

Edition 108 - Thursday 7 January 2016

Spotlight on... Linkage ArtBeat Competition 2016

Description of service: Linkage Community Trust (Linkage) is a registered charity which provides a high standard of care, specialist further education and employment services to enable people with learning disabilities to realise their full potential. A new competition for students with additional support needs has opened for entries. Linkage ArtBeat celebrates art and photography in all their forms and was devised to champion the creative juices of young people with learning difficulties. Lincolnshire –based Linkage celebrates its 40th anniversary in 2016 of supporting people with learning disabilities and has widened entry to the competition to Yorkshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire, after a pilot competition in 2015.

Please put East Yorkshire's young people on the map by encouraging entries to this exciting competition.

Who can they help? For children aged 12 plus with additional support needs.

What happens next? The closing date is just before half-term, Friday 12 February 2016, the work does not have to be completed in school, but entries should be submitted through teachers. Whilst there is an open theme, as it is Linkage's special birthday, some art or photographs which celebrate birthdays, milestones or anniversaries would be welcome.

The top prize in each category is £100, with the winning work published online, in a magazine and featuring in a touring exhibition. An independent judging panel will include artist and BBC Humberside presenter, Phil White.

How much does it cost? Entry is free

Who do I contact? Full details are available from the Linkage website, please click [here](#) to access the website. For further information please contact: Tony Barker, Communications and Public Relations Manager, Linkage on telephone (01522) 503188 or email: tony.barker@linkage.org.uk.

FISH update

The December 2015 edition of the **ERSCB Newsletter** is now available, please click [here](#) to view.

Reminder - Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Young Leaders

East Riding of Yorkshire council want to establish a steering group of young SEND leaders and are looking to recruit a small team of young people. This group will have a role in making sure the voice of young people is built in to the way services they use develop and change.

The young leaders group will be supported to come up with creative ideas

about involving other SEND young people across the area.

Please get in touch if you (or someone you know)

- has any additional needs
- is aged between 11 and 25 years and
- has the skills and passion to be involved

The steering group will be fully supported and will receive training and support to develop their ideas.

What happens next? We would like to set up a first meeting date in March 2016. If you would like to be involved or would like any further information please contact the FISH Team by the end of January so that we can set a date for a first meeting of the steering group.

Contact: Tel: (01482) 396469 Monday - Thursday 8.30 am - 5.00 pm and Friday 8.30 am - 4.30 pm or fish@eastriding.gov.uk or post to FISH, Room KS42, County Hall, Beverley HU17 9BA

Local offer update

The LOOK AHEAD library has been put on the East Riding library catalogue search facility - <https://library.eastriding.gov.uk/web/arena>. It can also be accessed via the leisure section on the local offer website.

To view all books in the disability resource type "Look Ahead library" in the search facility. The books are in the process of being catalogued by condition which should be completed very shortly. So for specific books relating to Autism search "Autism Look Ahead library".

East Riding Voices in Partnership (ERVIP)

In the next few days, ERVIP will be posting and e-mailing out a questionnaire about the information and support they provide to their members. They would very much appreciate if you, as a parent/carer of a child/young person with Special Education Needs and Disabilities (SEND), could take a few minutes to complete and return the questionnaire back to them by 22 January 2016. Thank you.

All completed questionnaires will be put into a draw to win a £10 love-2-shop voucher.

The first ERVIP coffee morning of 2016 - Please join us for coffee and biscuits. From 10am. Laura Burling, the Regional Adviser from Contact a Family will talk about the involvement of parents and parent/carer forums in gathering parents' views on services. Please come along and contribute to the discussion. Any parent/carer who would like to come along but has difficulties with transport please get in touch with us (ERVIP) and we will see if we can help.

