

Issue 17

**JANUARY 2015**

## A Note from the Editor

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Autism Self-Assessment Framework. Autism Innovation Fund. World Autism Awareness Day. A Day in the Life Of – Awareness Film. There are so many things happening between now and the end of the financial year! I think it will be a rather busy time...



Having said that, I think it will also be a very exciting and interesting couple of months, and I'm really happy that we've got these opportunities. Actually, I think it's time for a big THANK YOU to everyone who is supporting and working with us in making these things happen – we couldn't do it without you!

I'll try my best to keep you updated on all the various projects happening, but, as always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or comments you have.

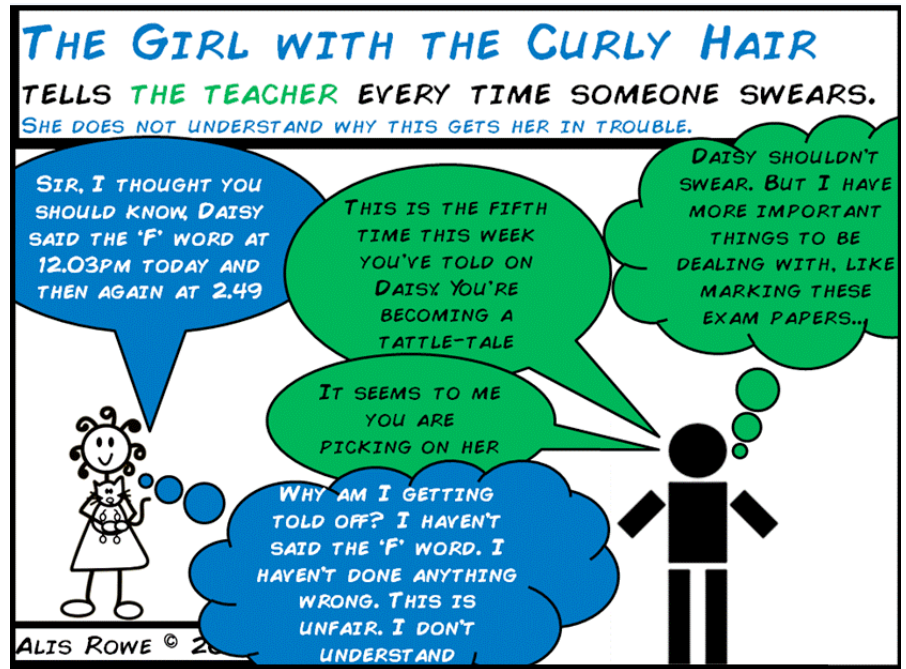
**Rebecca**  
**Autism Specialist Worker**

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You can contact us in the usual ways:  
email [autism@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:autism@richmond.gov.uk),  
or write to the Autism Specialist Worker,  
2nd Floor Civic Centre,  
York Street,  
Twickenham, TW1 3BZ.  
Further information at [www.richmond.gov.uk/autism](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/autism).

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# Thoughts from the Girl with Curly Hair ....



Alis Rowe  
Creator of the Curly Hair Project  
[thegirlwiththecurlyhair.co.uk](http://thegirlwiththecurlyhair.co.uk)



# Autism Self-Assessment Framework

The DoH is currently updating the Autism Audit (2014 Autism Self-Assessment Framework). The aim of this exercise is to enable local strategy groups to review their progress and support future planning with partners including people with autism and their families. The self-assessment includes the priorities set out in the Think Autism update to the Strategy published earlier this year and the emerging themes that feature in the statutory guidance for Local Authorities and the NHS, that is currently out for consultation. This process is also a key means of identifying progress in the implementation of the Strategy across the country.

This exercise builds on the self-assessment exercise that looked at what progress had been made by September 2013. Some questions have changed since last time, but the exercise will still enable a comparison with results from the 2013 exercise.

