



June 2007

# OASIS

Oxfordshire Autistic Society for Information and Support

Chair: Voirrey Carr

Telephone: 07900144493 Email: [voirreyc@aol.com](mailto:voirreyc@aol.com)

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Dear Members

I hope that this academic year has gone well for you and your family. As we approach the long break it is time to turn your thoughts towards summer Playdays and within this mailing you will find the details of what is being offered this summer - all at reduced cost. Please do get your bookings in early as the days can get booked up very quickly.

In the autumn, we hope to have a new website up and running - we will keep you informed about developments but look forward to being able to keep you in touch with our activities via this means as well as by newsletter.

Have you heard about the 'Every Disabled Child Matters' campaign?

Visit [www.edcm.org.uk](http://www.edcm.org.uk) and register your interest. There is also a section for young people to get involved and say what would make a difference for them.

Don't forget to save the date of our Music for Autism concerts on the afternoon of October 28<sup>th</sup>. These concerts have always been pitched at an audience of children with autism and are organised by John Lubbock, father of Alexander, who has autism. It's a great opportunity to hear live music - played by musicians who really enjoy working with our children - and an opportunity to dance and run around and join in - in a lovely setting. In the meantime, have a great summer.

Do give the Playdays a try if you haven't done so before. They provide really important opportunities to meet up with other families.

Best Wishes

**Voirrey Carr**  
Chair, OASIS

## REQUEST FOR HELP

OASIS has been asked to help a foster carer who has fostered a student for six years - who is now about to leave school. Please take the time to read this request, and pass this information on to your contacts to help us find employment for him.

*"I am looking for an apprenticeship or employment for a student I have fostered for 6 years. He has mild ASD and will make an excellent employee. He is a polite, punctual, reliable boy and keen to learn new things.*

*For the past 18 months he has successfully worked one day a week at a tyre garage, which he has enjoyed. He leaves school this summer and would like to work in a garage".*

If you are able to help – please phone Voirrey Carr on 07900144493 or email [voirreyc@aol.com](mailto:voirreyc@aol.com)

**AN INVITATION FROM  
THE OXFORD AUTISM RESEARCH GROUP**

**SATURDAY 23<sup>RD</sup> JUNE 2007**

Professor Anthony Bailey and his team would like to invite families to visit the new Oxford Neurodevelopmental Magnetoencephalography (MEG) Centre.

Families will be given a tour of the new centre, the first in the world built for the study of brain function in autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders. They will also be able to see the scanner in action and ask members of the team questions.

If you would like to attend on the day then please fill in the reply form below, specifying the names of who will be attending and whether they are a child or an adult.

We will be escorting small groups in time slots throughout the day, so please specify your preferences.

REPLY FORM

I/we would like to attend the Autism Research Group MEG day on the 23<sup>rd</sup> June (please write names below and indicate whether they are a child or an adult)

- |          |             |
|----------|-------------|
| 1) _____ | child/adult |
| 2) _____ | child/adult |
| 3) _____ | child/adult |
| 4) _____ | child/adult |

I/we would like the time slot indicated below

9-10am    10-11    11-12    1-2    2-3    3-4    4-5pm

In case we can't accommodate you at your preferred time please indicate a second choice

9-10am    10-11    11-12    1-2    2-3    3-4    4-5pm

My address for confirmation of visit is

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Post code \_\_\_\_\_

Please return this reply form by email or mail to Ms Rose Stewart at the Department of Psychiatry, Warneford Hospital, Headington OX3 7JX

Call Rose on 01865 226383 or email [rose.stewart@psych.ox.ac.uk](mailto:rose.stewart@psych.ox.ac.uk) if you have any questions.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO THOMLEY ACTIVITY CENTRE  
14<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2007 11.00AM TO 3.00PM**

A fun filled day for the whole family with bouncy castle, jelly & ice cream, a BBQ, a magician, the chance to make your own birthday badges and hats, a plant/cake stall, bric-a-brac sale, sporty competitions, raffle and more.