Date: Monday 25 January 2016

Time: 9.30 – 11.30 am

Venue: The Beverley Arms, North Bar Within, Beverley HU17 8DD

Contact: 07813676941

Email: sjwervip@hotmail.com

Beverley

Beverley Children's Centre 'Spring What's on' is now available on the FISH website - Please click [here](#) and scroll down the page to view

Humber Aquasplash Festival - The event is aimed at Disabled Swimmers over the age of five who can swim a minimum distance of 15 meters. Activities included in the pool session range from games through to competitive swimming assessment. Coaches and swimming teachers will be available to support swimmers throughout the session, which is designed to allow swimmers of mixed abilities to showcase their swimming skills in a fun and challenging environment. Swimmers will also have an opportunity to receive signposting information relevant to their swimming ability. Please book your place to participate at the festival before Friday 15 January 2016.

Date: Sunday 24 January 2016

Time: 3-6pm

Venue: Beverley Leisure Complex, Flemingate, Beverley HU17 7HQ

Contact: Chris Armstrong, Para-Swimming Pathway Officer on tel: 07787269306

Email: chris.armstrong@swimming.org

AFC Tickton PAN disability Football – The sessions are for young people aged eight – 18 years whether they have played before or trying their foot at it for the first time. Come along and have a go!

Dates: Fridays

Times: 6.00pm – 8.00pm

Cost: £3 per session

Venue: Longcroft School Sports Hall, Burden Road, Beverley HU17 9EX

Contact: Paul Adamson on 07739 458843

E-mail: padamson35@hotmail.co.uk

Bridlington and Driffield

Beverley Children's Centre 'Spring What's on' is now available on the FISH website - Please click [here](#) and scroll down the page to view

Bridlington Autism Support Group – A friendly and relaxing environment for parents whose children have autism to come together to chat

and support each other.

Date: Every Monday during term-time (the first session of the New Year will be held on: Monday 11 January 2016).

Venue: Christ Church Key Centre, Family Room, 2 Quay Road, Bridlington YO15 2AP

Costs: Free

Time: 10am till 12noon

Contact: Contact John Dixon for further information on (01262) 404100/ (01262) 404105 or email jdixon@christchurchbridlington.co.uk

Driffield parent carer support group – Are you a parent carer of a child with additional needs aged 0 – 19 years? Come along to our friendly parent led group, to share ideas and experiences with others.

Dates: The first session of the New Year will be held on Thursday 14 January 2016

Times: 11 – 12.30pm

Cost: Free - no need to book, just turn up on the day

Venue: Driffield Children's Centre, Beckside, Driffield YO25 6QN

Contact: Driffield Children's Centre on (01377) 240782

Driffield JFC PAN disability Football – The sessions are for young people aged eight – 16 years whether they have played before or trying their foot at it for the first time. Come along and have a go!

Dates: Thursdays

Times: 6.00pm – 7.00pm

Cost: £2.50 per session

Venue: Driffield Junior School, Bridlington Road, Driffield YO25 5HN

Contact: Martin Berniston on 07917 467067

E-mail: martin.burniston@hotmail.co.uk

Diverse Bridlington - Singing, dancing and acting for adults with learning difficulties/disabilities at the Spa in Bridlington. All welcome from around the East Riding. Sessions run all year round working towards three member led performances a year. The group is for those aged 17 years and above.

Dates: sessions run all year on a Tuesday.

Next dates: Tuesday 12 January 2016 / Tuesday 19 January 2016

Times: 2.15 – 3.30pm

Cost: First session free, after it is £5 a week

Venue: The Spa Bridlington, YO15 3JH

Contact: email: wearetheatre@googlemail.com or telephone: 07521 364107. Simply get in touch or turn up on the day. Website

www.wearetheatre.co.uk

DYNAMIX - Dynamix is an Inclusive Youth Club for young people aged eight to 24 with disabilities, as well as their friends & siblings too. Each week we offer a variety of activities from crafts, baking & breakfast club, to sport, the Wii, PlayStation, karaoke, speed cups, Lego & so much more. We also invite in the occasional visitor, run workshops & organise a few trips too. So... if we sound like your kind of youth club and you'd like to find out a bit more, if you'd like to arrange a visit, or chat over any specific needs prior to a visit, then please do get in touch as we'd love to hear from you.

