

No10 - APRIL 1996

Asperger United is a self-help group run by and for people with Asperger Syndrome. Its aim is to put people with the condition in touch with one another and to provide them with information so that they can lead more independent lives.

The Asperger United Newsletter is produced by an editorial group consisting of the two current Editors; Ian Reynolds; Pam Yates from The Maudsley Hospital's Home Based Team For Autistic Individuals with additional support from The National Autistic Society.

ASPERGER UNITED

Letter from the Editors

Dear Readers

Thank you all for continuing to send in your articles, letters and poems. These are all excellent and we hope in time to be able to use more of them. In our next Newsletter we hope to focus on Friends, Relationships and Marriage. If you have any comments, experiences or thoughts in this respect, please write and let us know.

As you know Ian Reynolds is our new Editor and will be in post soon (he has just started a new job so we don't want to over-burden him). Please address all further correspondence to Ian.

Best wishes to you all.

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PROFESSIONAL SECTION

'Rights for People with Autism' - Published by Autism Europe

CHARTER FOR PERSONS WITH AUTISM

(The article is on the next page)

Editors note

We would like your comments or views on the 'Charter for persons with autism'

Charter for persons with autism

People with autism should share the same rights and privileges enjoyed by all of the European population where such are appropriate and in the best interests of the person with autism.

These rights should be enhanced, protected, and enforced by appropriate legislation in each state.

The United Nations declaration on the Rights of Mentally Retarded Persons (1971) and the Rights of Handicapped Persons (1975) and other relevant declarations on Human rights should be considered and in particular, for people with autism the following should be included :

1. *THE RIGHT* of people with autism to live independent and full lives to the limit of their potential.
2. *THE RIGHT* of people with autism to an accessible, unbiased and accurate clinical diagnosis and assessment.
3. *THE RIGHT* of people with autism to accessible and appropriate education.
4. *THE RIGHT* of people with autism (and their representatives) to be involved in all decisions affecting their future; the wishes of the individual must be, as far as possible, ascertained and respected.
5. *THE RIGHT* of people with autism to accessible and suitable housing.
6. *THE RIGHT* of people with autism to the equipment, assistance and support services necessary to live a fully productive life with dignity and independence.
7. *THE RIGHT* of people with autism to an income or wage sufficient to provide adequate food, clothing, accommodation and the other necessities of life.
8. *THE RIGHT* of people with autism to participate, as far as possible, in the development and management of services provided for their wellbeing.
9. *THE RIGHT* of people with autism to appropriate counselling and care for their physical, mental and spiritual health; this includes the provision of appropriate treatment and medication administered in the best interest of the individual with all protective measures taken.
10. *THE RIGHT* of people with autism to meaningful employment and vocational training without discrimination or stereotype; training and employment should have regard to the ability and choice of the individual.
11. *THE RIGHT* of people with autism to accessible transport and freedom of movement.
12. *THE RIGHT* of people with autism to participate in and benefit from culture, entertainment, recreation and sport.
13. *THE RIGHT* of people with autism of equal access to and use of all facilities, services and activities in the community.
14. *THE RIGHT* of people with autism to sexual and other relationships, including marriage, without exploitation or coercion.
15. *THE RIGHT* of people with autism (and their representatives) to legal representation and assistance and to the full protection of all legal rights.
16. *THE RIGHT* of people with autism to freedom from fear or threat of unwarranted incarceration in psychiatric hospitals or any other restrictive institution.
17. *THE RIGHT* of people with autism to freedom from abusive physical treatment or neglect.
18. *THE RIGHT* of people with autism to freedom from pharmacological abuse or misuse.
19. *THE RIGHT* of access of people with autism (and their representatives) to all information contained in their personal, medical, psychological, psychiatric and educational records.

Presented at the 4th Autism-Europe Congress

Den Haag, May 10th, 1992.

Asperger Network

Please note - In order to ensure the privacy of contributors to Asperger United full addresses will not be printed. If you would like to reply to any of the letters or requests for contacts please write to the N.A.S and we will pass your letter on to the appropriate person.