It is hoped that Thomley's patron Jeremy Irons will come along and cut the special Birthday Cake.

For more information contact Thomley Activity Centre on 01844 338380

**HIPPOS** – A new support group for parents and carers of children with special needs in Oxfordshire

10.00am – 12.00 noon on the first Tuesday of every month in term time, at Leys Children's Centre, Windale School (Windale Avenue, Blackbird Leys OX4 5JD).

For more info contact Melissa Sheard on 07950125810 or Email: [Melissa.sheard@dsl.pipex.com](mailto:Melissa.sheard@dsl.pipex.com) or Elsa on 07745187633

**Autism Speakers & Professionals presents Donna Williams** international speaker, consultant and author of 9 published books on autism including 'Nobody Nowhere' which is due to be made into a film. Presents:

**“Understanding the Workings of Challenging Behaviour”.**

On 20<sup>th</sup> September 6.15pm at Thames Hall, The King's Centre, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 OES.

Admission: Professionals £20, Family members £10 and concessions £5.

Email: [info@autismspeakersandprofessionals.org.uk](mailto:info@autismspeakersandprofessionals.org.uk)

**AUTISM FAMILY SUPPORT  
A NEW YOUTH GROUP FOR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH ASPERGERS  
SYNDROME/HIGH FUNCTIONING AUTISM  
AGED 16 – 21 YEARS**

The new group will meet on Wednesday evenings 6.30pm – 9.00pm, based at a centre in Cowley, Oxford. The aim of the group is to encourage social skills, planning skills and independence.

Members will be involved with active planning & decision-making and be encouraged to organise fortnightly off-site activities (e.g. bowling, eating out, sports events, go-karting).

Initially the group will have a maximum of 12 members and be run by two members of staff, as well as volunteers to facilitate activities.

This group should start in July 2007 – for more information contact Gita Lobo, Project Coordinator at Autism Family Support on 01844 338696 or email: [gita@autism-fs.org.uk](mailto:gita@autism-fs.org.uk)

## ARE YOU ABOUT TO LEAVE SCHOOL OR COLLEGE AND WOULD LIKE TO WORK, BUT NEED HELP TO FIND A JOB?

**Right Employment** is a charity that helps people who have a learning disability, and are living in Oxfordshire, to find paid employment. As **Right Employment** is a charity, we do not charge for our services.

Since **Right Employment** started in 1999, we have helped over 350 people to find jobs. Some people choose to work just a few hours a week and others full-time. But however many hours you work, **Right Employment** can support you all the way.

Here's what we would do to help you find a job:

- Meet with you, your family and teachers so that we can get to know all about you. This is so that we can best match your skills and interests to suitable jobs
- Organise 'work tasters'. This gives you the opportunity to spend a day in different work environments
- Help with looking for jobs, writing application forms and preparing for interviews. **Right Employment** will even attend the interview with you
- Help with learning to use public transport to get you to and from work
- Training and support in the work place to help you learn your job and fit into your new working environment
- Support in the workplace until you no longer need our help.

### Sarah's Story

When Sarah first asked **Right Employment** to help her to find a job she was an extremely shy 20 year-old young lady. She was at college three days a week where she felt comfortable and secure, and although the idea of working was appealing – it was also very scary. Sarah found it difficult to make decisions by herself, she did not travel independently or confidently use money.

A small charity in Oxford was looking for someone to clean their premises for a few hours per week. Although very nervous, Sarah attended an interview – accompanied by **Right Employment** – and was offered the job. **Right Employment** helped Sarah to learn her job and travel independently to and from work using public transport.

As Sarah's self-confidence increased, so did her desire to work more hours. **Right Employment** supported Sarah to apply for a sales position in a high street retail store. She was successful in her application and now works two shifts a week in addition to her cleaning job.

Sarah loves going to work because of the independence - as well as money - that it brings. She gets on well with her work colleagues and decides how and where she will spend her money. Sarah has emerged a self-assured and able young lady who has learnt many new skills and now has confidence in her abilities.

If you would like **Right Employment** to help you, please call **01235 547160**  
for further information or an application form.



