



Zone-Info!

The-Zone! newsletter, for families with additional needs

www.The-Zone.org.uk

Issue 9

July - September 2016

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Get in touch

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Zone events

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[www.facebook.com/
TheZoneASD](http://www.facebook.com/TheZoneASD)

Twitter: #The-Zone!

Trustee and committee news...

At our most recent committee meeting I told those attending that I am resigning officially from Chair and The-Zone! Committee as of 31st March 2017, but will be taking more of a back seat before then.

I have had a fantastic 9 years being a part of The-Zone and the other support groups that came before it, but it's time for me to step back.

The committee desperately need more people to join them in order to keep The-Zone running as it has been and bring new ideas and events into the mix. You don't have to be able to run events, if you can take on some of the behind the scenes stuff that is just as important then that would be really appreciated too! Just talk to any of the current committee members to find out what they think about being a part of it.

Nikki Smith.

Huge thanks to...

The fantastic Tom Tricks from www.entertainermagic.com for raising a brilliant £54.46 for The-Zone! at an event at RunAbout at the end of May. Thank you Tom & to the lovely people at RunAbout - we really appreciate your support.



The Brightlight Theatre Group and their fantastic production of Wind in the Willows, who have raised in the region of £1000 for The-Zone! The families who attended the show said it was brilliant, so well done to all those involved.

BRIGHTLIGHT
THEATRE COMPANY



Starbucks in Farnborough and within the Water Lane Sainsbury's for having The-Zone collection tins and to The Jackson family for making this happen!

The YEM Theatre School have also chosen us to be their chosen charity to support with their October performance and that they've already sold out of tickets!!



Facebook

www.facebook.com/TheZoneASD is our FB page and is for anyone interested in what we do, simply press the "Like" button.

www.facebook.com/groups/TheZone2014 this is a closed, and therefore private, Facebook group for parents with children with additional needs.

www.facebook.com/groups/TheZoneTeens/ is an additional closed group for parents of those 11 years and over.



www.The-Zone.org.uk

Our website is kept as up to date as possible, so please do check the site calendar page to make sure drop-in events are running as planned before you turn up.



Events!

Zone-In! is based within the grounds of Samuel Cody Specialist Sports College,
Ballantyne Road, Farnborough, GU14 8SS

Parents/carers remain responsible for their children at all of our sessions & events.

*** Please encourage your child to tidy away whatever they've played with or return it to the room it came from. ***

Zone-In! sessions

This is the name for all sessions we hold at Samuel Cody School. We will have all our indoor equipment; games consoles (XboxOne, PS4, PS3, Wii's, Xbox360, handheld games; (PSPs, PSvita, DSIs, 3DSs) laptops, I pads, arts, crafts and beads, Lego, Duplo, wooden train track and HappyLand sets. We have plenty of tea, coffee and juice available throughout the sessions. At all of our Zone-In sessions we have a room setup especially for the Teens (aged 11yrs+) so they can play Teen Zone games away from our younger members.



Saturday Zone

One Saturday each month in term-time. They begin again on 17th September and then 15th October, 10.30am - 2.30pm. The cost is £3.50 per child/£10 per family and you are very welcome to bring along a packed lunch and stay for the whole session. We have the outdoor space whenever the weather allows!



Teen Zone-In and Out

These are sessions specifically for families with those aged 11yrs+ to attend. Teen Zone-In sessions are one Friday night each month (15th July, not in August, 9th September, 7th October), 6 - 8.30pm, costing £2.50 per teen. There's a small tuck shop available too. Teen Zone-Out events are organised on an ad-hoc basis depending on what the teens would like to do! Parents have to stay and supervise their teens at all of the sessions, in and out. Check out the teens FB group for more details:

www.facebook.com/groups/TheZoneTeens/



Please remember you are responsible for your children at all of our activities and you must supervise them at all times!

Hampshire Gateway Cards

If your child lives in Hampshire or attends a Hampshire school and you haven't got a Hampshire Gateway Card please complete a form at:

www.hants.gov.uk/gatewaycard or ask us for a form at The-Zone!

To view activities available across Hampshire to Gateway card holders, go to www.hampshiregateway.info

Once you have your card, please let us know your Gateway card number - we can add it to our database and we won't nag you for it again! It is really important that we know numbers for our HCC funding forms.



Hampshire Hampshire funding! Huge thanks to Hampshire Short Breaks County Council funding as without their support we couldn't run these sessions!

July 2016

Wednesday 13th
9.30am - 11.30pm
Information-Zone!