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I wouldn't mind if, some nice woman would like to write to me. I have no dates with women because I'm autistic. With this condition it's hard for me to say the right things to women to get them interested in me, I always seem to put my foot in it. I am now 39 years old, and if I don't meet anyone within the next few years, then I might never meet anyone. By the way, I have my own semi-detached house. I'm also about 6 feet 1 inch tall, and I have brownish green eyes, and I have blonde hair and a small beard. I also live with my cat, but a cat isn't as much fun to hug as a women. I think that's about all. So bye-bye for now.

DAVID MIEDZIANIK
(Say...Med-Gen-Nick)
Yorkshire

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Hi everyone!

It's Richard Exley again and I have written a fair few things for this magazine! I hope some of you others write.

I am 21 and I hope to meet other autistic people like me. I live in Liverpool and if you want to get in touch with me then feel free and write to the editor, I really want to hear from autistic females most of all and I like to travel about and meet people. I hope I hear from you all out there soon.

RICHARD EXLEY
Liverpool

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I would very much like a girl with an autistic brother who's got Asperger Syndrome (only), in her 20's from Birmingham to be my Penpal (Girl-friend). I've got Asperger Syndrome and hope that we both understand one another! Please reply soon.

NIGEL WOOD
Salop

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Editors note

We hope soon to be extending this to an International Network! (Watch this space!)

Letters and Interests Section

- **Reply to Thomas Madar's article**

I would like to add the following onto Thomas Madar's 'Highlights - Personal View of Autism' (see also my poem 'Longing'.

Sex and "Courtship Skills"/Girlfriend/Marriage Partner?

Difficult to find, probably because communication disorder blocks off the very subtle messages picked up from potential suitor and most probably does not convey such messages to the opposite sex, e.g. "innuendoes" etc. thus preventing reciprocal setting up of normal relationships (that is marital, sexual etc.).

Asperger' are most likely, as I am most certainly aware of in myself, to be much too intense. Thus such a message will make a person of the opposite sex tense and run away. However the mating game is said to be one of the most frustrating of human activities, even for "normal" people!!!

Action Do not go on about "finding a 'girl-friend' " and relax and don't, just because someone is friendly think they want a serious relationship!

PS. Being emotionally sensitive and blushing with girls are common complaints.

TIM LODER
London

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- **Reply to Thomas Madar's article**

I have received the January issue of Asperger United and have read the feature in 'Highlights by Thomas Madar with considerable interest. I wish to respond to Mr Madar's most interesting and relevant hypotheses, by sending him a copy in the near future of my own recent modest attempt to characterise this phenomenon. I hope that certain similarities between our respective and independently conceived models may prove to be of interest to Mr Madar as well as yourselves.

Should I send correspondence intended for Mr Madar's attention to this address? I look forward to your reply.

ANDREW WALKER
Tyne & Wear

Editors reply

Thank you for your letter Andrew. Please send us the article you have written c/o The National Autistic Society and we will forward it on to Mr Madar.

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Update From Desmond Meldrum

This is an update to my article in the March edition of Asperger United. I am still a volunteer for the North East London Autistic Society (now renamed "Autism London"), where I work in the office doing various clerical duties including letter writing and answering the telephone. I also hope to be involved in starting a support and social group for Asperger sufferers in the near future.

I attended the Asperger Conference at Camden Town in April last year and found it very helpful. As I only recently found out I had the condition, it was the first time I have met so many others with the same problem. Since then, through this and my original article, I have had contact with other Asperger' people including visiting two in their home.

I have still not found regular employment although I manage to keep busy. During the summer I organised a car rally for my local motor club which was fairly successful and hope to do the same again next year. I am also continuing my evening classes in word processing at Barnet College and have now reached grade II level. This is very useful as I do a lot of typing for my parents and Autism London. In addition to this, I have registered my name for the National Autistic Society employment scheme and I am waiting to hear future developments.

I shall look forward to writing again soon.

DESMOND MELDRUM

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I am writing to you with regard to holidays for young adults with Asperger Syndrome.

It has been suggested in previous editions of Asperger United that it may perhaps be a good idea if in the summer it could be arranged for a group of autistic adults to go on holiday abroad, or in the UK, together. I personally think this would be a very good idea and I hope that you might be able to advise me if any plans, or ideas on this are currently being considered.

Obviously, it could only be for autistic adults, and I hope in the future ideas may formalise into solid plans and such a holiday could be organised.

I look forward to hearing from you soon.