### HELPLINES

**OASIS** is run entirely by volunteers and does not have a full time helpline - although we are happy to respond to messages left on our answer phone: **07900144493**. We aim to bring people together to support each other, through our monthly meetings, conferences and Playdays.

For professional advice, the **NAS Autism Help Line** is open to anyone, not just NAS members  
Tel 0845 070 4004 Mon to Fri 10am to 4pm. You will obtain access to: -

- Advisers available to talk through autistic spectrum disorders and related issues in depth.
- Information packs and information sheets on specific subject areas, also available online at [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk). These provide generic, non-local, information on a wide range of subjects.

**NAS Parent to Parent Line:** Would it help to talk to someone who really understands what it is like living with autism? Freephone 0800 9520 520

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### Thomas & Friends zip pulls and bookmarks

Since 1945, everyone's favourite No.1 Blue Engine has embarked on a phenomenal journey, laying down tracks throughout the world. On the tracks of a train and through the words of a story, children enter a world of fun and imagination with Thomas & Friends. Many children with autism have a particular love of Thomas the Tank Engine. In recognition of this, Thomas & Friends are helping raise vital funds for the NAS through the sale of these exclusive zip pulls and bookmarks. You can also buy them direct at Lloyds TSB, Vodafone stores, Hamleys Toy Shop, selected Ottakar's bookstores, The Watercress Railway Line, Kent Railways and Formative Fun stores. For more info visit – [www.nas.org.uk](http://www.nas.org.uk)

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### Booking your summer holiday?

The **NAS** has compiled a comprehensive list of holiday centres. Although the NAS does not guarantee their suitability for children/ adults with asd – the information provided states their facilities are appropriate for people with autism and related disorders. For more information visit [www.nas.org.uk](http://www.nas.org.uk) Here are a few: -

**Avalon Breakaway Holidays** Avalon Breakaway provides holiday opportunities for people who need support. We organise tailor-made holidays at affordable prices for anyone who requires support in order to take a holiday. The venues are carefully selected to provide informal integrated holidays varying from the Yorkshire Dales to Europe, activity holidays to relaxed ones, hotels to luxury chalets or caravans, organic farms to baronial manors. We can also offer holidays in the homes of approved Avalon carers. Mary Scurr, Avalon Breakaway Manager, 2 South Park Road, Harrogate HG1 5QU; tel: 01423 529153; fax: 01423 536655; email: [mary@avalonservices.org.uk](mailto:mary@avalonservices.org.uk); website: [www.avalonservices.org.uk](http://www.avalonservices.org.uk)

**Camp Mohawk** Camp Mohawk is a summer daytime centre focusing on outdoor summer activities. Families are invited to become members which entitles the whole family to enjoy the woodland facilities, adventure playground, sensory rooms, swimming pool and organised activities under the care of parents and/or carers. Camp Mohawk is ideally suited for young people from 8-18 years old. Luke Jansen, Camp Warden, Camp Mohawk, Crazies Hill, Wargrave, Berkshire RG10 8PU; tel: 0118 940 4045; fax: 0118 940 2986; email: [camp\\_mohawk@hotmail.com](mailto:camp_mohawk@hotmail.com); website: [www.campmohawk.org.uk](http://www.campmohawk.org.uk)

**Smile Holidays** Smile Holidays is an exciting specialist provider of all inclusive holidays for people with learning disabilities. With a variety of destinations in England, Wales and France, each location has been carefully chosen to offer a choice of excursions, attractions, entertainment and fun! Our complete holiday package philosophy ensures that transport, accommodation, support and care are planned and provided on a person-centred basis. John Turnbull, Director, Smile Holidays, Seaviews, 10 St Leonards Gardens, Hove BN3 4QB; tel: 01273 439240; email: [enquiries@smilehols.com](mailto:enquiries@smilehols.com); website: [www.smilehols.com](http://www.smilehols.com)

