 1234 option 1.

Action for Carers also runs a Zoom support group for carers of adults who have autism and a learning disability on the 4th Tuesday of every month. Contact details as above.

Online Webinar on Post-16 Education

The Independent Provider of Special Education Advice (known as IPSEA) is a registered charity that offers free and independent legally-based advice to help get the right education for children and young people with SEND.

They are running an online Webinar on Friday 9th September from 9:45am – 2.45pm for parents /carers of children approaching being above compulsory school age, or who are post-16. The session costs £65 for parent/carers.

Topics covered include:

- What your local authority and education setting should be doing to help
- The framework of the Children and Families Act 2014, including SEN support, EHC needs assessments, content of EHC plans and annual reviews
- How the Mental Capacity Act 2005 may apply
- Social care duties, including the transition from child to adult social care
- Transport duties relating to those over compulsory school age
- The content will be particularly relevant to those who are navigating post-16 education and training for the first time, as well as those who want to refresh their knowledge or gain a greater understanding of the law.

To book or for more information go to <https://www.ipsea.org.uk/Event/send-law-and-young-people-post-16-9th-september>

Include Choir

The Include Choir is for people with or without learning disabilities and meets in Epsom on Tuesday evenings and Redhill on Wednesday evenings. See <https://include.org/the-include-choir>.

The choir uses Makaton signing as well as singing. For details call 07446 897835 or email info@include.org.uk

Changes Affecting Autistic People in the Draft Mental Health Bill

The government is proposing a series of major reforms to how autistic people and those with a learning disability are treated in law as part of its newly published draft Mental Health Bill

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1093554/draft-mental-health-bill-print-ready.pdf

If the Bill is passed, autism will no longer be classed as a 'mental disorder' and will no longer be considered reasons for which someone can be detained for treatment under the Mental Health Act. People who are autistic or have a learning disability will only be detained if they have a co-occurring psychiatric disorder.

The bill also introduces a duty on the NHS and local authorities to ensure enough community services are in place to stop inappropriate detentions, and to prevent autistic people or people with a learning disability from reaching crisis point.

Similarly, local commissioners will have a legal obligation to carry out Care, Education and Treatment review meetings to help disabled children and adults get discharged from hospital sooner.

To find out more, visit Contact's information page <https://contact.org.uk/help-for-families/information-advice-services/health-medical-information/health/camhs/>

Free Legal Surgeries for Autistic People Detained in an ATU

Solicitors Irwin Mitchell are offering free legal surgeries online or by phone for families with someone detained in hospital or an Assessment and Treatment Unit on the first Monday of the month from 12 - 5pm in hourly slots. They are attended by a legal adviser who will discuss your query with you and advise you on what options you may have.

Clinics can be booked here: <https://events.irwinmitchell.com/atulegalsurgeries>
Slots are offered on a first-come first-served basis, but if it's full, you can ask to be added to the waiting list.

Thank You to Our Fundraisers!

Earlier this year, the Godalming Walking Football Club & Friends organisation ran an "FA Cup Predictions Quiz" for charity. The two winners were each able to choose the charity they wanted their winnings to be donated to, and Surrey Branch member **Andrew Elton** chose the NAS Surrey Branch. Many thanks to Andrew and the club members for the donation of £70.

Branch volunteer **Hilary Dyce**, who runs our West Surrey Parents of Adults Group, recently took on the challenge of completing the 30km Jurassic Coast Trek to fundraise for the NAS nationally. She said it was a long day, and the walk was tough going in places, but it was all worthwhile knowing that she was raising over £1,500 for the NAS thanks to the generosity of family and friends. Hilary also said that the NAS Events team were lovely and the event was very well organised.

For information about national fundraising events such as cycling, running and trekking, as well as less challenging activities organized by the Events team at NAS head office, go to: <https://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/raise-money>

RESEARCH REQUESTS

Research On Technology Use By Teens with Autism & LDs

A team of researchers from the Universities of Surrey, Oxford, Edinburgh, and Dublin City, along with Autistica, are researching patterns of technology use in autistic young people age 13 – 18 who also have learning disabilities. They are looking into the types of devices being used, the types of activities the technology supports, how much time is spent using technology, and what limits or restrictions there may be. They will also explore how tech use relates to social skills and social vulnerability.

The researchers would like to recruit parents/caregivers of individuals who have autism with a learning disability (aged between 13-18 years) who they hope will participate with their son/daughter. The study can be completed entirely online, and participants can withdraw at any time.

The study has two parts – an online questionnaire about your son/daughter's technology use, their social skills and social vulnerability (approx. 25 mins) and another one for your son/daughter (approx. 10 mins). Those who complete the questionnaire (including both caregivers and young people) will be offered a £5 voucher and can request a summary report. **Note: parents can take part even if their son/daughter can't or doesn't wish to.**

For more information, contact Louise Irvine (li00130@surrey.ac.uk) or Katie Gilligan-Lee (k.gilligan@surrey.ac.uk) or call 01483 68 4888).

Autism and Ageing Research Project - Online Survey

A team from UCL Division of Psychology and Language Sciences is conducting a study to find out more about the healthcare needs of autistic people aged 50 or over. The research aims to explore things that help or hinder people in accessing healthcare with the hope that the findings will show how services can better meet the needs of autistic people aged 50 or over.