Date: every Saturday morning during term time.

Time: 9am till 12noon

Cost: There is an annual membership fee of just £15 & a weekly charge of just £3 per person, with your first session free

Venue: Sixth Form block, Driffield School, Manorfield Road, Driffield, East Riding of Yorkshire YO25 5HR.

Contact: You can contact us via Facebook on www.facebook.com/dynamixyouthclub, Email us at dynamix01@outlook.com or Phone us on 07745 243378. You can also follow us on twitter... twitter.com/dynamixyouth or find out more on our website at... www.dynamixyouthclub.com

Haltemprice

Cottingham Children's Centre 'Spring What's on' is now available on the FISH website - Please click [here](#) and scroll down the page to view

Hessle Children's Centre 'Spring What's on' is now available on the FISH website - Please click [here](#) and scroll down the page to view

Willerby Jags Pan disability Football Club - This exciting new session will take place on Monday evening. Lead by experienced coaches the session is sure to provide fun, enjoyment and fantastic development for all players involved. The sessions are for young people aged eight – 16 years

Date: Mondays

Time: 7–8pm

Cost: First 6 weeks FREE then £2 per session thereafter

Venue: Hessle High School Sports Hall, Boothferry Road, Hessle HU13 9AR

Contact: Chris Allen on 07958109350 or chrisallen.hesslesporting@gmail.com

Holderness

Beeford Children's Centre 'Spring What's on' is now available on the FISH website - Please click [here](#) and scroll down the page to view

Hedon Children's Centre 'Spring What's on' is now available on the FISH website - Please click [here](#) and scroll down the page to view

Please let us know if you are aware of any disability activities or support groups in Holderness.

Goole

Brough and Howden Children's Centre 'Spring What's on' is now available on the FISH website - Please click [here](#) and scroll down the page to view

**** Use it or loose it!** - RUN AHEAD in the next three months is currently reviewing if they are able to continue the soft play group in the future due to low numbers.** If you have a younger child with Special Education Needs or Disabilities (with or without a diagnosis) who would enjoy soft play and sensory toys and as well as the opportunity to meet other families give the group a try.

Run Ahead – soft play session and family support group - Run Ahead is a voluntary group which provides an inclusive family support group for children with additional needs and their families. During the sessions the children/young people have exclusive run of the Fun Run soft play centre so families can relax and have fun, plus there is access to the sensory room. It is a great way to meet other families, make friends and have fun. The cafe is open so you can also enjoy a meal at the café which serves a variety of hot and cold meals, snacks and drinks. Siblings are welcome. A friendly, approachable group where you can have fun, meet other families and find out about local services and support.

When: 3rd Tuesday of the month (to be reviewed in March) – next session is Tuesday 19 January 2016

Time: 4 - 6.30 pm

Cost: £2.50 per child

Venue: Fun Run, Unit 4, Rawcliffe Road, Goole DN14 6TY (next to B&Q turn right on the entrance road to park outside Fun Run)

Contact: For more information please call Sharon Kitteridge on 07795 054340 or email sharonk@btinternet.com

Castaway Youth Music Theatre (Shipmates) - We're re-

launching our youth drama and music group in the New Year at a later time of 5 – 6.30pm on Mondays and with a new offer of escorted bus transport home so that young people with disabilities from different schools and colleges across the area can join in. With an age-range of 10 – 18 and skilled support for additional needs and disabilities, Shipmates young people and their families will tell you it's a great way to make friends, have fun and achieve more than you ever thought you could! Led by Sarah Davies. To find out more or to talk about specific needs before you come please get in touch, drop into a Monday session or visit Castaway any weekday or Saturday morning. We always enjoy meeting new people at weekly sessions or special holiday projects!