**Les Pyracanthas** Les Pyracanthas is a large, comfortable house in the beautiful spa town of Luchon in the French Pyrenees. We offer holidays which are in a safe environment, providing space for your family or group to spend together in a relaxing, fun atmosphere. The location is perfect for all holiday needs, there are many activities in the area for those with lots of energy or beautiful, tranquil walks around the forests and lakes for those who prefer a quiet time. With 19 years' experience of caring and providing for people with special needs. Paul and Susan Hughes, Les Pyracanthas, 59, Route de Subercarrere, 31110 Montauban de Luchon, France; tel: +33 (0) 561 797 159, +33 (0) 7969 377583; email: [sueyhuey999@hotmail.com](mailto:sueyhuey999@hotmail.com); website: [www.specialfamilyholidays.com](http://www.specialfamilyholidays.com)

## Make purchases and benefit the NAS



### Now you can buy printer cartridges online & benefit the NAS at the same time

A new partnership between The National Autistic Society (NAS) and Cartridges 4 Causes means that a donation to the NAS will be made every time a printer cartridge is bought from [www.cartridges4causes.co.uk/autism.htm](http://www.cartridges4causes.co.uk/autism.htm)

For every order placed, Cartridges 4 Causes will give a donation to the NAS of £1.00 per toner cartridge and 50p per ink cartridge. As well as supporting the NAS, this website gives you access to a massive range of ink and toner cartridges at fantastic prices.

[www.cartridges4causes.co.uk/autism.htm](http://www.cartridges4causes.co.uk/autism.htm) or freephone **0800 881 8150** for more information.



The **NAS** have joined the **Charity Flower Direct Scheme** – the UK's only flowers by post scheme fully supported by the charity Age Concern. If you order flowers from them, please quote "**NAS**" and a proportion of your bill will be donated to the **National Autistic Society**.  
Tel: 0990 300 600

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### And to benefit you and your family .....

**Cinema Exhibitors' Association Card** is a national card that can be used to verify that the holder is entitled to one free ticket for a person accompanying them to the cinema.

The card is valid for 3 years from the date of issue with a small fee of £5 is chargeable per card. To apply for the card, you will need to be in receipt of the disability living allowance or attendance allowance or be registered blind (audio service available).

Application forms are available from cinemas across the UK supporting this card. Alternatively, download the form from [www.ceacard.co.uk](http://www.ceacard.co.uk)

If you have difficulty with accessing the internet please contact the friendly team at: -

The Card Network, The Technology Centre, Rossmore Business Park, Ellesmere Port  
Cheshire. CH65 3EN

Tel: 0845 123 1292 - Please select option 2 Fax: 0845 123 1296

Minicom / Text phone: 0845 123 1297

Many OASIS members already use this card to obtain a free carer's ticket at all Oxford Cinemas and now also at the new Cinema complex in Didcot at the Orchard Centre.

### **Oxfordshire County Council Libraries**

For all children/adults with a learning difficulty – Did you know you could take out audio/visual items free of charge (up to 3 per week). This service is **not advertised and it is up to you** to ask for your library ticket to be changed to a 'special needs/disabled ticket'. Please spread the word.

### **Free Bus Pass**

For free travel within Oxfordshire (including city centre park & ride) and further afield – must be in receipt of DLA or other benefit – to download application form and get further details access: -

[www.westoxon.gov.uk](http://www.westoxon.gov.uk) [www.southoxon.gov.uk](http://www.southoxon.gov.uk) [www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk](http://www.whitehorsedc.gov.uk)

## 🍷 Gluten Free Recipes 🍷

### **Nutty Butter Cookies**

125g Butter  
150g Sugar  
100g Chopped Nuts  
1 Egg  
150g Rice, Buckwheat or Gluten Free Flour  
1tsp Baking Powder – 2tbsp Water

Cream together the butter and sugar, followed by the egg.  
Mix in the flour, baking powder and nuts, then finally the water.  
Place spoonfuls of mixture onto oiled baking tray and cook for 15 - 20 minutes in an oven preheated to 180°C/Gas Mark 4.

