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Do you know of any companies who might sponsor our newsletter? £500 a year would make a huge difference!

Issue 36

July/August 2013

I'm delighted to say that Mariella arrived on 9th May weighing 6lbs 9oz; she's growing well and becoming a regular at many of the branch activities. I am easing myself back into all of the NAS things and am incredibly grateful that Carol is happy to stay be actively involved with everything.

To say a huge thank you to Carol and let her know just how much she is appreciated at The Zone!, she was given a lovely bunch of flowers and a gift card for Costa Coffee at Cyber Zone on 22nd June. Without her stepping up to the challenge of running all the daytime activities and answering the branch mobile, we might have had to cancel so many events and missed a huge number of people phoning for info and help. Thank you Carol, from myself, the branch committee and all of the members who have benefited from your dedication, hard work and enthusiasm! Long may you continue volunteering with us.



Nikki Smith, Branch Officer

**Committee contact details**

**Branch Officer:**

Nikki Smith  
118 Fernhill Road, Farnborough,  
GU14 9DR. [Nikki@nasHandR.org](mailto:Nikki@nasHandR.org)

**Branch Treasurer:**

01252 69493Gaye McGowan  
[events@nasHandR.org](mailto:events@nasHandR.org)

**Newsletter editor:**

Karen Smith  
[karen.m.smith@tesco.net](mailto:karen.m.smith@tesco.net)

If you'd like to join us, then get in touch and we'll discuss it with you.

**The Zone:**

Carol Bulman  
07825 280274

**Teen Zone:**

Gaye & Annie McGowan  
[events@nasHandR.org](mailto:events@nasHandR.org)





**Facebook group**

[www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) (search for NAS Hart Rushmoor in "groups" and you'll find us!)



**Other committee members & volunteers:**

Colin Smith, Jenny Thomas, Karen Booth, Jess, Riannon, Kaleigh & Hazel!

July 2013

| Mon | Tue   | Wed   | Thu  | Fri  | Sat  | Sun                                  |
|-----|---|---|--|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| 1   | 2<br>Coffee Zone:<br>9am - 12pm   | 3<br>After School Zone:<br>3 - 6pm  | 4<br>Building Zone:<br>3 - 6pm   | 5  | 6<br>Cyber Zone:<br>10.30am - 2.30pm   | 7                                    |
| 8   | 9<br>Coffee Zone:<br>9am - 12pm   | 10<br>After School Zone:<br>3 - 6pm  | 11<br>Building Zone:<br>3 - 6pm  | 12<br>Teen Zone! -<br>graffiti session,<br>places must be<br>booked! 6 - 8pm | 13   | 14                                   |
| 15  | 16<br>Coffee Zone:<br>9am - 12pm  | 17<br>After School Zone:<br>3 - 6pm   | 18<br>Building Zone:<br>3 - 6pm  | 19   | 20   | 21<br>Bocketts Farm<br>10.30am - 4pm |
| 22  | 23<br>Coffee Zone:<br>9am - 12pm  | 24<br>Fun Zone:<br>10.30am - 2.30pm   | 25   | 26   | 27<br>Challengers fun swim<br>Guildford Spectrum,<br>6pm - meet us there!<br>(see pg 9 for info) | 28                                   |
| 29  | 30  | 31<br>Fun Zone:<br>10.30am - 2.30pm   |  |  |  |                                      |