In response to this consultation, we are currently completing our self-assessment. Please have a look at the final questions: "Saf 2014 final questions" in the link attached [www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk/projects/autsaf201415](http://www.improvinghealthandlives.org.uk/projects/autsaf201415). If you look at question 11 of the questionnaire you can see that it relates to personal stories, so it would be great if you could send us an account of your experience in Richmond. The guidelines on giving this experience are laid out in the question but if you have any queries please don't hesitate to contact us at [autism@richmond.gov.uk](mailto:autism@richmond.gov.uk)

## Drop-in Groups and Carers Groups

The new dates for Spring 2015 have been published, as have the topics for the drop-in groups. All the groups always welcome new members and are very welcoming, so please feel free to pop by! For more information please see: [www.richmond.gov.uk/home/services/health\\_conditions/autism/autism\\_groups.htm](http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/services/health_conditions/autism/autism_groups.htm)

# The Normansfield and Richmond Foundation

The Normansfield and Richmond Foundation (formerly known as the Friends of Normansfield) is a charity that supports adults with learning disabilities in the London Borough of Richmond upon Thames.

We are excited to announce that the foundation has agreed to a very generous grant of £10,000 towards the cost of creating an innovative multi-sensory in- and outdoor environment in a new supported living environment which is currently being built. This is a fantastic step towards raising the total amount required and will hopefully be a significant help in raising the remainder. We'd like to take this opportunity to remind you that the organisation provides grants for both organisations and individuals, so you could apply, too!

You can apply if you need financial help for an activity, equipment or a holiday and you have a learning disability or are a family carer of someone with a learning disability. For further details please see the Foundation's website [e-voice.org.uk/friendsofnormansfield/](http://e-voice.org.uk/friendsofnormansfield/) or ring Deb Carr-Hill on 020 8979 1713 or Richard Jeffries on 020 8876 1746.

**Keep warm this winter**

## RPLC Warm Campaign 2015 – possible grants for service users

AS part of Richmond Parish Lands Charity's (RPLC's) "Warm Campaign" 2015, grants of £100 towards gas and electricity are being made available for eligible service users in the TW9, TW10 and SW14 postcodes.

Those eligible are the over 65 on means-tested benefits. In addition, any non-pensioner with a disability who would benefit from extra heating as a result of his/her disability and who is on a means tested benefit may also apply however they do need to get a form signed by their GP – the forms are available from GPs. Please contact RPLC for more information on 020 8940 9562 (on Tuesday, Thursday or Friday mornings).



## Setting up Supported Living Workshop

Action-attainment have organised a series of workshops to support parents who are working with young people with Speech Language and Communication Needs (including ASC, ADHD, Dyspraxia and Dyslexia) as they move towards adulthood. "Setting up Supported Living", a workshop with Golden Lane Housing will identify how young people can use their personal budgets, share costs for supported living, and group together to live in accommodation in places of their choice.

The Workshop takes place on 10th March 2015 at the Disability Advice Centre, 4 Waldegrave Road, Teddington, TW11 8HT from 7-9pm. Places are limited, so please use the contact form on this page to sign up. Details are available at the following link: [www.action-attainment.com/getting-a-life-book-workshops-now/](http://www.action-attainment.com/getting-a-life-book-workshops-now/). Contributions to the running costs will be £10 per person, payable on the door.

## Support with EHCPs / SEN Statements



An Independent Support Partnership has been set up by Richmond AID, ruils and KCIL to provide independent support and advice to families on the new special education needs legislation and the new Education Health and Care Plan (EHCP) system. If you have applied for an EHCP or if your child has a statement and has been told that will be transferring to EHCP, the partnership can support you through the process. Please see the following link [www.ruils.co.uk/Independent-Support-Partnership/28/244](http://www.ruils.co.uk/Independent-Support-Partnership/28/244). Their independent supporters will:

- Help families understand the legal framework and the local referral process
- Help families to a timely and successful resolution by navigating the EHCP timelines
- Be a named contact throughout EHCP assessment and planning
- Provide all relevant information, signpost other organisations and sources of support.

If you live in Richmond you can access Independent Support by contacting Alex Hardy on 07507 805 966 or at [alexhardy@ruils.co.uk](mailto:alexhardy@ruils.co.uk).

## Things to Do

### Othello - Relaxed Performance at Shakespeare's Globe



Relaxed performances at the Globe are specifically designed for people on the autism spectrum, as well as those with learning disabilities, sensory or communicative disorders, or indeed anyone who may benefit from a more relaxed environment. This means that there is a more casual-than-usual approach to front-of-house etiquette with a separate Chill Out Space for quiet time if needed. This performance will enable people on the autism spectrum and their families, who may at times feel excluded from attending the theatre, to experience a first-rate performance in a welcoming environment.

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It would be great if you could share any information you might come across for our "Things to Do" section.