### **Butterfly Cakes**

75g Gluten Free Flour  
75g Softened Butter  
75g Caster Sugar  
1/2 tsp Baking Powder  
2 Eggs  
¼ tsp Vanilla Essence  
50g Softened Butter  
75g Icing Sugar

Cream together the butter and sugar until light and fluffy. Beat in eggs, vanilla, gluten free flour and baking powder. Fill paper cake cases standing in a patty tin with the mixture and bake for 10-12 minutes in an oven preheated to 200°C/GasMark 6. Mix together the butter and icing sugar until soft and creamy. When the cakes are cold slice off their tops, then cut each top in half. Spread the top of each cake with the butter icing then press two sponge halves into the icing.

Web links for supplies and more recipes: - [www.dovesfarm-glutenfree.co.uk](http://www.dovesfarm-glutenfree.co.uk)    [www.wessexmill.co.uk](http://www.wessexmill.co.uk)

## **SPORT & FUN FOR CHILDREN/ADULTS WITH SPECIAL NEEDS AT WILLOWBROOK LEISURE CENTRE, LADYGROVE PARK, DIDCOT**

**Bounce Session** – have fun and enjoy the bounce session with music and games alternating with bouncy castle and obstacle course for children with special needs. Sessions run every Thursday during term time and school holidays on Thursday from 1.30 to 2.30pm. £2.50 per session – no pre-booking required, just turn up.

**Mixed Sports & Movement Session** - Held every Wednesday 1.30pm to 2.30pm during term time and school holidays – no pre-booking required, just turn up.

Come and join us on the mixed sports and movement session for young people/adults with learning disabilities and people who need extra support to compete. This session is a **new club** with qualified coaches, providing a variety of mixed sports

**Tel: 01235 812058**

**[www.soll-leisure.co.uk](http://www.soll-leisure.co.uk)**



## OASIS DONATIONS



We have received several donations during the first part of this year - for which we are extremely grateful.

The donations are used to fund OASIS Playdays, Newsletter, monthly speakers, rental of Cheney School and special events, our biannual conference and the forthcoming website.

A big **THANK YOU** from all OASIS members and their families to the following for their support.

Charity Aid	£500
Rotary Club - Oxford	£1,000
Dorothy Holmes Trust	£1,000
Walter Jennings and Sons	£5,000

If you would like to organise an event to help raise funds for OASIS, please let us know and we will advertise it for you in this Newsletter. Please support the following fundraising event organised by the family of one of our Committee Members.

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## FUNDRAISER FOR OASIS



## YOU ARE INVITED TO THE YVETTES CONCERT

At Kennington Village Hall on Friday June 15<sup>th</sup> at 7.30pm.  
Tickets £10 including supper

Funds raised will be donated jointly between OASIS  
and St Swithen's Church

For Tickets, please call Roger or Mary Dennett  
on 01865 739979



INVESTOR IN PEOPLE



**OXFORDSHIRE  
COUNTY COUNCIL**

CHILDREN, YOUNG PEOPLE & FAMILIES

[www.oxfordshire.gov.uk](http://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Mark Geraghty

Head of SENSS

Autism Resource Base  
The Cherwell School (south site)  
Marston Ferry Road

Oxford  
OX2 7EE

Tel 01865 316712

Email:  
[mark.geraghty@oxfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:mark.geraghty@oxfordshire.gov.uk)

Keith Bartley

**Director for Children,  
Young People & Families**

## The Autism Advisory Service

In Oxfordshire there are three contexts within which ASD students are educated: Special Schools, Autism Resource Bases, and Mainstream Schools. The Autism Service has been in existence for thirty years and more recently, it has become part of the county's larger Special Educational Needs Support Service.

The Autism Advisory Service has three (fte) teachers who offer support to mainstream and special schools and to families to help them ensure that ASD students have the best possible educational opportunities. Our primary aim is to develop the schools' understanding of ASD. We provide training and consultations of all kinds, discussing autism in general or the specific needs of one child. Often the focus is on the strategies that will help students to:

- Understand everyday classroom language and codes.
- Manage transitions.
- Deal with unpredictable changes of routine.
- Find ways to socialise and make friends.
- Organise their thinking.
- Communicate homework to parents.