Dates: Term-time Mondays from 11 January 2016 and Easter / Summer holiday projects

Times: 5 – 6.30pm with informal teatime / craft / music activities from 3.45pm

Cost: £3 per session

Venue: Castaway Music Theatre, Estcourt Street, Goole. DN14 5AS

Contact: (01405) 761423 or info@castaway-goole.co.uk Find us on Facebook castawaygoole

Group - Castaway Young Musicians (Sloop Group) - Music making for 10 - 25 year olds in a friendly group with support for additional needs from a wide area around Goole. Opportunities to learn instruments, create and record your own music, play and sing together and progress towards performing or other Castaway groups. Led by professional musicians and popular with young people across the transition from school and sixth form to college and adult life, we make music that brings us together and anyone can join. 2016 has several exciting new projects in sight for us so it's a good time to seek us out and have a go. Led by Tom Sherman. Contact as below for more info or to talk about specific needs before you come or just ring the doorbell on a Saturday and meet us in action.

Dates: Termtime Saturdays from 9 January 2016

Times: 10 - 12

Cost: £3 per session

Venue: Castaway Music Theatre, Estcourt Street, Goole. DN14 5AS

Contact: (01405) 761423 info@castaway-goole.co.uk

Find us on Facebook [castawaygoole](#)

Wolds and Dale

Pocklington Children's Centre 'Spring What's on' is now available on the FISH website - Please click [here](#) and scroll down the page to view

Market Weighton Children's Centre 'Spring What's on' is now available on the FISH website - Please click [here](#) and

scroll down the page to view

Market Weighton daytime Autism Parent Carer

Support Group - If you are a parent carer of a child with Autism in the Pocklington/Market Weighton area come along for a cuppa and a chat with other parents. Your child does not need a diagnosis for you to attend.

Date: Friday 8 January 2016 / Friday 5 February 2016

Times: 9am till 12.00 noon

Cost: Free

Venue: Market Weighton Children's Centre, Princess Road, Market Weighton YO43 3BY

Contact: 07952 269817 or email mwareaautismsg@gmail.com

IMPs (Inclusive Music Projects) - IMPs is a fantastic musical opportunity for young people. Unlike a traditional music project, IMPs is fully accessible and inclusive, welcoming both disabled and non-disabled young people alike. IMPs is open to any young people who are creative, interested in music, and who like to perform and to meet other young people. Members learn to sing and sign, compose their own songs, create their own music using music technology and instruments and get regular opportunities to perform and share their music making with others. The group is for anyone aged between seven and 18 years old.

Dates: Every Monday during term-time (next dates: Monday 11 January 2016 / Monday 18 January 2016)

Times: 6 - 7.15pm

Cost: £4 per session

Venue: Woldgate College, 92 Kilwick Road, Pocklington, YO42 2LL

Contact: Tel: (01904) 626 965 / Email: imps@aamedia.org.uk

Market Weighton Autism Parent Carer Support Group -

Are you a parent carer of a child with Autism in the Pocklington/Market Weighton area? Come along to our friendly evening group for a cuppa and a chat with other parents. Your child does not need a diagnosis for you to attend. Louise Windsor from the FISH Special Educational Needs Information, Advice and Support (SENDIAS) Service will be attending the group to offer information and answer questions relating to your child in school.

Dates: Monday 18 January 2016

Times: 6.30 – 8.00pm

Cost: Free

Venue: Market Weighton Children's Centre, Princess Road, Market Weighton YO43 3BY

Contact: 07952 269817 or email on: mwareaautismsg@gmail.com

East Riding wide and Hull/York catchment

Hull Truck Theatre presents a Relaxed performance of Sleeping Beauty

Date: Saturday 9 January 2016

Time: 11am

Cost: All tickets £12 - please ask about free carer tickets

Venue: Hull Truck Theatre, 50 Ferensway, Hull HU2 8LB

Tel: Box Office (01482) 323638

www.hulltruck.co.uk

Disability Football - Talent Identification Programme -

The East Riding FA are hosting the Talent Identification Programme and are inviting players to come along to an FA England Talent Day for a chance to trial for a place on the 6 week Disability Talent Pathway programme. It is open to players aged 12 – 16 years.