## August 2013

| Mon  | Tue  | Wed   | Thu | Fri   | Sat | Sun  |
|--|--|---|-----|---|-----|--|
|  |  | <p><b>All Zone activities are based at:</b><br/>The Zone! @ Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College,<br/>Ballantyne Road, Farnborough, GU14 8SS.<br/>We are in the building as far to the right of the school<br/>site (look for the NAS arrows.)</p> | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4<br>TVAP<br>10am - 3pm  |
| 5  | 6<br>Laser-Run session<br>for those 11yrs +<br>11am - 12 | 7<br><br>Fun Zone:<br>10.30am - 2.30pm   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11   |
| 12<br>Donutting session<br>11.30am - 12.30                             | 13   | 14<br>Fun Zone:<br>10.30am - 2.30pm   | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18   |
| 19   | 20   | 21<br>Fun Zone:<br>10.30am - 2.30pm   | 22  | 23<br>Laser-Run session<br>for those 6 - 10yrs<br>11am - 12 | 24  | 25<br>Ceramic painting<br>in Fleet<br>11am   |
| 26<br>Fundraising fun day<br>Thatched Cottage<br>2 - 6pm<br>(see pg 4) | 27   | 28<br><br>Fun Zone:<br>10.30am - 2.30pm  | 29  | 30  | 31  | 1st September<br><b>Mon 2nd Sept:</b><br>Bowling session<br>in Farnborough<br>11am |

## News for parents & carers

### Facebook, Twitter & Pinterest

The branch Facebook group is constantly growing and is very active.. Please join us, introduce yourself, ask a question or simply read the other posts. Just go to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and search for NAS Hart Rushmoor in the "groups" section.



Find us on Twitter - just search for NASHandR and you'll find us. Jess is now in-charge of our tweets, so hopefully you will now be receiving regular updates about the branch!

We are now on Pinterest, a new online pinboard where we have pinned all sorts of useful info and links. Why not take a look at [www.pinterest.com/nashandr](http://www.pinterest.com/nashandr)

### Branch resource library

The library is always available at The Zone! and books can easily be returned there or at any of our events. If you have borrowed books or equipment from the branch please can you return them. We intend to have a major reorganisation of the library books and replace any that have gone missing or been torn, as well as purchasing new titles too.



### Maclaren Major Buggies

If you have borrowed a Major buggy from us and no longer require it, please let us know and we will happily find a new home for it!

### Sessions for parents at The Zone! (see calendar for dates/times)

**Coffee Zone;** Our weekly drop-in coffee sessions, are for you to come along to at any point and have a coffee, chat and take a look at the branch library. You can stay for as long or short a time as you like. There's always plenty of biscuits and sometimes we even have jam doughnuts too! Please bring DLA forms, letters, or anything you need our help with :o) Pre-schoolers are always welcome - there's usually a couple of babies/toddlers there each week.



### Fundraising news!

The wonderful people at the Thatched Cottage are planning an amazing fun day to raise funds for our branch and another local charity, Lauren's Wishes. It's on the Bank Holiday Monday, 26th August, 2 - 6pm and will have a Wild West theme with bucking bronco, shooting range and all things cowboy!



We desperately need your help to organise raffle prizes, home made cakes to sell, volunteers to help run stalls on the day, as well as coming along to join in the fun! Please contact Carol, Nikki or Jenny Thomas (without her, this wouldn't be happening!) if you can help in anyway - your support would be really appreciated.

### Fleet Carnival 2014!

We are in the running to be the chosen charity of the Fleet Carnival next year.... There are 3 other charities in the running too but we hope to be the chosen one - at the time of this newsletter going to print, we were in second place with Starburst in first place. Voting is via the "Fleet & District Carnival" Facebook page. Fingers crossed!

## Our previous activities...

### Bowling fun !

On Sunday 30th March, we hired 8 lanes at Farnborough Bowl and had really good time with many strikes being got! We even had the cosmic lighting on for this session too. On the way out everyone was given a chocolate egg or a doughnut from Alex as it was also his birthday - thank you Alex! :o)



### Fun Zones in the Easter holidays & May half term

As always, these sessions were a great way of breaking up the holidays with some easy & familiar entertainment. We also had a cake to celebrate the fact that the branch had been running for 6 years!