An essential part of our work is to help people grasp how real the difficulties genuinely are for children with ASD; to recognise when what seems like 'naughtiness' or a 'fuss about nothing' is actually a sign of stress or incomprehension; to see that 'rudeness' can be just an insistence on being truthful. We want staff to try to think, even just for a moment, autistically, so that the behaviours that seem to come from nowhere can begin to be predictable. An extension of this work is the education of ordinary mainstream students. We talk to classes, year groups, whole schools and even small groups of 'bullies'. I never cease to be amazed at the effects these talks can have. The fact that someone has come from the outside to explain why this boy behaves so oddly, and the explanation itself, can change the dynamic in a class so that teasing becomes unacceptable and the silent, civilized majority gain in confidence.

The work we most enjoy is the work we get least time for - getting to know individual students and working with them directly. Some similar advisory services are actually forbidden from doing this, but we find it can be effective to give students short bursts of work on thinking, planning, social skills and emotional understanding. We can also provide time and help for students to reflect on the meaning of their diagnosis; how it affects their lives and the strategies they can use to manage it. Regular, brief sessions can be also be helpful for a student in giving a sense of continuity as they move through all the transitions of their school career. At these meetings, students will often bring up issues they have not told school staff or parents and we can then identify the areas where teachers and TA's need to focus their efforts.

We do make home visits and give some support to families, but we have always been aware of how much of this need we were not able to meet and since the development, by OASIS and Children in Touch, of the Autism Family Support team, we have been able to work closely with them, knowing that they can be there when we are not. In the past, we have also offered groups for siblings to discuss what it is like to have an autistic brother or sister.

Our past surveys of schools have revealed very high levels of satisfaction with the support we provide and individual parents frequently feed back to us their thanks and recognition that we are doing a good job. However, an OASIS parent survey, some years ago, revealed a feeling among too many parents that their child had had little or no support. This was alarming and I suspect it is not a feeling that has gone away. The diagnosis of autism has increased rapidly year after year and this has squeezed the time available for each individual child. The service has to establish priorities. We would like to be proactive as far as possible and meet the needs of the students before a crisis develops but often we have to give our time to those who have an urgent need.

Most parents will be aware of how many children with autism seem to sail along well for a period and then develop an acute need. We prioritise our case load into three categories. Those requiring 'Frequent' support will probably have visits up to once a fortnight and sometimes once per week. Those we term 'Ongoing' are generally in need of regular monitoring and support but the schools are reasonably satisfied with their progress. We would see this group between 3-6 times a year. The largest group we term, 'On Hold'. In these cases, the indications are that the student is doing well and we only need to visit for the annual review or when the SENCo or a parent makes a specific request. We try to be as flexible as possible about how we use these categories. If someone is expressing concern, we will make additional visits as soon as possible to reassess the need. The trouble with this approach is that parents and schools have to tell us when a problem is developing and some people are much more likely than others to call for help.

I would urge parents in particular not to hesitate to make contact when they are worried and feel their child is unsupported. It is very common for schools to perceive that an autistic child is making progress because he's being reasonably compliant, whereas a parent can see that he is actually treading water, friendless, depressed or finding it so hard to keep himself together at school that he is like a 'shaken up coke' exploding as he walks through the door at home.

Understanding of ASD is spreading. Each week brings us evidence that some schools and teachers have already learned how to adapt environments and teaching styles, and they are keen to learn more. We have recently introduced an online training course that has been taken up enthusiastically by large groups of staff. Yet at the same time the unmet needs are impossible to miss. Too many students have no friends. Too many are excluded. Too many are bullied. Too many are over-stressed and under-achieving. Too many are still misunderstood. The best schools and teachers are aware of how difficult school life can be for someone with ASD and yet they still have high expectations and they manage to communicate these to the child in positive ways. These schools usually lap up the specific strategies the advisory teachers recommend but they also have their own creative solutions, which sometimes call for extraordinary commitment. Yet we all have to be aware of the pressures on school staff and keep our expectations realistic.