There are several categories: Cerebral Palsy, Deaf Male, Deaf Female, Partially Sighted, Blind, Learning Disability and Amputee.

Dates: Tuesday 16 February 2016

Times: 10:00am - 1:00pm

Cost: Free

Venue: St Marys College, Cranbrook Avenue, Hull HU6 7TN

Contact: Pete Allison, Disability Football Development Officer on 07798 884500 **Email:** peter.allison@eastridingfa.com

Cottingham Rangers FC PAN disability Football – The sessions are for young people aged eight – 16 years whether they have played before or trying their foot at it for the first time. Come along and have a go!

Dates: Saturdays

Times: 9.30am – 11.30am

Cost: £3 per session

Venue: Hull University Sports and Fitness Centre, Inglemire Lane, Hull HU6 7AE

Contact: Pete Allison on 07798 884500

E-mail: carolholcombe@hotmail.com

Sproatley Juniors PAN disability Football – The sessions are for young people aged eight – 16 years whether they have played before or trying their foot at it for the first time. Come along and have a go!

Dates: Fridays

Times: 6.00pm – 8.00pm

Cost: £2 per session

Venue: Goals Soccer Centre, Hull HU5 1SG

Contact: Chris Turner on 07782 171606

E-mail: christurner1973@gmail.com

Goals PAN disability football – The sessions are for young people aged six – 16 years whether they have played before or trying their foot at it for the first time. Come along and have a go!

Dates: Saturdays

Times: 10.30am – 11.30am

Cost: £3.50 per session (first 2 sessions free)

Venue: Goals Soccer Centre, Hull HU5 1SG

Contact: Chris Turner – 07782171606

E-mail: christurner1973@gmail.com

Hull DS Active - football club for children from aged eight and adults with Downs Syndrome. There are three qualified coaches running the sessions.

Dates: Wednesdays

Times: 5-6pm

Cost: £3

Venue: South Hunsley Sports Centre, East Dale Road, Melton HU14 3HS

Contact: For more information please ring Katy Holmes on tel: 07896262013

Web: www.tigerstrust.co.uk

Elvington Harriers Pan Disability Football sessions – open to players aged 12 years and under, young people of all abilities are welcome whether they have played before or completely new to the game. The perfect opportunity for somebody to try something new at the start of 2016.

Dates: Starting Saturday 16 January 2016

Times: 12 noon to 2pm

Cost: £2 per session

Venue: The Lower Derwent Sports and Social Club, Elvington York

Contact: elvingtonharriers@yahoo.co.uk

Special Stars Foundation - Sounding Special - Music

and Makaton - A fantastic music and Makaton group for children and young people with special needs and their parents/carers. This friendly group uses Makaton to support their singing, at a pace that everyone can keep up with and enjoy. Siblings are also welcome at these sessions. Free accessible

parking on Clough Road entrance, behind the Church. All sessions are run fortnightly.

Dates: Saturday 16 and 30 January 2016

Time: 11am – 12.30pm

Cost 50p per child/young person

Venue: Newland Christian Centre, 552 Beverley Road, Hull HU6 7LG

Contact: info@heyspecialstars.co.uk or (01482) 236488 or contact maryjanehoyle@hotmail.com or telephone 07974 418789

Special Stars Foundation - Sunday Club - sensory play session for disabled children and young people and their families. Sensory play session for children and young people with disabilities, their parents/carers and siblings

Activities include; a themed arts and crafts table, sensory unit, bubble tubes, fibre optics, sensory den, sensory table featuring lots of tactile, visual and auditory sensory toys, soft play equipment, Games Room featuring 5 DS's, 3 iPads and ...and lots more!