#### Laser-Run sessions

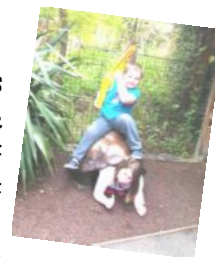
For our Easter Laser-Run sessions on 8th April, we split the groups by ages; there was the 6 - 10yr olds in the first session and those 11yrs+ in the second session. It was lovely to see everyone (including the willing mums & dads!) getting so hot and sweaty from running around in the arena. Everyone enjoy it, as usual, so we are doing it all over again in the Summer holidays!



#### Special Children's Day at London Zoo

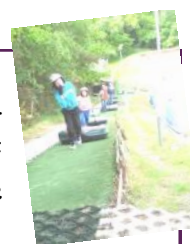
On Saturday 18th May, Carol took charge of two 100 seater coaches with 36 families aboard all set to enjoy a fantastic day out at the zoo. As always, everybody had a great time; there were plenty of faces being painted, lots of jumping on the bouncy castle, squeals of joy on the inflatable slide and fascination at many of the animals.

A huge thanks to Carol for being in charge of this event on her child-free weekend! Fingers crossed we manage to secure funding to attend next year's special day.



#### Donutting fun

At our donutting sessions during half-term on 31st May, we had great fun whizzing down the slope and then the hard work and effort of dragging the donut back up the hill! It was brilliant fun for everyone taking part and entertaining for those spectating too!



### Parental supervision!

We know that our events provide families with much needed opportunities for social interaction but we have to remind parents that they are responsible for properly supervising their children at all of our activities. This means that you actually have to physically see and hear your children to know what they are up to.



**Hampshire**  
County Council

Huge thanks to Hampshire County Council for Inspiring  
You funding towards many of our activities.



## Branch rules

The aim of the National Autistic Society Hart & Rushmoor Branch is to support people with autism and their families. As parents and carers of people with autism, we volunteer our time to ensure that this support reaches the local areas of Hart, Rushmoor and a small part of Surrey. To help ensure that everyone gets the most from our branch activities, we would appreciate it if you would read and comply with the following:

### What you can expect from your branch volunteers -

- They will adopt the National Autistic Society's core values, policies and procedures and fairly represent the branch.
- They will do all they can to create a safe and welcoming environment for all those attending branch events.
- They will treat all other volunteers and branch members with respect. Any physical, emotional, verbal abuse or rudeness towards other volunteers or branch members will not be tolerated.
- They will maintain confidentiality regarding the NAS, its employees, volunteers, branch members and its work.
- They will be reliable. They will make it clear when and how they will be available and meet these expectations, or provide as much notice as possible if they cannot.
- They will respond to queries within agreed time limits. This includes acknowledging all event bookings.
- They will listen to all branch member concerns and respond appropriately.

### In return, we ask that all branch members -

- Treat all volunteers and branch members with respect. Any physical, emotional, verbal abuse or rudeness towards volunteers or other branch members will not be tolerated.
- Treat all branch property (including the venues we use) with respect and do not deliberately damage anything.
- Communicate with the branch volunteers. We ask that you tell us if you have any concerns and respond to our questions or queries within the agreed time limits. This includes ensuring that you pre-book for all events\* and tell us how and when you will cover the cost (if there is one).
- Supervise and be responsible for their children at all times. As a result, they must do all they can to ensure that their children also follow this code of conduct.
- Pay in advance for branch events when booking places (for drop-in activities it is fine to pay on the day.) We can accept any of the following:  
Cheques; made payable to "NAS Hart & Rushmoor" and posted with a booking form to NAS H&R, 118 Fernhill Road, Farnborough, GU14 9DR.  
Cash; at any of our Zone activities or through the door at the address above.  
Paypal; whether you have a Paypal account or not, you can use your credit or debit card.  
 Simply go to [www.paypal.co.uk](http://www.paypal.co.uk) and make payment to [paypal@nasHandR.org](mailto:paypal@nasHandR.org)
- Seek committee permission before taking photos at our branch events - and if you prefer not to have your photograph taken and used in our newsletter etc. Please let us know.

\* When responding to advertised events on Facebook, do not just click "attending" as this does not guarantee you a place. Please send a message with the details required. All bookings will get a response confirming receipt and places.

