

## Happy Birthday to ENAS!



Dancing the Night Away



Anna and a giant Balloon Penguin

Over 100 guests dressed in black and white finery gathered at the Penguin winter wonderland of The Royal British Legion in Enfield on Saturday 25th February. We enjoyed fish and chips, ingenious games like the Snowball Raffle, and danced the night away.

The Penguin Dance raised over £1500 which will help fund our branch and activities such as the Florence Hayes Adventure Playground sessions. Sophie Castell gave a moving keynote speech, recalling how we formed the branch 5 years ago to lobby for better education and services for autistic children, and to support each other in friendship through all the challenges living with autism brings.

Maybe we often feel like penguins huddling together in an Arctic winter – but we have our Happy Feet moments too. One of these was watching our friends negotiate 6 foot tall balloon penguins into their cars at the end of the evening! A special thank you to Jane Richards who organised the evening and to everyone who came along to support us.

## Special guests for this year's Annual General Meeting

**On Monday 18th June we will hold our AGM at 7.30pm in Cedar House, St Michael's site, Enfield EN2 0JA**

We celebrated Enfield Branch's 5th Birthday this year, and it's also 50 years since the National Autistic Society was founded. To mark this, we're delighted that Dr. Carol Homden, new chair of the NAS will be joining us. She is very keen to meet members of local branches, so please come along.



**Dr. Carol Homden – new chair of NAS**

We will also welcome Dinah Murray from OutreachIT to talk about the new technologies and how they can help children and young people with autism. There will be an opportunity to try some of the apps. Come along and find out how you can use these devices to benefit your child or young person.

We will also be electing our Branch Officer and Treasurer for the coming year. We hope that many of you will come along to this special meeting. It should be a very interesting evening.

If you haven't been before, we meet upstairs at Cedar House. You will be warmly welcomed. Refreshments provided.

## Branch Meeting

**Wednesday 4th July: Secondary Education in Enfield for young people with autism 7.30pm, Cedar House, St Michael's Site, Enfield EN2 0JA**

Peter de Rosa, headteacher of Durants School will give an overview of secondary provision for young people with autism in Enfield, and tell us about the latest developments at Durants school.

Whether your child goes to mainstream, inclusion base or special school, it will be helpful for you to know what is on offer for our children at secondary level. Peter is in an excellent position to tell us how things stand at the moment, to enable us to make the best choices for our young people.

You can also hear from some parents whose children have recently transferred to secondary school, and we'll have some discussion groups on this theme.

We're also looking forward to hearing how Durants Sensory Garden, planted with a grant they won from Jubilee People's Millions last year, is coming along this spring. Everyone is warmly welcomed.

Refreshments will be provided.



## ENAS Library at Cedar House

Why not visit our library at Cedar House, and choose a book from our own library? Emma, Anna, Angela or another committee member will be there to help you, and have a friendly chat over a cup of tea or coffee. Drop in any Friday morning during term time. Books available to borrow are listed on our website, [www.enfieldnas.org.uk](http://www.enfieldnas.org.uk)

**Open Fridays in term time, 10.00am – 1.00pm, in the lobby of Cedar House, St Michael's Site, Enfield EN2 0JA**



## Florence Hayes Adventure Playground

The Florence Hayes Adventure Playground sessions begin again this spring.

This year, we are asking for a donation of £2 per child, per session. We hope you agree that this represents good value for money. The branch had enough funds to secure the sessions, but we need to ask for a donation to avoid draining all our funds.

Members we have spoken to felt that this was reasonable.

Come along and let your children play in safe surroundings, while you chat with other parents.

More info from Anna: 020 8360 7384

**Sessions start on 29th April and then every third Sunday until 14th October. Florence Hayes Adventure Playground, 34 Fore Street, Edmonton, N18 2SS**

## Somerford Grove Adventure Playground

Our sister NAS branch in Haringey also run an adventure play scheme: flyer enclosed. Starts Saturday 5 May. All are welcome to these sessions.

## Coffee mornings at Galliard and Prince of Wales Primary Schools

If evening meetings are tricky for you, why not come along to a coffee morning? These run during term time at local schools.

## Galliard Primary School

**Tuesday mornings (term time only)**  
**9.00 –10.15am**

The Community Room, Galliard Children's Centre,  
Galliard Road, Edmonton N9 7PE (NB Parents and  
carers only - this is not intended for children)  
For more info call Joyce on: 020 8443 0092

## Prince of Wales Primary School

**Friday mornings (term time only)**  
**9.30 –11.30am**

The Prince of Wales Primary School, Salisbury Road  
(off Ordnance Road), Enfield, EN3 6HG  
For more info call Karen Rees on: 01992 762840



# ENAS chosen as a charity for N21 Festival 16th –23rd June 2012

Great news! We have been chosen as one of the three charities to benefit from the fundraising at this Winchmore Hill community festival! Thanks to Anna Leech for nominating ENAS, and Sophie Castell for making a brilliant presentation about our work to secure this support.

