

Welcome to the April - May issue of Surrey News

In this issue....

See pages 3-4 for our calendar of online and in-person meetings for parents of autistic children, plus our special interest groups for parent/carers of autistic adults, girls and those with PDA, plus partners of autistic people.

- Branch Family Swimming Session in Guildford - p4
- World Autism Acceptance Week Activities in Reigate and Haslemere - p5
- Autism-Specific Suicide Prevention Training for Parent / Carers – p5
- Branch AGM + Talk on Managing In An Uncertain World – p6
- Drop-in Autism Community Event at G-Live – p6
- Talks and Courses from NAS Surrey Service - p7
- Family Voice Surrey Talk on Benefits - p8
- IPSEA Training for Parents on SEND Law - p9
- Have Your Say on What Helps Carers During a Hospital Stay - p10

Information for Adults, Young People and their families:

- Expert Lived Experience Co-Trainer Opportunity - p10
- Monthly Employment Mentoring - p10
- Stewarding Opportunities for Autistic People at Guilfest – p11

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

In February, we had a great cinema outing in Reigate and in March, two teams of adventurers thwarted the witch's plans in Dungeons and Dragons.

With the Spring Equinox and Easter past, and the start of British Summer Time, we hop forward into April and May. This month, World Autism Acceptance Week sees us with a stall in Reigate High Street and in Haslemere on 6th April (see p5).

We hope that as many as possible can attend the Annual General Meeting on the evening of Thursday 16th May where there will also be a talk from Autism By Experience. Booking details are on page 6.

These events are in addition to the great work being done by our volunteers organising and running the many support and special interest groups for the Branch.

In addition to Branch activities these newsletters signpost to other events, courses, workshops and news to help support your unique journey.

To run groups and activities in any particular area, we really need volunteers who are local to that area, even if only on the day. So, if you feel there is not enough on offer in your area, please do get in touch if you are considering volunteering

Christine Malik and Jason Malschuk
Co-Chairs, NAS Surrey Branch

Email: surrey.branch@nas.org.uk

Website: <https://NASSurreyBranch.org>

Tel: 07423 435413

Facebook: @NASSurreyBranch

Donations:

www.justgiving.com/nassurreybranch

NAS Surrey Branch Contacts

General Information

Branch Mobile: 07423 435413

surrey.branch@nas.org.uk

Joint Chairs:

Christine Malik
Jason Malschuk

Treasurer:

Haywood Drake
Treasurer.NASSurreyBranch@nas.org.uk

Adults:

Sara Truman
strumansurrey@gmail.com

Branch Membership:

Nancy Rowell
nassurreymembership@hotmail.com

Events:

Rachel Boyce-Davis
Rachel.Boyce-Davies@nas-volunteers.org.uk

Website & Newsletter:

Emma Whitfield
emmawhitfieldnassurrey@gmail.com

Parents of Girls' Group

Sally Roberts
sallyaroberts@hotmail.co.uk

Parents of Adults' Group

Hilary Dyce
hilarydyce@yahoo.co.uk

Parents of Children with PDA Group

Emma Ellis
Emma.ellis@nas-volunteers.org.uk

Other Activities:

Jill Goulding
Rachel Boyce-Davies
Stella Smith
Victoria Nunn

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

SEND Advice Surrey: 01737 737300
www.sendadvicesurrey.org.uk
SOS!SEN charity to support EHCPs etc, Tel: 020 8538 3731, Web: www.sossen.org.uk

Family Support & Representation

Family Support Service
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/4axWN2A>

NAS SURREY BRANCH CALENDAR April - June 2024

NAS Surrey Branch support groups enable parents or other family members of autistic children or adults to meet up and share their knowledge and experiences.