If a branch member fails to comply with the above they may be asked to leave the branch and will no longer be able to attend activities. Equally, if a branch member has concerns over the conduct of a volunteer, these should be raised with the Branch Officer via [nikki@nasHandR.org](mailto:nikki@nasHandR.org) / 01252 694934 or through NAS Head Office via Alessia Mitchell on [alessia.mitchell@nas.org.uk](mailto:alessia.mitchell@nas.org.uk) or 020 7923 5770.

By being a member of NAS H&R you agree to these rules - please contact us if you have an issue with this

# The Zone!

at Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College, Ballantyne Road, Farnborough, GU14 8SS

At our sessions at The Zone we have tea, coffee, juice and biscuits

- but donations of supplies are always appreciated.

Please note the timings - we have to request that you do not arrive before the start time and leave by the end time. We have very good setup/pack up routines and it's easier without any help!

## Cyber Zone - term-time only!

10.30am - 2.30pm on alternate Saturdays at The Zone. There are games consoles (PS3, Wii's, Xbox360), handheld games (PSP's, DSI's, 3DS's, laptops and android tablets. We also have an area for arts & crafts, Duplo and wooden train track for those who aren't keen on gaming.



## After School Zone - term time only!

Every Wednesday during term-time, join us at After School Zone! from 3 - 6pm. These are drop-in sessions for families to come along to when they want. The suggested donation is £1 per child. The Cyber Zone equipment is there, arts & crafts and more.



## Building Zone - term-time only!



Every Thursday during term-time you can join us at Building Zone from 3 - 6pm. You are welcome to drop-in at any time during the session. There's Duplo and Lego and we also have some of the Cyber Zone equipment too. The suggested donation is £1 per child. If models are incredibly precious, you're welcome to keep them for a donation in the tin!

## Teen Zone - term time only!

Teen Zone sessions are especially for those aged 11 years + who want to come along and play 12+ console games and socialise with those who are a similar age. On one Friday each month (see the calendar for dates) 6-8pm. We will have all the Cyber Zone equipment, as well as the pool table, air hockey table, Hexbugs and a tuck shop too! The cost will be £1 per child & money for the tuck shop. Parents need to stay at these sessions.



## Teen Zone Out!

To get our Teens socialising more, we are working on a variety of Teen Zone Out events. Recently the teens have thoroughly enjoyed go-karting, Laser-Run and indoor climbing. In July they have planned a graffiti session at The Zone and there are some wonderful ideas being bounced around for activities for later on this year! For more info contact Gaye on [events@nasHandR.org](mailto:events@nasHandR.org)

## Fun Zone!

During the Summer holidays we will be running our regular Fun Zone! sessions on Wednesdays, 10.30am - 2.30pm. They are run like our Cyber Zone sessions, so please bring along something for group lunch. We are hoping that the weather will be nice enough that we will be able to play outside and have a bouncy castle too!



Please remember our Branch Rules on page 6 - you are responsible for your children at all of our activities and you must supervise them at all times! **If you don't and there are issues we will have no option but to take action.**

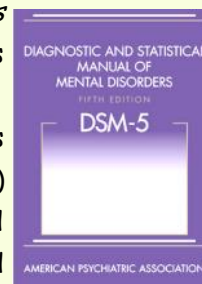
## NAS news!

The fifth edition of the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders* (DSM-5) was released by the American Psychiatric Association on 18th May this year.

Although the DSM is very influential, in the UK the main set of criteria used is the World Health Organisation's *International Classification of Diseases* (ICD) so it's unlikely that there will be any immediate changes to the way autism and Asperger Syndrome are diagnosed in this country. The ICD is due to be updated in 2015.

DSM-4 used the terms 'autistic disorder', 'Asperger disorder', 'childhood disintegrative disorder' and 'PDD-NOS' (pervasive developmental disorder not otherwise specified). With the introduction of DSM-5, when people go for a diagnosis in the future, instead of receiving a diagnosis of one of these disorders, they would be given a diagnosis of 'autism spectrum disorder'.

