



# JIGSAW

GRAMPIAN AUTISTIC SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our October 2016 newsletter where we will update you on what we at Grampian Autistic Society have been doing since our last newsletter in July.

## Outreach Day Trip

On 29 September, a group of us from GAS visited Camperdown Park, near Dundee. We enjoyed seeing all the animals, and had fun searching for some of them in their enclosures. It was exciting to see the wild cats being fed. The bats were scary, and the monkeys seemed cheeky, but the otters were cute. One creature we didn't initially spot was a European Brown Bear, until after we had a quick bite to eat in the on-site cafe. A good day was had by all!

-Dan Leckie



## Annual Autumn Gala Success

Our annual Autumn Activity Gala held on the 17<sup>th</sup> of October was a big success and all the families who attended had an enjoyable afternoon.

We tried a new venue this year – the main hall in St. Mary's Cathedral on Huntly Street. This new venue worked out really well. We had plenty of space for the children to run around and enjoy themselves. The craft table was very popular too, with lots of opportunities to create pictures, cards, and masks as well as plenty of cakes to decorate.

A huge vote of thanks goes to Nicolle, Joanna, Nicola, and Chelsea for all of their work in organising and running the event.

We are always happy to have volunteers who would like to run awareness raising or fundraising events for us – please get in touch if you have any ideas! You can also support us, including any future events, by giving a donation. You can do this by visiting our [JustGiving](http://www.justgiving.com/grampianautisticsociety) page at [www.justgiving.com/grampianautisticsociety](http://www.justgiving.com/grampianautisticsociety)



## Clairvoyant Fundraising Night

Grampian Autistic Society are holding a fundraising evening on November 17<sup>th</sup> at The Marcliffe Hotel in Pitfodels. The evening will be focused around Margaret Smith, a local clairvoyant who passes on messages from loved ones who have passed on. The night will also include a raffle with some fantastic prizes donated by local businesses.

Tickets are only £25 each or 5 for £100. Ticket price covers the cost of entry, entertainment, snacks, and a gift!

If you or anyone you know might be interested then please contact Nicolle on 07463 982618.



The poster features the Grampian Autistic Society logo at the top, which consists of two stylized human figures in blue and yellow holding hands under a star. Below the logo, the text reads: 'Fundraising Event', 'A night with Maureen Smith, Clairvoyant', 'Ticket includes Entry to Venue, Entertainment, Snacks and Free Gift! Plus raffle on the night with local and fantastic prizes!', 'Raffle tickets can be purchased for £5 per strip by contacting below number - attendance not necessary to win or receive prize!', 'at the Marcliffe at Pitfodels', 'Thursday 17th November at 7.30pm', 'Ticket Price £25 or 5 tickets for £100', and 'Tickets from Nicolle, 07463 982618'.

## Parent Training

Our recent parent training session on October 5<sup>th</sup> was well attended and all the parents who were there thoroughly enjoyed their time and getting an opportunity to speak with other parents. We have another session on January 8<sup>th</sup> at 10am to 12.30PM. If you are interested in coming along then please get in touch with Craig Henderson on

## School Disco Donation

We would like to extend a huge thank you to Alison Beaton and her son Jamie, for their donation of £281.95 that they raised through a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year school disco organised at Alford Academy. This money will go towards the running of our services and buying new equipment for the children to use in our Playscheme.

## Staff and Board Social Night

Everyone at Grampian Autistic Society is always working so hard and discussing various services, that there is little time to socialise with one another. It was decided that a social night at Hazlehead Cafe with all of the staff team and board members would allow people to chat and learn about each others' role within the organisation. This took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> of September with a great turn out and all who attended enjoyed the food, wine, and conversation.

We would like to thank the Hazlehead Park staff for accommodating us and being helpful on the night.

## Co-op Local Community Fund



Grampian Autistic Society has been selected to receive funding from the Co-op Local Community Fund. This means that GAS will get a contribution towards our Playscheme from Co-op, **but we need your help!** The more support we get, the more funding we could receive. So if you're a Co-op member then log in to your Co-op Membership account and choose us as your chosen charity. If you're not a member then please join and support us.

You can get more information by visiting [www.coop.co.uk/local-community-fund/](http://www.coop.co.uk/local-community-fund/)

## No Hot Drinks For Karen

We were delighted to hear that one of our Playscheme Team Leaders decided to take on a personal challenge throughout the month of September. Karen decided to give up all hot drinks for one month and looked to people online to sponsor her, with all the money raised going to Grampian Autistic Society.

Karen told us that on day 2 of the challenge she was already finding it harder than she expected but she persevered and in the end raised more than £300 for GAS!



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.

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