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The Globe's next relaxed performance will be "Othello" on 7th March. More information may be found here [www.shakespearesglobe.com/education/discovery-space/playing-shakespeare](http://www.shakespearesglobe.com/education/discovery-space/playing-shakespeare). Tickets will be **free** and will be released shortly. You can email [access@shakespearesglobe.com](mailto:access@shakespearesglobe.com) or telephone on 020 7902 1409 (10.00am-5.00pm, Monday to Friday) for details of how to book.

### TREE - A play for two people by Daniel Kitson

#### Last chance to book...



It's early evening in the middle of autumn, it's just starting to get dark and on a quiet residential street a man with a picnic basket, arrives late, at a tree. The London premiere of a (relatively) new play about dissent, commitment, two people and a tree.

There will be relaxed performance on Saturday 31st January, 11am at The Old Vic, The Cut, London SE1 8NB.

Tickets are £16 with free companion ticket. To book for the relaxed performance please call 0844 871 7635 or email [access@oldvictheatre.com](mailto:access@oldvictheatre.com).

# Autism Friendly Screenings

**Autism-Friendly Screenings are film screenings especially for people on the autism spectrum and their families, friends and carers. See below for information on Dimensions and Picturehouse screenings.**



During Picturehouse Autism-Friendly Screenings low lights are left on in the auditorium and the volume of the soundtrack is reduced. It is fine for customers to move around and make noise during the film.

Tickets cost £3 for everyone. To find out more or to be added to the mailing list, email [lucy.o@picturehouses.co.uk](mailto:lucy.o@picturehouses.co.uk) with 'Autism-Friendly Mailing List' as the subject.

For more details of listings visit:

[www.picturehouses.co.uk/Autism\\_Friendly\\_Screenings/](http://www.picturehouses.co.uk/Autism_Friendly_Screenings/)



Dimensions turn the lights up, turn the volume down and remove all advert trailers during their monthly Autism Friendly screenings. Each of the participating cinemas (including the Odeon in Richmond) shows a different film from a selection of new releases and classics suitable for all age ranges.

For more details of listings for all four participating cinemas, go to: [www.dimensions-uk.org/what-we-do/autism-care/autism-friendly-screenings/](http://www.dimensions-uk.org/what-we-do/autism-care/autism-friendly-screenings/)

# Reminder of Dates for your Diary...

FEBRUARY 2015						
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16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

## Thursday 5th February

Younger drop in group. Trip. For more details contact [Natasha@resourcesforautism.org.uk](mailto:Natasha@resourcesforautism.org.uk)

## Thursday 12th February

AutenRichmond Social Group, "Empathy"  
6 – 8pm, The Crossway Centre, 306 Richmond Road, East Twickenham, TW1 2PD.

## Wednesday 18th February

Time to Talk Carers meeting  
6.30 – 8pm, The Greenwood Centre, 1A School Road, Hampton Hill, TW12 1QL

MARCH 2015						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S
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30	31					

## Thursday 19th February

Younger drop in group. "Anxiety"  
6 – 8pm, The Crossway Centre (address as above)

## Thursday 26th February

AutenRichmond Social Group.  
Bowling, 6pm at The Rotunda Kingston-Upon-Thames, Surrey, KT1 1Q

## Friday 27th February

Coffee and Catch-up Carers meeting with NAS Richmond,  
10.30am – 12 noon, The Crossway Centre (address as above).

## Thursday 12th March

AutenRichmond Social Group, "Time Management"  
6 – 8pm, The Crossway Centre (address as above).

## Wednesday 18th March

Time to Talk Carers meeting  
6.30 – 8pm, The Greenwood Centre (address as above).



### **Friday 20th March**

Coffee and Catch-up Carers meeting with NAS Richmond,  
10.30am – 12 noon, The Crossway Centre (address as above).

### **Thursday 26th March**

AutenRichmond Social Group, meal in Richmond (restaurant to  
be decided by the group).

For more details contact [Charlotte@resourcesforautism.org.uk](mailto:Charlotte@resourcesforautism.org.uk)

## **Forthcoming Entertainment Dates**

### **Saturday 31st January**

Relaxed Performance of "Tree" - A play for two people  
by Daniel Kitson,  
11am at The Old Vic, The Cut, London SE1 8NB.

### **Saturday 7th March**

Relaxed Performance of "Othello" at Shakespeare's Globe,  
2.00pm, 21 New Globe Walk, Bankside, London SE1 9DT