For more information on this, go to [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)



## NAS helplines

The **Autism Helpline** - 0808 800 4104  
Open Monday to Friday, 10am - 4pm,  
e-mail [autismhelpline@nas.org.uk](mailto:autismhelpline@nas.org.uk)  
or go to [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)

The NAS **Parent to Parent line**  
0808 800 4106 is a free and confidential  
telephone support service offered by  
volunteer parents of an adult or child  
with an ASD.

[www.autism.org.uk/autismdirectory](http://www.autism.org.uk/autismdirectory)  
A comprehensive directory of services  
and support for those affected by autism.

For advice on **educational** issues for parents  
whose children have autism or Asperger  
Syndrome, call 0808 800 4102

## Other local branches & support

NAS Surrey Branch: [www.mugsy.org](http://www.mugsy.org) or 07423 435413.

NAS South Hampshire Branch: [www.shantsnas.org.uk](http://www.shantsnas.org.uk)

NAS Alton Branch: call 07824 372034 (you may need to leave a message) or [www.nasalton.com](http://www.nasalton.com)

NAS Basingstoke Branch: call 07435 751193 - the website is currently unavailable.

**Contact a Family:** Free helpline 0808 808 3555 open 9.30am - 5pm, Monday to Friday.

**AFASIC helpline** (a speech & language charity): 08453 555577.

**Parent Voice:** [www.parentvoice.info](http://www.parentvoice.info) or phone 02380 721206.

## Research Autism

Research Autism is the only UK charity exclusively dedicated to research into interventions in autism. They carry out independent research into new and existing health, education, social and other interventions. Their goal is the improvement of quality of life and outlook for people on the autism spectrum and those around them.

For more information, take a look at [www.researchautism.net](http://www.researchautism.net)





# Other local news...

## Gateway Cards

If you still haven't got your Hampshire Gateway Card and wish to be able to attend our Inspiring You funded events, please complete a form at The Zone or go to [www.hants.gov.uk/gatewaycard](http://www.hants.gov.uk/gatewaycard)

To view activities available to Gateway card holders, go to [www.hampshiregateway.info](http://www.hampshiregateway.info)

Tell us your Gateway card number once and we will add it to our database!



## SOS!SEN @ The Games Shop

SOS!SEN close for the Summer on 19th July until 5th September, this means that calls to their helpline won't be answered and there aren't any walk-in sessions at The Games Shop in Aldershot. Go to [www.sossen.org.uk](http://www.sossen.org.uk) for more info on their opening hours.

## Contact a Family

Help & advice on various issues, including education, is available through their helpline on 0808 808 3555 or e-mail them [helpline@cafamily.org.uk](mailto:helpline@cafamily.org.uk)

## Hart & Rushmoor Voice

The next H&R Voice group meeting is on Tuesday 9th July, 10am - 12 at Owls Children's Centre, Mayfield Road, Farnborough. Parents/carers of those aged 0 - 25 years who have a disability or additional needs are invited to meet others, collect info on local activities and enjoy a cup of tea. Sue Griffin, a Transition Social Worker, will be there at 11am to talk about the next steps.

Contact Natalie for more info on 07852 422089 or [natliwalker@roseroad.org.uk](mailto:natliwalker@roseroad.org.uk)



## Autism Friendly Screenings

More cinemas are now running these special screenings including Odeon (Basingstoke), Cineworld (Aldershot) & Vue (Camberley):

- Cineworld at 11am on the 1st Sunday of the month.
- ODEON at 11.30am on the 3rd Sunday of every month.
- Vue at 10am on the last Sunday of the month.

The lights will stay on low, the volume is lowered, there's no trailers at the beginning of the film, you can take your own food & drinks and you're able to move around if you need to.

