

A4HN News...

www.aspergers4herts.org Issue 3

**This was the final taster session,
Karting at Rye House in April 2010**



Grand finale for the Taster Teen events

Our teenage members were delighted when their request for a karting day was granted... as a Christmas event last year, only to be disappointed when the event

was cancelled due to snow. All turned out fine in the end and the Christmas event was held in April! The group aged between 13 and 19 were briefed on safety and the meaning of red, blue and black flags. They donned boiler suits, gloves and helmets before charging off around Rye House Karting circuit.

The group polished the day off with sausage, chips and a great deal of conversation about racing. It was so fantastic to see the group enjoying themselves for the final of the taster sessions and inspiring to see the interaction between these young people that had only actually met a handful of times.

Join
us



[Newsletter disclaimer](#)

Funding for Teen events granted

Following the success of the taster sessions, it came as fantastic news in February that we had secured funding from the National Lottery 'Awards for All' fund and Stevenage Community Grants. These funds have allowed the formation of social groups for teenagers on a regular basis for the next 18 months. Young people with Asperger Syndrome between the ages of 13 and 19 years living throughout Hertfordshire will be able to participate. We are now running two groups per month for a total

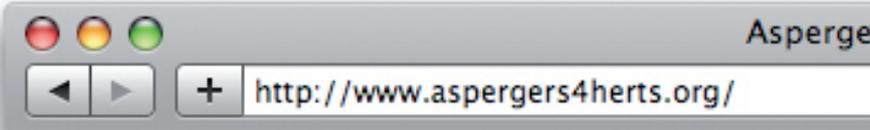
of 20 children; 10 in each. The activities will vary throughout the 18 month period, to allow for maximum exposure to the different activities available in our community.

With the aim of increasing the awareness of available amongst the members, the groups are encouraged to attend every activity, as often people only find out they enjoy something once they have tried it. Social interaction is a high priority and it is hoped the groups will develop strong friendships.



Welcome to Jean

Jean Flint has joined us as Teen Coordinator. Jean, who has two teenagers of her own and works as a support teacher at a local secondary school, will be working part time for Aspergers 4Herts, co-coordinating the teen social groups. Jean can be contacted at teens@aspergers4herts.org



Cash injection for new website

In July we were delighted to learn that we have been granted funding by 'Grass Roots' to develop our web portal. The aim of the website will be to provide one access point to all the activities, support and services available to those affected by Asperger Syndrome in the Hertfordshire area. While we are busy designing the look and

feel, to make sure it's easy to navigate and maintain, we NEED YOUR HELP to populate it with information: support groups, activities, services and other websites – please tell us what you know and we will share it with the Aspergers4Herts membership. Please send your information as soon as possible to info@aspergers4herts.org

Volunteers... can you help us?

We are looking for volunteers to help out with various areas of the charity. If you can help in any way, please do let us know. We are particularly looking for:

- Someone to run the fundraising group
- Help with fundraising

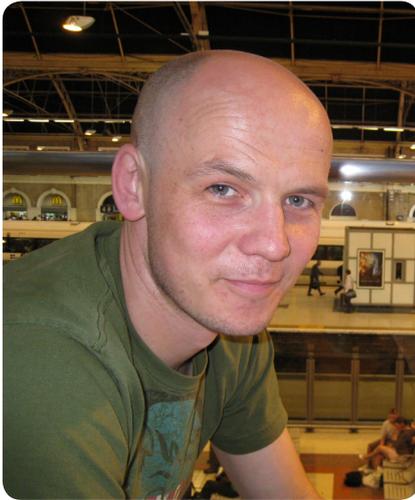
activities - running and organizing them

- Help researching organizations which provide support for those with Aspergers (for inclusion in the website)
- Help with writing the newsletter and items

for the website

As with the members of the Charity Trust, all work is unpaid and voluntary but it's really rewarding knowing that you're contribution makes such a big difference to those affected by Aspergers.





Insight from the new Trustee

Welcome to Lee

Lee Butterfield, has joined the charity as Trustee. Lee is a Management Engineer for Virgin Airlines and has two children, the youngest, Harvey has AS.

We are extremely pleased to have both Lee and Jean join us and we look forward to working with both of them.

I heard about Asperger4Herts when a Santa run was mentioned in a local newspaper in 2008. The cause certainly struck a chord with me as my 8 year old son was diagnosed with Aspergers when he was 4 years old. Leading up to his diagnosis there seemed to be a good support network in place, but as soon as we were told of his condition we felt very much on our own.

I discovered groups such as Angels who are doing some great work to support the families of those with ADHD and autistic spectrum disorders. However, I was unaware of any kind of support targeted at those people suffering such conditions, particularly in later life when their need for assistance is as great as ever.

After contacting France for some information on the charity and its aims, I was given the opportunity to help the fundraising team. This was very rewarding and I certainly enjoyed contributing to the charity's funds and helping shape future ideas for events and activities to build on the successes to-date.

Having been involved with Aspergers4Herts (A4H) for nearly a year I was asked by France and Suzanne if I would take up the post of trustee. Naturally I was honored to accept this responsibility and am now settling into this role.

The progress made by A4H in the short time they have been in existence is nothing short of outstanding; achieving recognition as a charity by HMRC and JustGiving and raising funds through sources such as the National Lottery and the local Council to name just a few. I am really looking forward to helping the team achieve even more success in the future.