If there isn't a group in your area, why not start one yourself? For more information, email surrey.branch@nas.org.uk

NB: all dates are provisional. 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 17th April -10am

Monday 20th May - 8pm

Wednesday 19th June - 10am

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

For venue contact: Tarah Basu tarahbasu@googlemail.com

Tuesday 23rd April – 10am

Tuesday 21st May – 10am

Tuesday 18th June – 10am

Frensham

For venue contact: Christine Malik christinemalik@btinternet.com or
Bonnie Noyce JBNoyce@yahoo.com

Monday 22nd April 9.30 - 11.00 am

Monday 13th May 9.30 - 11.00 am

Monday 10th June 9.30 - 11.00 am

Guildford

For venues contact Sara Truman strumansurrey@gmail.com

Friday 19th April 10.00am – 12.00 noon

Wednesday 8th May 7.30 – 9pm

Friday 7th June 10.00am – 12.00 noon

Reigate

For venue contact: Victoria Nunn: victoria.nunn@nas-volunteers.org.uk

April – no meeting

Friday 3rd May 10.00am - 12.00 noon

Friday 7th June 10.00am - 12.00 noon

Woking

For venues contact Paula Gerrard: paulagerrard@live.co.uk

Wednesday 17th April 10am – 12.00 noon

Tuesday 7th May 8 – 9.30pm

Wednesday 5th June 10am – 12.00 noon

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

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS

Parents of Adults Group

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

Friday 5th April 2.30pm **Zoom** Contact Hilary Dyce hilarydyce@yahoo.co.uk
Tuesday 16th April 7.30pm **Zoom** Contact Sara Truman strumansurrey@gmail.com
Thursday 9th May 7.30pm **Guildford** Contact Sara Truman strumansurrey@gmail.com
Tuesday 14th May 7.30pm **Redhill** Contact Sara Truman strumansurrey@gmail.com
Thursday 6th June 2.30pm **Zoom** Contact Hilary Dyce hilarydyce@yahoo.co.uk
Wednesday 19th June 7.30pm **Zoom** Contact Sara Truman strumansurrey@gmail.com

Parents of Girls Group – Woking and Guildford

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

For venue contact Sally Roberts sallyaroberts@hotmail.co.uk

Thursday 18th April 10.00 – 12.00 noon - **Guildford**

Friday 17th May 10.00 – 12.00 noon - **Woking**

June – meeting will be in **Guildford**, date to be confirmed

Spouses and Partners Group, Guildford

Meetings for the partners of autistic people (no diagnosis necessary).

For venue contact: Janet Moore janet.moore195713@gmail.com

Meeting dates to be confirmed

Parents of children and young people with Pathological Demand Avoidance

This group meets over Zoom. To receive the Zoom link contact Emma Ellis at emma.ellis@nas-volunteers.org.uk

Thursday 25th April 8.00pm

Thursday 30th May 8.00pm

Thursday 27th June 8.00pm

Save the Date: Branch Family Swimming Session in Guildford

Following on from our successful family swimming session last year, NAS Surrey Branch is hosting another free swimming session at the Spectrum Leisure Centre, Guildford on Saturday 1st June at 7.00pm.

The event will be staffed by the NAS Professional Team from the Godalming Resource Centre. We will have exclusive use of the leisure pool, but the diving, lane and teaching pools will remain in use by other swimmers.

All children under 9 or non-confident swimmers must be accompanied by 1 adult for every 3 children in the pool.

Bookings will open on 1st May – you will receive an email with details of how to book and details will also be published on the NAS Surrey Branch forum. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

If you aren't a member (i.e. you don't receive your own copy of this newsletter), you can sign up here: <https://nassurreybranch.org/membership/>

World Autism Acceptance Week Activities

REIGATE: To mark World Autism Acceptance Week, the Branch will be running an information stand and collection on Saturday, 6th April in Reigate. The stall will run from 10.00am in the High Street. We'll be raising awareness of the Branch and the things we do, telling people about the aims of World Autism Acceptance Week and collecting funds for future activities. So if you're in the area, please come along and say hello to the volunteers on the stall!

HASLEMERE: Haslemere-based 'The Neema Society', is holding a fair at The Haslemere Methodist Church on Saturday 6th April from 10 am to 12 noon, in aid of the National Autistic Society. Entrance is free.