They are seeking autistic adults aged 50 or over to take part, either with formal diagnosis or those who think they are autistic (self-identify). They want to include people who have learning disabilities and autism and you can take part by yourself or with help from someone else.

You will be asked to complete a survey anonymously, or you can provide your contact details if you'd like follow-up information. They want to know about what helps people access support and what barriers they might experience

Everyone who completes the survey and provides their contact details will be entered into a prize draw to win one of five £20 vouchers.

All data collected in the survey will be anonymised, analysed and used in two doctorate research projects. They aim to finish the project by September 2023.

You can download further information here

https://uclpsych.eu.qualtrics.com/CP/File.php?F=F_2tW9n3JNvTww62O or email amy.gillions.20@ucl.ac.uk or hassan.mansour.17@ucl.ac.uk for more information.

INFORMATION FOR ADULTS, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

Course for Parents and Partners of Autistic Adults

The NAS Surrey Branch is hosting a two-day course for parents and spouses or partners of autistic adults run by Tini Riese and Howard Childs of Alongside Autism. It is called PAPA – Positive Approaches to Partnering/Parenting Autism and topics covered over the two days will include:

- Understanding autism
- Communication
- Anxiety and mental health,
- Relationships,
- Change and transitions
- Sensory differences

The course is being held in Guildford on Saturday 10th September and Saturday 8th October, from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm. **NB the course content is spread over the two days, so participants need to attend both days.**

To reserve your place, there's a deposit of £10, refundable on attending both days. For full details and to book, please email surrey.branch@nas.org.uk If you aren't available on these dates, please email your interest as we may repeat it next year.

Sport In Mind

Autism is not a mental health condition, but many autistic people also have mental health conditions. An organisation called Sport In Mind is offering a variety of free sports activities for adults with mental health problems - all abilities are welcome:

Tennis	Mondays 12.00 noon - 1.00 pm	Guildford
Badminton & table tennis	Mondays 1.30 – 2.30 pm	Farnham
Football	Mondays 3.30 – 4.30 pm	Aldershot
Badminton & table tennis	Mondays 5.15 – 6.15 pm	Camberley
Badminton	Thursdays 2.00 – 3.00 pm	Woking
Badminton & table tennis	Fridays 1.00 pm – 2.00 pm	Redhill
Outdoor Tai Chi	Fridays 2.00 pm – 3.00 pm	Guildford

For more information email info@sportinmind.org or call 0118 947 9762.

Health and Wellbeing Champion Training

The Communities and Prevention team from Surrey County Council wishes to empower residents to promote health and wellbeing within their own networks and encourage them to make healthier choices and normalise healthier lifestyles. They are looking for autistic adults to help them co-design a free training programme that explores various aspects of physical and mental wellbeing. If you are an autistic adult and would like to know more, please contact Anja Barker anja.barkey@surreycc.gov.uk Michelle Bradley michelle.bradley@surreycc.gov.uk

Supported learning for adults with LD

There is a useful resource to find out about Supported Learning services in Surrey for adults with learning disabilities here: <https://www.surreycc.gov.uk/schools-and-learning/adult-learning/courses/learning-disabilities>

Vocational Work Taster Days

Surrey Choices are running Summer Holiday Schemes designed to give young people with SEND (18+) a taster of work that interests them.

- West Surrey (Woking, Guildford, Camberley)- learn countryside crafts or IT. Aug 2nd, 5th, 9th, 12th, 16th, 19th 23rd and 26th - all 10am - 4pm
- East Surrey (Redhill)- gardening/allotment projects, have a go at IT or try production/presenting on the radio. Aug 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 16th, 17th, 23rd and 24th - all 10am - 4pm
- North Surrey (Staines-upon-Thames, Laleham)- be part of the walled garden project, learning about wildlife, gardening and woodwork. Or you could have a go at cooking/customer services in a cafe. Aug 2nd, 3rd, 9th, 10th, 16th, 17th, 23rd and 24th August - all 10am - 4pm
- Surrey Outdoor Learning and Development Adventure Day (Dorking) - experienced instructors will lead an exciting day of archery, team games and woodland skills. Thursday 11th August 9.30 - 4.30 (lunch included)

Places must be booked by 3rd August. To find out more or book your place, contact info@surreychoices.com or call 01483 806806

About NAS Surrey Branch

NAS Surrey Branch is a volunteer-run, support group for the parents of autistic children and adults, and the partners of people with autism, and is part of the National Autistic Society. It's FREE to join (although a small donation is appreciated) and we have around 2,000 members in and around Surrey.

We run an active email forum and produce this email newsletter every two months. We also host talks on a variety of topics, parent and partner support groups online and across Surrey, and annual Children's events. To join for free, go to nassurreybranch.org or email surrey.branch@nas.org.uk to request a membership form.

If you are a member of National Autistic Society at national level, you can nominate us to receive part of your subscription by emailing supportercare@nas.org.uk.

We are part of the National Autistic Society which works for autistic people and runs services such as schools, clubs and adult centres. It has over 20,000 members, over 100 local branches and works in partnership with more than 50 local autism societies.

The NAS exists **to transform lives** by being a trusted source of support and practical advice for autistic people and their families at key stages in life and **change attitudes** by working with businesses, policymakers, autism professionals and the public to reduce isolation and open up opportunities in society as a whole.

National Autistic Society, 393 City Rd, London EC1V 1NG www.autism.org.uk. Registered charity, number 269425. Company limited by guarantee number 1205298.

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