RICHARD LITTLEWOOD
Nottingham

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7
Talent

POEM by Tim Loder

Longing

Longing, longing, longing sitting on the platform,
Train never seems to come
Longing, longing, longing
Seems to be the norm

Longing, longing, longing
Two little pigeons
Like two little love birds
Longing, longing, longing
A-Booing and a-Crooeing

Longing, longing, longing
Little Black Girland
Boy on the platform
Longing, longing, longing
Wish that'd be the norm

Longing, longing, longing
Once upon the beach
Dreamt with my lover
Longing, longing, longing
But oh! out of reach
Longing, longing, longing

TIM LODER

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POEM by Selma Star

Searching

I am forever searching, looking for a friend, when will all this loneliness ever
end?
My life is cold and miserable, I really need a friend, can anyone out there help?
I feel sad, so depressed, its as if I couldn't care less.
So when will someone help.

SELMA STAR

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POEMS by Conor Jones (age 14)

Versations

If we find a place to live that's accommodation
 Situated on Nicholas Street, we then say a location
 When we ask too many questions, this is interrogation
 When politicians don't get votes, they get elimination
 People gathered in a group are called a congregation
 Those who run the government could be a deputation
 Crowds protesting on the street become a demonstration
 Showing me how to bake a cake is also demonstration
 Getting your leg chopped off, is called an amputation
 My mother said my hair's too long, that has implication
 1,2,3, put together make a combination
 When were sick and very sore we must take medication
 Help me finish my rhyme off-please facilitation
 This poem that I want to write, I'll call it a versation

Picture outside my window

I look out through my window pane
 I see the houses, I see the lanes
 I see cats walking on the roofs
 The traffic stops and then it moves

The murky Shannon-river green
 Is long and wide and easily seen.
 I see the shop and Take-Away
 That's never open in the day

CONOR JONES

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POEM by Terry Cuthbert

Bosnia Traveller

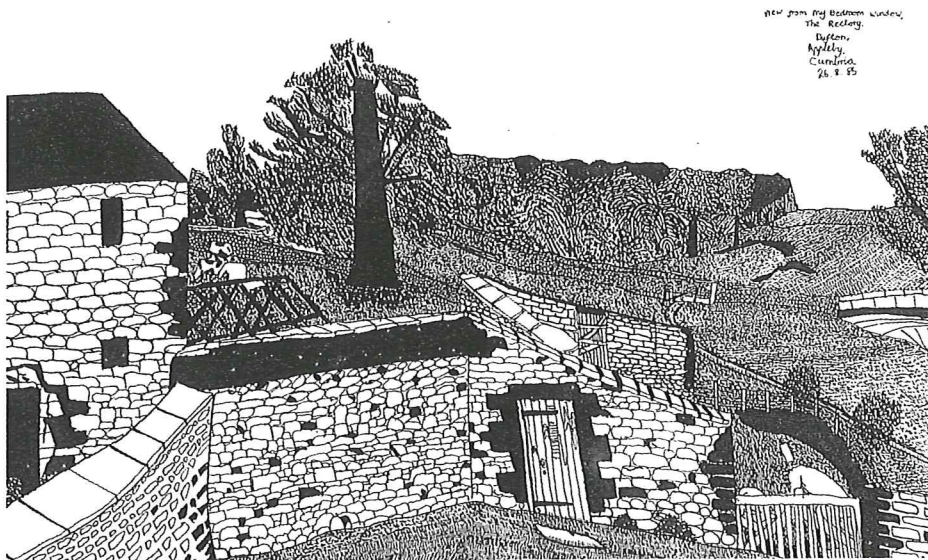
Something must have happened
He returned alone
And in rags
Shut himself in his hut
And spoke to no one
On this cold wet day

Who of us dare ask him
If he found his wife?
We pluck up the courage
To reach his door
Only to hear his crying
And making more noise than the rain