The Branch will be holding a stall and there will be information about the work the National Autistic Society does. Other stalls will provide hand-made carved wood sculptures, nearly-new gifts, bric-a-brac, sand animals, a large range of greetings cards and a cake stall. Offers of items for the stalls will be welcome.

There will be an area where you can chat with others over coffee, plus a raffle. There will also be someone from Crossways Counselling who will answer questions about their services.

Contact Rob Noble via <https://www.theneemasociety.com/> or phone 01428 641 727.

Autism-Specific Suicide Prevention Training for Parent / Carers

Surrey County Council, in collaboration with Autism Oxford UK and Making Families Count, have commissioned Autism-specific Suicide Prevention Training for Surrey parents and carers. It will be delivered online via Microsoft Teams over two sessions:

- Part 1- Delivery of training - 3 hours
- Part 2- Reflective Session - 2 hours (approx 5-6 weeks after session 1)

This training aims to empower participants with the skills to recognise early warning signs and provide effective tools for you as parents and carers to help support the wellbeing of this vulnerable group.

You can sign up via the online training portal at www.ssp.autismoxford.com. You need to create an account to sign up. Please note, you should complete both sessions to complete the course.

LinkAble Activities for All Ages

LinkAble in Woking runs a range of activities for people with learning disabilities:

- No Limits (18+) service for adults <https://www.linkable.org.uk/pages/No-Limits>
- Next Steps (12 - 18) - Supporting you on the journey to adulthood <https://www.linkable.org.uk/pages/next-steps>
- Play (5 - 11) - Explore the world around you in a safe and supported environment <https://www.linkable.org.uk/pages/Play>

For details see the LinkAble website: www.linkable.org.uk, email: info@linkable.org.uk or call 01483 770037.

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

Branch AGM and Talk on Managing In An Uncertain World

The NAS Surrey Branch Annual General Meeting will be held in person in Guildford on the evening of Thursday 16th May, from 7.30 to 9.00 pm.

The AGM business will be short, and followed by a talk by Mike Leat and autistic people from Autism By Experience, about Managing In An Uncertain World. The talk will include videos and visual slides and will cover topics such as:

- Why the world can feel more uncertain for autistic children/adults
- Identifying and using your strengths and interests
- Developing a shared communication approach
- Strategies for activities and social relationships
- Strategies for managing change and new experiences
- Adjustments people often find helpful
- Managing anxiety and fatigue - including supporting people with PDA profile
- An ideal life may not be a typical life

Places are free but must be booked in advance. To book go to

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/nas-surrey-branch-agm-managing-in-an-uncertain-world-tickets-872662536137>

The AGM will include the annual election of the Branch Chair and Treasurer. Our current Co-Chairs, Jason Malschuk and Christine Malik, and our Treasurer Haywood Drake, are all willing to continue in their roles, but if anyone else wants to put their name forward, please contact Sara Truman at strumansurrey@gmail.com before Wednesday 1st May.

Save the Date: Children's Adventure Crazy Golf Event in June

On 30th June there will be a Branch outing to 'Mr Mulligan's Pirate Golf' at Hoebridge Golf Club in Woking where families can play crazy golf together. Branch members can arrive between 3.00 and 5.00pm, play a round, then go inside for the children to have a meal of pizza, chips and drinks.

We subsidise the cost, so the suggested donation per player (parents and children) will be £5 per person, with an additional £4 per person for the food if required. Parents will remain responsible for their children at all times. Booking details will be published in the June / July newsletter.

Drop-in Event at G-Live 13th May

Autism Friendly Guildford and Waverly are holding a free drop in event on 13th May from 2pm - 6pm at G-Live, Guildford. The event is for autistic people and their families, interested members of the public, local businesses and people who work supporting autistic people. The event aims to:

- Raise awareness and understanding of autism
- Share information about where people can find support
- Recruit people who want to make a difference as part of our Autism Friendly East Surrey Group
- Have some fun!

There will be short training sessions around understanding Autism.