There's more information and downloadable social stories available at:

[www.dimensions-uk.org/what-we-do/autism-care/autism-friendly-films](http://www.dimensions-uk.org/what-we-do/autism-care/autism-friendly-films) or you can talk to staff at your local participating cinema.

## Challengers Fun Swims & Family Days!

Challengers Fun Swim sessions take place on the last Saturday of each month (27th July, 31st Aug, 28th Sept) at Guildford Spectrum, 6 - 7.30pm. Entry is by donation, suggestion of £2 per swimmer. There's no need to book but all children must be accompanied by an adult or carer. **\*\*We are meeting up at the July swimming session so come along and join us!\*\***

Challengers Family Sundays at Farnham playcentre run from 10am - 3pm during term-time only and cost £4 per child. For more info go to [www.disability-challengers.org](http://www.disability-challengers.org) or call 01483 230 939.

### Special Care Dentistry in Hampshire

The dental service provides dental care and treatment to children and adults who are unable to access this in a general dentist practice due to one of the following:

- a severe learning disability
- mental health issues
- medical complications
- behavioural difficulties



Referrals can be made by dentists, social services, learning disability services, mental health & psychological services, health visitors, other health care workers, voluntary agencies and hospitals. For more information or to download a referral form, go to [www.solent.nhs.uk](http://www.solent.nhs.uk) or call 023 8069 8677.

### Frimley Children's Centre closed

Appointments are now at being held at Frimley Park Hospital in outpatients B (opposite the overflow car park). There are also new blue badge parking spaces in this area of the car park. The car parking charges have also gone up, it's now £2.60 for up to 2 hours.

### OCD support group in Fleet

This is an informal and friendly group of families who meet once a month at in Fleet. They are a user-led group but do have the professional support of the national charity OCD Action. They meet on the first Wednesday of the month (3rd July, 7th August, 4th September, 2nd October, 6th November & 4th December) at The Key Centre, Elvetham Heath, Fleet, GU51 1AH, 7 - 8pm.

For more info go to [www.ocdsupportgroupfleet.yolasite.com](http://www.ocdsupportgroupfleet.yolasite.com) or email [ocdfleet@gmail.com](mailto:ocdfleet@gmail.com) alternatively call 01252 819431 (leave a message and someone will get back to you.)



### Emergency planning

The Princess Royal Trust for Carers in Hampshire have a dedicated team that will provide you with support to discuss, develop and implement an emergency plan. Up to 48hrs free care may be available for the person you care for in the event of an emergency. This is a FREE service that is funded by Hampshire County Council but run by the trust.

Call for more details 0845 604 1577 or go to [www.carercentre.com/emergency-planning](http://www.carercentre.com/emergency-planning)



### Rushmoor Summer Activity Guide

Rushmoor Borough Council has put together this year's Summer Activity Guide, offering a whole host of activities to keep children in Aldershot and Farnborough occupied throughout the summer. Please visit the website for details: [www.rushmoor.gov.uk/summeractivities](http://www.rushmoor.gov.uk/summeractivities)

### Radar Keys

The National Key Scheme (NKS) offers people with a disability independent access to locked public toilets around the country. Toilets fitted with National Key Scheme (NKS) locks can be found in shopping centres, pubs, cafés, department stores, bus and train stations and many other locations in most parts of the country.



You can obtain a free key from your local council office by showing a diagnosis letter but if you need an additional key, we have some available to purchase at The Zone for £2.50 each. For more info on Radar Keys go to [www.radar.org.uk](http://www.radar.org.uk) or call 020 7250 3222.

