



JIGSAW

Grampian Autistic Society Newsletter

Welcome to our April 2015 newsletter where we will update you in what we at Grampian Autistic Society have been up to since our last newsletter in December.

Training for Teachers

The Education Society of the University of Aberdeen recently contacted Grampian Autistic Society requesting some sort of training even for their student teacher members. It was agreed that a talk would be delivered to them on the university grounds and be tailored to their needs. The talk took place on Wednesday the 4th of February and involved a general overview of Autism and Aspergers Syndrome as well as hints and tips specific to the classroom that would help teachers. As a form of thanks, The Education Society raised a donation of £120 for GAS and we thank them for asking us raising money for the donation.



Pancake Day at The Social Group

How many people celebrate Shrove Tuesday with pancakes? This year it landed on the 17th of February. The Monday club celebrated. We had pancakes with butter and syrup the support worker Meg bought from a family baker in Peterhead. They tasted very good. We hope that your pancakes tasted as good.

Mhairi Hay

Employment Service

Grampian Autistic Society is offering a one to one service that will help people on the autism spectrum not only recognise their strengths but to aid in communications with potential employers and to increase confidence and success in job applications. Whether it be fulltime, part-time, or a voluntary position Grampian Autistic Society will work on an individual basis in order to tailor the support to your needs. The organisation will have an experienced staff member with good knowledge of Autistic Spectrum Conditions who can regularly meet with people to provide the service described above as well as completing CVs, job applications, and personal statements. They will also be accepting drop-ins, general enquiries, and offering any advice that those who are on the autism spectrum seeking employment feel would be beneficial.

Grampian Autistic Society On Facebook

Grampian Autistic Society is now on Facebook. Please follow us and tell all of your friends!!!

www.facebook.com/grampianautisticsociety

Culter Gala

Grampian Autistic Society will once again be holding a stall at the Culter Gala on May 30th and asking people to please donate anything that could be used as a prize on our raffle. Please send in any donations to the office addressed to Pearl Begbie.

Monday Club

The Monday Club will have its last club at Queens Cross Church on the 27th of April. We are moving to 37 Carnie Drive on the 11th of May. The time is 6pm-8pm every second week. I hope you will all come and have a good time. Mhairi Hay

Bus Driver Wanted

Grampian Autistic Society are currently looking for a new enthusiastic person to drive the mini-bus for the playscheme. This will be at weekends during term time and during the week while the holiday playscheme is running. This person would be expected to not only drive the bus but to help maintain the bus in order to keep it running for our service users. If you or anyone you know would make a great addition to our team then please get in touch with Brian Walsh on 01224 277900 or via email on brian.walsh@grampianautisticsociety.co.uk



Lady's Afternoon Tea

Our first fund-raising event for 2015 was an afternoon tea held in the beautiful large function room at Hazlehead Park café. About 80 ladies gathered to enjoy some Prosecco (or pink lemonade for the drivers!), followed by dainty sandwiches and savouries, scones and cakes, accompanied of course by numerous cups of tea and coffee. We were entertained by Sandy Davidson singing a wonderful selection of songs, and even had some ladies singing along by the end of the afternoon! Beauty therapists from the Cloud Nine salon came round the tables to provide hand-massages – very therapeutic and relaxing. We also had a demonstration by Scott MacIntyre on how to make a lovely floral display with a Valentine theme – red roses, of course. Many raffle tickets were sold and raffle prizes won. We also had some fantastic auction prizes, with generous bidders really contributing to our fund-raising efforts. We raised over £2,600 from the afternoon, and this will help towards preparations for opening a new unit at Carnie Drive, enabling us to expand our service provision. Many thanks to Pat Kennedy and her team for providing us with a wonderful afternoon – we think this should become an annual event!

Maureen Gray and Dorothy Daldry



Seeking Parents

One of our staff members, who is currently studying to become a social worker, is conducting a study into the effectiveness of family-centred practice and is looking for participants. She would like to speak with parents of children who receive support from Grampian Autistic Society, so if you or anyone you know is willing to participate then please contact Eilidh Shields to discuss this further.

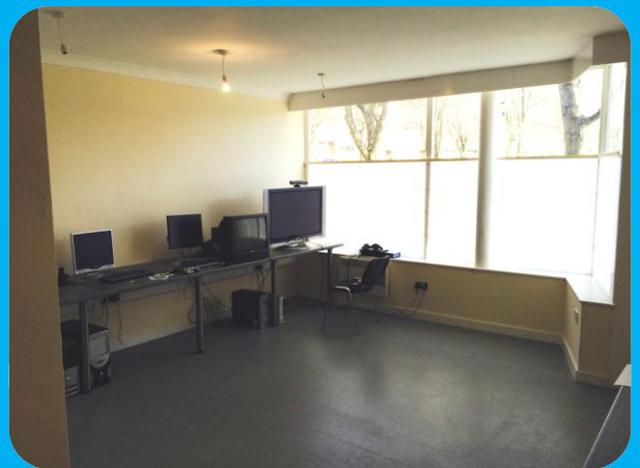
New Children's Service Coordinator

Grampian Autistic Society would like to extend a warm welcome to its new Children's Services Coordinator, Shona Hepburn. Shona says, "I am excited to get started and can't wait to meet all of the children and staff at GAS." Shona will start work in our Easter playscheme.



Number 37

Our playscheme extension has finally finished! We have already had some of the children through and they all seem to really like it. We just need to finish furnishing the various rooms and shift some things around from other parts of the playscheme and we will have a fully functional extra unit to use not only as more space in the playscheme but also a training suite, meetings room, and space for our social groups to use.



Do you have anything that you would like included in the next newsletter? Feel free to contact us with your ideas on 01224 277900. If you would like to contact any of our staff about the above mentioned training, services, or events then see email addresses below.

Pearl Begbie – pearl.begbie@grampianautisticsociety.co.uk

Brian Walsh – brian.walsh@grampianautisticsociety.co.uk

Craig Henderson – training@grampianautisticsociety.co.uk