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

Talks and Courses from NAS Surrey Service

The NAS Family Support Services runs Stepping Up for Autism courses for parents which cover topics including understanding autism, communication, visual supports, understanding and managing behaviour, sensory needs, social skills and puberty.

Sessions run during the day and evenings, with the next series starting from 16th April.

To apply, download the form hosted on the NAS Surrey Branch

<https://nassurreybranch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/NAS-Family-Support-Request-for-Support-Form-2024.pdf>

Please note, these courses are run by professionals working for the NAS, not volunteers at the NAS Surrey Branch.

For further information, parents can email: surrey.familysupport@nas.org.uk and professionals can email Surrey.nas@nhs.net

There are also one-off specialist workshops with forthcoming topics including:

Transitions from Nursery to Secondary	Tuesday, April 16, 2024 7:00
EBSNA (Emotionally Based School Non-Attendance)	Thursday, April 18, 2024 7:00 PM
Transitions Into Adulthood	Tuesday, April 23, 2024 7:00 PM
An Introduction to PDA	Thursday, April 25, 2024 7:00 PM
Supporting Autistic Teens	Tuesday, April 30, 2024 7:00 PM
Parents and Carers Wellbeing and Sibling Support	Wednesday, May 1, 2024 12:00 PM
Understanding and Supporting Sleep for Autistic People	Wednesday, May 8, 2024 12:00 PM
An Introduction to Autism in Girls	Tuesday, June 18, 2024 12:00 PM
Stepping Up for Autism workshop for Grandparents, Family and Friends	Wednesday, June 19, 2024 7:00 PM
Introduction to Education Health and Care Plans	Tuesday, June 25, 2024 12:00 PM

Changes to Crossroads Care

Crossroads Care Surrey have made changes to their services for carers, commissioned by Surrey CC Adult Services.

Among other things, they can help carers to make an Emergency Care Plan in case something unexpected occurs that might affect the person you care for. Unlike the similar service offered by Action for Carers, in an emergency Crossroads can also provide 48 hours support to the cared for person, if the contacts you name are not available.

NB Please note that you may need first to be referred to Crossroads by Adult Social Care, and to have completed a Carer's Assessment with them.

For more information go to:

<https://crossroadscaresurrey.org.uk/emergencycareplanservice/>

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

Family Voice Surrey Talk on Benefits

Family Voice Surrey (FVS) is hosting a talk by Benefits Adviser Nicola Spruce of Renaissance Legal for parents of young people with additional needs aged 16-25 (or approaching that age). The talk is online on **Monday 13th May from 6.30pm – 8.00pm**, and will include time for a general chat.

To sign up, email gretta.s@familyvoicesurrey.org at Family Voice for joining details.

Banstead Rotary – Thank You and Charity Walk In May

Our thanks go to Banstead Rotary for their fantastic donation of £550 for the Branch. We were one of the charities the group chose to support from their Christmas fundraiser.

Banstead Rotary is also organising its annual Charity Walk on **Sunday 12th May** on Epsom Downs, when you can walk over local down and woodlands of about 8.5 miles.

Walkers can choose to raise funds for their nominated charity (such as NAS Surrey Branch!), as well as helping Rotary to support both national and international charities.

If you would like to join this event, download an entry form and sponsorship form here <https://www.bansteadrotary.com/charitywalk24> . Or you can find out how to set up your own page for friends and relatives to sponsor you and your nominated charity.

Gamers Lounge, Guildford

Andrew Smith holds monthly retro gaming sessions at The Boileroom in Guildford with a range of retro consoles to choose from including Sega Megadrive, SNES, NES, PlayStation 2 and Dreamcast – with the choice of hundreds of games. These aren't autism-specific events, but many adults and children who attend are autistic. Capacity is 20 people per session. If you accompany a child/young person, but you're not gaming yourself, you only need to buy a ticket for the gamer/s.

For information, email Andrew Smith Andrew.smith38410@gmail.com or call him on 07885 723243 or to book go to: <https://theboileroom.seetickets.com/event/gamers-lounge/the-boileroom/2848517?aff=id1theboileroom>

Parent / Carers Wanted to Help write Personal Budgets Guidance

Family Voice Surrey have been involved in Surrey's Personal Budgets working party, set up by Jo McSherrie - Service Manager for Policy and System Development, Children, Families and Lifelong Learning.