**'GO (Great Opportunities) Club'**

Saturday's during term-time, 2.30 - 4.30pm. The GO! Club is for children and young people with mild to moderate special needs aged between 5 and 19 years. The club has a fun and varied activity programme that includes sports, games, art and crafts. It is a short break for families, so parents and carers do not need to stay. At the Memorial Hall, Sandy Lane, Church Crookham, Fleet, GU52 8LD. The cost is £5 per session and booking is essential. For more info or to book places, call 01256 636288 or e-mail [enquiries@familyresourcecentreuk.org](mailto:enquiries@familyresourcecentreuk.org)

**All Stars Badminton**

Badminton clubs for all ages, abilities and disabilities. They use textured balls, punch balloons and shuttles. The aim is to have fun, socialise, exercise and do brain gym. With qualified coaches, DBS checked and insured. Various sessions are available and booking is made via Hart Leisure Centre. For more information go to [www.allstarsbadminton.wordpress.com](http://www.allstarsbadminton.wordpress.com), e-mail [linda.rapacioli@virgin.net](mailto:linda.rapacioli@virgin.net) or call 07891 305179.

**Training courses**

We need you to tell us what training or courses you would like to be able to access at The Zone! In the past we have had NAS Head Office come in to run various help! Courses; topics such as Teen Life, Sensory Issues and Anger Management, but we need to know if we should be organising these again or if families have any other ideas. This is your branch, so tell us what you want!

**Alice Holt Forest**

There's plenty to do at Alice Holt including play areas, 3D maze, habitat trails, accessible bikes and as well as the main Go-Ape activities there will soon be a Go-Ape Junior course for children who are aged 4 and over a meter tall. We hope to plan a branch day out here soon!

**Hart Leisure Centre Buddy Scheme**

The activity buddy scheme pairs young volunteers with disabled young people, to support them taking part in sports and activities at Hart Leisure Centre. It's for those aged 10 - 18 years, with additional needs, who would like to access activities at the centre.

The scheme is coming to the end of its pilot and if it's to continue they need to prove that it is needed. If you are interested then please give Megan a call on 01252 815652 or email [megan.r@hartvolaction.org.uk](mailto:megan.r@hartvolaction.org.uk)

**Wizzy World special needs sessions**

Every Monday, 4 - 6pm including throughout the Summer holidays, Wizzy World are running a session especially for families with a child with additional needs. It costs £3 per child including siblings (under 2's are free), food is available to purchase (the usual chips + chicken nuggets, sausages or fish fingers.) It's for those aged 12 years and under (but contact them if you have a child who is older as they may be flexible) and no proof of diagnosis is required. Call 01252 513001 for more info or to confirm sessions are running.





118 Fernhill Road,  
Farnborough,  
Hampshire,  
GU14 9DR

07825 280 274

info@nasHandR.org

We're on the web!

[www.nasHandR.org](http://www.nasHandR.org)

Make sure you let us  
know if you move or  
change your e-mail  
address.

If you don't, we can't  
get this newsletter to  
you!

## From our Facebook Group...

### If He Was My Child

He'd behave if he was my child  
I'd teach him right from wrong  
I'd put him on the naughty step  
Until his naughty streak has gone

But he isn't your child  
He's mine and I know what's best  
My son isn't being naughty  
He's just different to the rest

If he was my child  
He'd do as he was told  
I wouldn't accept bad behaviour  
Or him acting bold

But he isn't your child  
And I know him better than you  
Autism makes him different  
But unique and special too

If he lived in my house  
He'd live by my rules  
He wouldn't take us for a ride  
And he wouldn't take us for fools

But he isn't your child  
And I'm so glad that he's not  
You couldn't handle what I do  
You'd be out of there like a shot

He is my special child  
And he was sent to me  
Because I deserve him  
And can treat him specially

By Donna Woods.

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This poem was shared in our  
Facebook group and so many people  
liked it that we thought we should  
share it with everyone else too.

### [www.Autcraft.com](http://www.Autcraft.com)

For those of you with fans of  
Minecraft, there is now a  
dedicated called Autcraft;  
that is aims to provide a safe,  
fun and learning environment  
for children on the autistic  
spectrum and their families.  
This server isn't open to the  
general public and to join you  
must be approved first.



This is the newsletter of the  
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The National Autistic Society.  
Views expressed in this  
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England, registered address  
393 City Road London  
EC1V 1NG.

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