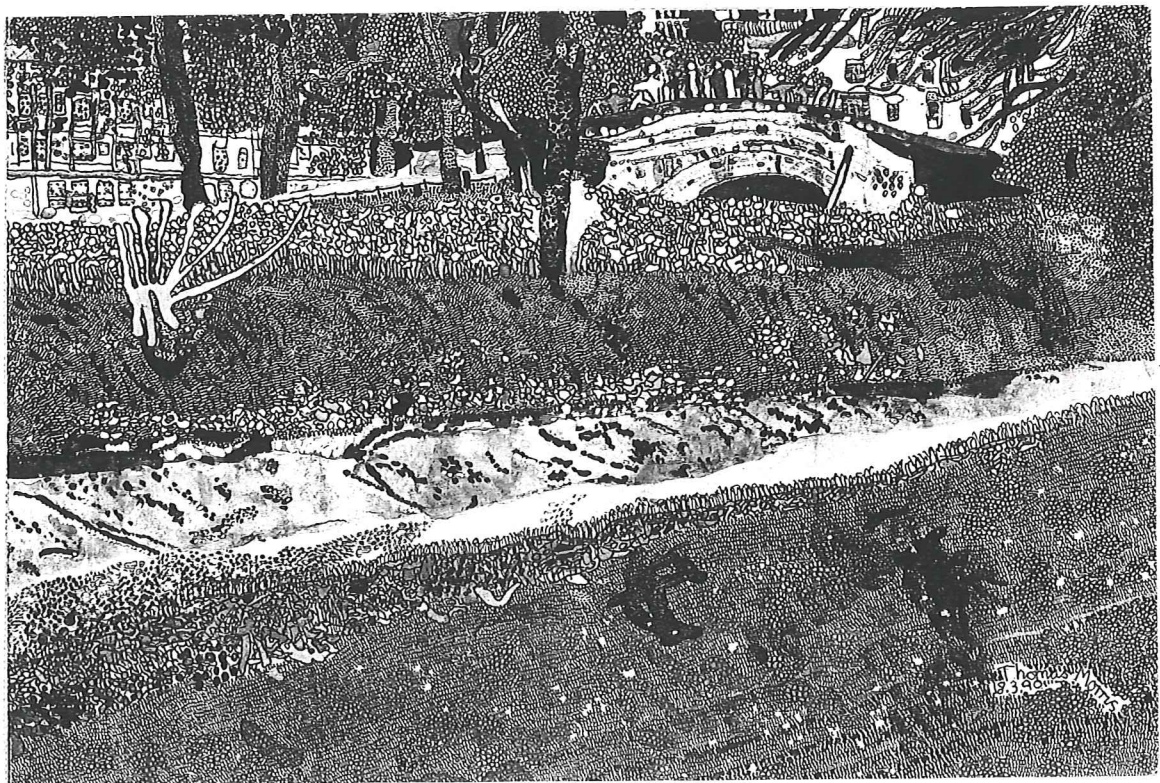
TERRY CUTHBERT

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Drawings from Tom Morris



Drawings from Tom Morris - using pen and ink





Selwyn College

NEW

‘Make Your Voice Heard’

Write to us making suggestions about things you want to hear about or suggesting articles or books you have read and found helpful.

EDITOR

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COMPETITION TIME!

Graeme Lawson designed out Logo 2-3 years ago. We are now requesting suggestions for Logo's for Asperger United for the next 3 years.

Please send in your drawings. PRIZE of a **Parker Pen** to the winner!

Decision to be announced in December issue - get Drawing!

ADVERTS - ADVERTS - ADVERTS

Editors note

Asperger United are happy to publish useful adverts here. While we take care in ensuring that the information provided is correct we cannot take responsibility for deciding to act on the information provided.

Wanted

'A room for two' - Kathy Lissner-Grant who is diagnosed as 'High Functioning Autistic' and is very able, is coming to England with her husband Ray for a holiday from 26th June - 14th July. They will be staying in London for a week from around 30th June and would be grateful for any free or cheap accommodation, perhaps with a person with autism or their family.

If you are able to assist Kathy or her husband, please write to her c/o Asperger United and we will forward your letters. Please mark your letters "Kathy Lissner-Grant" Asperger United.

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'Alternative Approaches to Autism'

Donna Williams has set up her own consultancy. For further information please contact Donna on Tel/fax 01886 832987 or write to her c/o A.A.A.C. . PO box 1, Alfrick, Worcs, WR6 5YW

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Supported Employment Scheme

For further information on this and how it may help you contact Catherine Burkin at:

N.A.S. Supported Employment
National Autistic Society
393 City Rd
London
EC1Y 1NE

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