One of the first tasks is to rewrite the guidance on Personal Budgets for Parents and Professionals for clarity and consistency in an easy read format. They would like some parent carers to be involved in this process as this will also shape the training programme too.

The first session will take place after the Easter holidays (date and time TBC). Please email kate.g@familyvoicesurrey.org if you are interested in taking part.

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

IPSEA Training for Parents on SEND Law

The independent special educational needs and disability (SEND) law charity IPSEA runs online training sessions for parents and carers, empowering families to secure the education their child is legally entitled to. Upcoming training sessions are:

SEND law and young people (post-16): 25th April 9.45am.

EHC plan masterclass – for people with existing plans: 4th June 9:45am - 3.15pm

Introduction to SEND Law: 5th June 09.45 am – 3.00pm

SEND Tribunal hints and tips: 26th June 9.45am - 3.00pm

They also offer self-paced online courses for parent / carers on SEND law. For details or to book, go to <https://www.ipsea.org.uk/Pages/Events/Category/upcoming-training-events-for-parents-and-carers>

Elmbridge-based Activities for Young People and Adults

ECL is an Elmbridge-based charity that offers opportunities to young people and adults in the Elmbridge area with learning disabilities and/or autism. The events are for all ages and abilities and drinks, snacks and of course prizes provided!

The timetable ranges from music workshops for those with multiple and complex needs (often non-verbal), through to high energy Allsports sessions for younger people with mild learning disabilities and/or autism. For details, email coordinator@eclwalton.org.uk Phone: 07981 450320.

Oliver McGowan Training for Parent / Carers

The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training on Learning Disability and Autism is named after Oliver McGowan, whose death shone a light on the need for health and social care staff to have better training.

The Health and Care Act 2022 introduced a statutory requirement that regulated service providers must ensure their staff receive learning disability and autism training appropriate to their role. The Oliver McGowan Mandatory Training was developed for this purpose and is the government's preferred and recommended training for health and social care staff.

Tier 1 of the Training is for people who require general awareness of the support autistic people or people with a learning disability may need; Tier 2 of Training is for people who may need to provide care and support for autistic people or people with a learning disability.

The training's e-learning modules are also suitable for families, parents, sibling carers and personal assistants of people with a learning disability and autistic people or anyone who requires a general awareness of people with a learning disability and autistic people.

For details, go to the Health Education England website:

<https://www.hee.nhs.uk/our-work/learning-disability/current-projects/oliver-mcgowan-mandatory-training-learning-disability-autism>. The elearning for

healthcare support pages here <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/support/> provide further information and offer support via live chat Monday to Friday 9:30am to 4:30pm, or you can email support@e-lfh.org.uk.

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

Have Your Say on What Helps Carers During a Hospital Stay

If you are the carer of someone who has attended hospital recently, did you, as their carer, get the right support and information?

Action for Carers are hosting a meeting where you can share your views about what information unpaid carers need to know on **Monday 29th April, 2.00 –4.00pm** at Astolat, Coniers Way, Burpham, Guildford GU4 7HL.

The Joint Carers Team from Surrey County Council and the NHS want to hear what information carers need as part of supporting someone during a stay in hospital and after discharge. Draft information will be provided based on carers' feedback to date for you to review. Refreshments will be available.

To register to attend, call 0303 040 1234, option 1 or email CSAdmin@actionforcarers.org.uk

If you can't make this event, please email your ideas and suggestions to carertocarer@actionforcarers.org.uk

INFORMATION FOR ADULTS, YOUNG PEOPLE AND THEIR FAMILIES

Expert Lived Experience Co-Trainer Opportunity

Active Prospects are looking for someone with a Learning Disability or autism to start a new job as an Expert with Lived Experience Co-Trainer.

The job is to train people who work in health and social care about learning disabilities and autism. They will teach you how to do the job and you will be paid. You get to choose your hours.