Schools want to work in close partnership with parents and they usually value what they can learn from the exchange. They accept the need for parents to advocate strongly for their children. But there are often huge gaps of perception when parents and teachers read the child and the situation completely differently and frustrations build up. The advisory teacher can often play an important role in clarifying the way each side sees the problem and help to find solutions.

One valuable development we have taken on recently is the Early Bird Plus programme. This is a training and discussion course for parents of young (4-8) autistic children to undertake with the members of staff who are working most closely with their child. It represents a substantial investment of time but it gives parents an extended opportunity to share their knowledge of their child and to develop joint strategies to solve problems. It could be a valuable model for some future developments.

**Richard Brooks**



# OASIS Committee 2007

Voirrey Carr Chair	Tel: 07900144493 Email: VOIRREYC@aol.com
Rachel Dennett – Treasurer / Membership	
Carolyn Kendrick - Secretary	
Yoko Myers – Special Events	
Anne Brooks - Newsletter	
Caroline Simmonds - Speakers	
Josey Wilkins - Playdays	
Verity Loughman - Librarian	

## Information for Members

- **OASIS Meetings** are held at Cheney School Community Hall, Cheney Lane, Oxford OX3 7QH. Commencing 7.30pm with coffee, followed by meeting at 8.00pm.
- **OASIS Library** – we have an extensive library of books and videos on autistic spectrum issues available for loan at our meetings held at Cheney School.
- **Newsletter** contributions are always welcome; if you have a suggestion for, or would like to write an article for inclusion, please contact any member of the committee, or email Voirrey.
- **Sponsorship** - OASIS is currently looking for a sponsor to produce copies of this newsletter for our members. If you know a company who would be willing to take this on, or know someone we could ask, please contact any member of the committee.

## OASIS PLAYDAYS 2007

Book your places for the OASIS Playdays held every Thursday during the summer holidays. Don't miss out - see the attached flyer with this Newsletter and book early. Now all we need is the sun to shine!

Here's hoping it will be as hot as last summer - don't forget to bring sun cream, hats and plenty to drink - and your packed lunch if you are not taking advantage of purchased refreshments which may be available at each venue. Wear the correct clothes, i.e. horse riding requires long trousers!

Each Playday is hosted by a willing OASIS Volunteer - they are there to book you in as you arrive, greet you and give brief info on what is on offer for the day - so please arrive promptly as they will also want to take part with their family. Last year some families arrived up to 1 hour late - making it difficult for our volunteers to care for their own family with asd needs.

**Red Tape** ..... Do not forget that it is your responsibility to look after your children's safety and well being whilst attending Playdays. Of course, OASIS try to ensure each venue is as suitable as possible for our families - **but you are ultimately responsible for your own safety and those of your family.**

**OASIS Disclaimer:** No responsibility is accepted for any loss or damage caused by information contained in this Newsletter. Equally while we endeavor that all information provided is accurate, impartial and unbiased, we cannot accept liability for any loss whatsoever caused as a result of inaccuracy of this information.



# OASIS EVENTS AND INFORMATION

All meetings take place at Cheney School Community Hall, Cheney Lane, Oxford OX3 7QH. Coffee available from 7.30pm and meeting commences 8.00pm. Ring Voirrey Carr for further information: 07900144493 or e-mail [voirreyc@aol.com](mailto:voirreyc@aol.com) New Members and visitors are always welcome.

September 11th	Focus on spotting the signs and dealing with bullying
October 2nd	Writing Social Stories to help children to understand social situations
October 25th	Playday Coach Trip to Legoland in Windsor
October 28th	Music for Autism/OASIS afternoon concert at Jacqueline du Pre building in Oxford.

### Map showing location of Cheney School

Link: [www.multimap.com](http://www.multimap.com)



## 🖥️ THE OASIS WEBSITE IS COMING SOON 🖥️

We are currently in discussions with a company who will be setting up our website and training our committee to keep its content updated. As soon as all is finalised we will give you details of the website address.