These sessions cost £2 per child, light refreshments are included in this price.

The whole family is welcome including siblings, there is no need to book, just turn up, enjoy a hot drink and a cake, have some fun and connect with other families raising a disabled child/young person

We have disabled toilet facilities and a separate private area with a large cushioned change mat for parents/carers to use to change their child/young person's pads.

We also have a specialist book lending library, books are free to loan for our registered members.

Registration is simple and completely free, pick up a form at one of our sessions or you can download a form on our website

www.heyspecialstars.co.uk

Dates: Sunday 17 January 2016

Cost £2 per child/young person

Venue: Victoria Dock Village Hall, Southbridge Road, Hull HU9 1TY

Contact: info@heyspecialstars.co.uk or (01482) 236488

Special Stars Foundation – Inclusive Fun Dance Session -

Local professional dance company Flex Dance will be providing these fun, inclusive, dance sessions with no expectations from the children/young people. These sessions are aimed at disabled children/young people that would struggle to attend a typical dance class. Any ability may attend, wheel chair users are more than welcome to come and join in the fun! Sam and her team will lead with simple and fun dance movements for the children and young people to copy. There will be lots of encouragement and praise with small prizes given to all that take part. There will be two instructors leading

the session, there will be chairs set up in the hall for parents/ carers to watch and chat to other parents/carers. The session consists of one hour dancing and 30 minutes for refreshments and snacks afterwards. £10 for six sessions over Spring 2016 (one session free with block booking, normally £2 a session if bought individually). Sessions are 2:30-3:30pm on: Saturday 16 January, Saturday 30 January, Saturday 13 February, Saturday 27 February, Saturday 5 March and Saturday 26 March. Registration is simple and completely free, pick up a form at one of our sessions or you can download a form on our website www.heyspecialstars.co.uk

Dates: Saturday 16 and 30 January 2016

Time: 2:30-4pm

Cost £2 per child/young person, siblings welcome

Venue: Victoria Dock Village Hall, Southbridge Road, Hull HU9 1TY

Contact: info@heyspecialstars.co.uk or (01482) 236488

Special Stars Foundation - Special relaxed performance of Sleeping Beauty at Hull Truck Theatre.

We have reserved 100 seats for our members for this showing, including 7 wheel chair spaces. Tickets are normally £15 per person, however Special Stars Foundation work hard all year round to fund-raise so we are able to subsidise this special trip for our members for just £7 per person. Please book your seats now by contacting us with the number of seats you would like and secure your booking with your payment. This can be made via paypal to info@heyspecialstars.co.uk (please say what you are paying for in the comments section) or via cheque made payable to Special Stars Foundation and sent to PO BOX 558, Hull, HU9 9JW or by cash at any of our events.

Dates: Saturday 9 January 2016

Time: 11am

Cost: £7 per person

Venue: Hull Truck Theatre, 50 Ferensway Hull

Contact: info@heyspecialstars.co.uk or (01482) 236488

Special Stars Foundation - Special screening of The

Good Dinosaur - for children and young people with disabilities and their families/ carers. Film starts at 11am on Sunday 10 January 2016 at The Odeon in Hull. (Please arrive 10-15 minutes before the start of the film if you would like to buy refreshments and take your seats). Tickets are £2 per person (tickets will be released soon). Lights are left on, the sound is lowered and there are no adverts. We also have some sensory toys and light up toys so children and young people who struggle to sit for long periods of time can play at the front of the screen. We also welcome wheelchair users and can accommodate around 6 wheelchairs / special buggies per screening. This is a ticket only screening, tickets will be online soon, and we will post a link when they are available

Dates: Sunday 10 January 2016
Time: 10.45am
Cost: £2 per person
Venue: The Odeon Cinema, Hull
Contact: info@heyspecialstars.co.uk or (01482) 236488