For more information contact Katie Christmas at Active Prospects on tel: 07970 168 325 or email is Katie.Christmas@activeprospects.org.uk

Monthly Employment Mentoring

Autism Forward provides funding for adults on the autistic spectrum allowing them to access specialised mentoring services to aid their access to employment and employability.

They also raise employer and public awareness of autistic talent and the important strengths and skills that autistic employees can bring to the workplace.

They are currently funding places on two peer support groups run by AS Mentoring.

The Autistic Job Seekers Peer Support Group and the ND Self-Employed Peer Support Group meet online once a month to discuss relevant topics, hear from expert speakers and meet other people in similar circumstances.

If you would like further information on either group, contact enquiries@asmentoring.co.uk

Stewarding Opportunities for Autistic People at Guilfest

Guilfest music festival is back on Stoke Park in Guildford on **Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th June**, with bands including The Stranglers and Sam Ryder

Mike Leat, who works as an employment mentor for autistic adults, has managed the stewarding at many previous Guilfest events from as far back as 1996. He is offering supported stewarding opportunities for autistic adults and people with a learning disability such as:

- Placing people in a larger team on the front gate so they're not left alone with the responsibility of handling unexpected questions
- Offering daytime shifts so people don't need to work late into the night
- Offering one day only opportunities so people don't have to commit to the whole weekend
- Carving out specific roles like litter-picking
- Allowing people to bring a friend or family member to support them (as long as they help out too!)

Stewarding roles can include:

- Litter picking
- Checking wristbands as people enter
- Staffing an exit/entrance
- Keeping an eye out for people who are unwell, distressed or a bit too drunk!

You'll receive training for the role and get to be part of an exciting local event. Benefits include a free meal for each shift you do (shifts are generally 4-5hrs, but they are flexible) and after your shift you can enjoy the music free of charge.

You need to be 18+ years to be a steward. If you, or someone you know might be interested, please email Mike Leat at info@guilfest.co.uk with '**Supported Stewarding**' in the subject of the email.

Board Games Events in Redhill

Building on the Autism Friendly East Surrey event held in February, The Light in Redhill is launching a regular board games evening for autistic and neurodivergent adults on a Monday evening from 7pm to 9pm.

This will be free to attend and people can order food and drink at The Light, and also use their other facilities. It will be based in the red room upstairs which has very good soundproofing.

Members of the Autism by Experience team will be there in support.

It will be a relaxed evening and you can bring a supporter/friend. There's no need to stay for the whole 2 hours.

The Board Games Evening is fortnightly on a Monday evening – you can find out more here: <https://redhill.thelight.co.uk/whatson> For more information, email info@autismbyexperience.co.uk

Free Book Clubs for People with Learning Disabilities

Beyond Words is launching a 'Book Club in a Box' project, aiming to create 300 new Book Clubs for people with learning disabilities by 2026. The Book Club in a Box is a free pack of books and materials that will enable people, charities and organisations to kickstart a Book Club in their local area.

Organisations and individuals can request a kit through Beyond Words' web site or by contacting the charity via bookclubs@booksbeyondwords.co.uk. Creating a Book Club is easy once you have the kit – all you need are the people who will attend, a place to host it, and to read together.

You can also look for existing book clubs on their website:

<https://booksbeyondwords.co.uk/book-clubs>

For up to date news and information about our events, and those organised by other local organisations, do sign up to the NAS Surrey Branch email forum <https://nassurreybranch.org/moderated-email-forum/>

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. We have around 4,000 members in and around Surrey.



It's FREE to join but a small donation via our JustGiving page is appreciated as we receive no external funding: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/nassurreybranch>

If you're a member of NAS at national level, you can nominate us to receive part of your subscription by emailing supportercare@nas.org.uk

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

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.

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

The views expressed in Surrey News are not necessarily those of the National Autistic Society, and reference to any specific services or approaches to autism does not imply endorsement. All material is copyright NAS Surrey Branch and cannot be reproduced without permission.

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