It will be a great opportunity to raise awareness of autism in our local community. The N21 Festival has been organised to celebrate the centenary of Henrietta Cresswells book, Winchmore Hill: Memories of a lost village, a unique record of Winchmore Hill as it turned from a small rural village into the suburb of London we know today.

Please support the N21 Festival this June.

[www.n21.net](http://www.n21.net)

Come along, tell your friends and share the link on your Facebook page. All money raised will be divided between the chosen charities: Alzheimer's Society, Noah's Ark Children's Hospice and ourselves (ENAS).

## Autism Show at the ExCeL Centre, Friday 15th/Saturday 16th June

Speakers include the renowned autism researcher Professor Simon Baron-Cohen, best selling author Kathy Lette, who is the mother of a son with Aspergers, leading autism campaigner Anna Kennedy and advisor to President Obama on disability policy issues Ari Ne'emen.

More information on the website:  
<http://www.autismshow.co.uk>

## Last Christmas...

...seems a long time ago – but we enjoyed snuggling down with cushions and duvets on the floor to watch our Christmas film Elf at St Marks. We plan to make this an ENAS tradition, and do the same again next Christmas. Suggestions for a film will be welcome. It'll come round quickly, you'll see!!!

## Acorn Theatre Company

Oh no it won't! Oh yes it will! The Acorn Theatre Company adapted their pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk for one night for people with autism/sensory issues. The money raised went to Friends of Cheviots Children's Centre. Thanks to Acorn for their continuing interest and support.

You may be interested to know that Acorn Theatre's next production is the classic musical Oliver! at the Intimate Theatre, Palmers Green from 7-10th June 2012. Again, proceeds will go to Friends of Cheviots Children's Centre. Box Office 020 8807 1810, or [www.acorntheatre.com](http://www.acorntheatre.com).

## West Lea In the Green

**West Lea School** has opened a charity shop called West Lea in the Green at 6 North Square Edmonton Green shopping mall, at the Tesco end of the mall, next to Costa Coffee.

This is a fundraising initiative by West Lea PTA. The shop is being led by two experienced Managers helped by a team of volunteers. They have the unit for a year and will be selling upmarket clothes and accessories only. West Lea's older pupils will be able to gain valuable work experience by working in the shop.

Regular volunteers are required and you can contact the manager Janet on 07956 864114 or call in. Shop hours are 9.30 to 4.30 Monday to Saturday. Or pop in and support this project, next time you are shopping in Edmonton.

## Nominate ENAS

**ASDA** are currently looking for nominations for charities they can support. If you shop there, please consider filling up a green form suggesting ENAS.

## Here comes the summer (???)

Our final event of the year will be an informal picnic in Grovelands Park on Sunday 15th July, from midday until 3.00pm. Bring a picnic lunch, and something suitable to sit on (and either umbrellas, or sunhats, depending!)

More info from Emma: 020 8368 3839

## And finally... A Happy Feet moment



**Jay Bansal**

Jay Bansal left West Lea school last summer, and is now on a trainee scheme which he is very much enjoying.

Here is Jay's report:

*"I am doing a one year BTEC course in Office Skills. This was offered to me by a scheme called Steps Into Work. It is a course offered by Barnet College, Transport For London and Remploy to help young people with disabilities into work.*

*Over the year I do 3 placements at London Transport offices in central London. I have been able to choose which ones I am interested in. I also have regular tutorials and workshop weeks with the other 11 students.*

*I started off at the London Transport Museum as a Database Administrator which was great. I am now General Assistant in connect radio and transmission services, Holborn.*

*I do not know if I will get a job with TFL but I will have gained a lot of work experience.*

*To do this course you must be very interested in transport and be willing and able to travel around central London."*

## Contact details:

Enfield branch website is: [www.enfieldnas.org.uk](http://www.enfieldnas.org.uk)

For additional information, including Autism Helpline numbers, please see NAS website: [www.autism.org.uk](http://www.autism.org.uk)

We are part of NAS and encourage our members to join the national organisation.

To speak to one of us, please call:

**Sophie Castell on 07903 420016 or**

**Emma Kembal-Cook on 020 8368 3839**

Items for the next newsletter to:

**[mcallister3@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:mcallister3@tiscali.co.uk)**