Special Stars Foundation - Special screening of Star

Wars – The Force Awakens, for children and young people with disabilities and their families/ carers. Film starts at 11am on Sunday 10th Jan 2016 at The Odeon in Hull. (Please arrive 10-15 minutes before the start of the film if you would like to buy refreshments and take your seats). Tickets are £2 per person (tickets will be released soon). Lights are left on, the sound is lowered and there are no adverts. We also have some sensory toys and light up toys so children and young people who struggle to sit for long periods of time can play at the front of the screen. We also welcome wheelchair users and can accommodate around six wheelchairs / special buggies per screening. This is a ticket only screening, tickets will be online soon, and we will post a link when they are available

Dates: Sunday 31 January 2016
Time: 10.45am
Cost: £2 per person
Venue: The Odeon Cinema, Hull
Contact: info@heyspecialstars.co.uk or (01482) 236488

National News

Family Holiday Association

Description of service:

The Family Holiday Association is the only national charity providing struggling families with short breaks, group trips and days out. We offer short breaks at UK seaside holiday parks such as Haven or Butlins staying in a self-catering caravan. We cover the cost of accommodation, entertainment passes, linen, and depending on funding, can normally make a contribution towards expenses. We also provide funding for organisations to run group trips for families such as a day out at the seaside or a few days at an outdoor centre. We work with a range of attractions and travel companies who regularly donate tickets to us. More information about these offers can be found on the Referrers Area of our website as and when they are available.

Who can they help?

To be eligible families must be on a low income, have not had a holiday in the last four years, and have at least one child under the age of 18.

What happens next?

Families cannot apply to us directly but must be referred by someone working with them in a supporting role. Referrers can work or volunteer for a wide range of organisations such as schools, social services, children's centres,

charities, refuges and domestic violence abuse support groups, faith groups, housing associations and community health teams. To make an application or to see what offers we have available referrers need to register on our website.

How much does it cost?

This is a free service.

Who do I contact?

For more information please visit our website

www.familyholidayassociation.org.uk or contact the Grants and Projects Team by email grants@familyholidayassociation.org.uk or telephone 020 3117 0651.

Raise awareness – Schools' Autism Awareness Week -

learn more about autism, raise awareness and take part in interesting and fun activities at your school! Get started now with a free guide and free teaching resources, like assembly and lesson plans, to support you to help your students understand their autistic classmates better. Intolerance and hostility towards autistic people and their families leads to extreme social isolation, mental illness and profoundly unhappy lives. But, we also know that helping young people, as well as teachers to understand autism as they grow up will equip a new generation with the knowledge to accept and empathise with autistic people. At least 1 in 100 people in the UK have autism... so help raise awareness in your school. **What will the week involve?**

Schools can download a pack of free materials to use during the week to staff and students:

- learn about autism through imaginative lessons, activities and assemblies that are level-specific
- plan and take part in amazing fundraising activities
- help spread the word about why it's so important to understand and accept autism.

For more information and to view the resources visit www.autism.org.uk
<http://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/world-autism-awareness-week/schools-autism-awareness-week.aspx>

Autism Convention 2016 - a day-long convention with talks, workshops and performances. It's an amazing celebration of autism: where special interests are encouraged, communication comes in all forms, and the skills and talents of people with autism.

This event is run by a committee of autistic adults, and is designed for other autistic adults and young adults to enjoy. There is a range of activities, so whatever your interests and level of communication, there will be something you enjoy!

Date: Saturday 5 March 2016

Time: approximately 10am-5pm

Venue: The Light, Friends Meeting House, 173-177 Euston Rd, London NW1 2BJ

Cost: Tickets from £12.50 – for more information and to book your tickets please view the National Autistic Society Website:

<http://www.autism.org.uk/get-involved/raise-money/special-events/autismcon.aspx>

Please note inclusion of services and sessions is not an endorsement or recommendation.

The next bulletin will be on Thursday 21 January 2016

If you would like to submit information, news or events for inclusion in future FISH bulletins please email us at fish@eastriding