Friday 15th
6 - 8.30pm
Teen Zone-In!

Monday 25th
5 - 8pm
Zone-Out! @
Jake's at Tri-Lakes
soft play & farm!

Wednesday 27th,
10.30am - 2.30
Fun Zone-In!

**Places for
Zone-Out events
must be booked
at least 5 days
before the event!**

August 2016

Wednesday 3rd,
10.30am - 2.30
Fun Zone-In!

Wednesday 10th,
10.30am - 2.30
Fun Zone-In!

Wednesday 17th,
10.30am - 2.30
Fun Zone-In!

Monday 22nd
Zone-Out @ TVAP
10.30am - 3pm

Wednesday 24th,
10.30am - 2.30
Fun Zone-In!

Wednesday 31st,
10.30am - 2.30
Fun Zone-In!

If cost or transport is an issue, please talk to a committee member - we may be able to help.

September 2016

Friday 9th
6 - 8.30pm
Teen Zone-In!

Sunday 11th,
10am onwards
Zone-Out! @
Manydown Farm,
Basingstoke

Saturday 17th
10.30am - 2.30pm
Saturday Zone-In!

Saturday 24th
3.50 - 4.50pm
Zone-Out Track Party,
Basingstoke

**October 2016**

Friday 7th
6 - 8.30pm
Teen Zone-In!

Saturday 15th,
10.30am - 2.30
Saturday Zone-In!

Wednesday 26th
10.30am - 2.30
Fun Zone-In!

Booking your places

You can book & pay for your event places via our website, www.The-Zone.org.uk/booking

Just get in touch with us and we will help with alternative payment methods.

Jakes' Tri-lakes

On Monday 25th July, 5 - 8pm, we have 3 hours exclusive use of the whole of Jake's soft play and the farm! This evening is for children aged under 11 years. We have soft play for 90 minutes, then time for a hot meal & then outside to feed the animals & play. £13 per child, adults free.

Thames Valley Adventure Playground

On Monday 22nd August, 10.30am - 3pm, we'll be at TVAP - a secure special needs playground with sensory room, soft play area, water splash area and so much more, take a look at www.tvap.co.uk to see! We have the whole place to enjoy and as usual we will have a group lunch, so please bring a contribution along with you (just something your child likes to eat.) We'll also be organising a coach for those who need transport. The cost is £5 per child/£15 per family + £2.50 per coach seat.

Manydown Farm

Sunday 11th September is a quieter day at Manydown Farm, so we are planning to make it a day to get as many special needs families together there for a day of fun! There's animals, trampolines, go-karts, bouncy castle and so much more! Food can also be purchased there. For more details take a look at www.manydownfamilyfun.co.uk to see the fun you can have and also from mid-August you purchase your tickets from, £8 per child + free carer. (This cannot be booked via The-Zone website)

Track Party

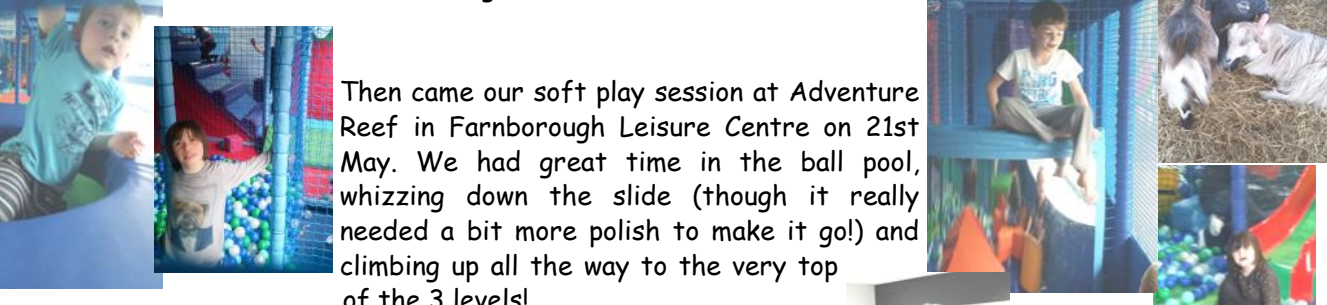
Saturday 24th September, 3.50 - 4.50pm, at Old Basing Village Hall, Basingstoke, RG24 7DA. This is a new event for us; a session with a huge quantity of train track setup for Zone families to play with and explore as well as cars and dinosaurs! The cost for this event will be £6 per child and adults are free. Places are limited as we are keeping numbers low.

A few photos of the fun we've had lately...

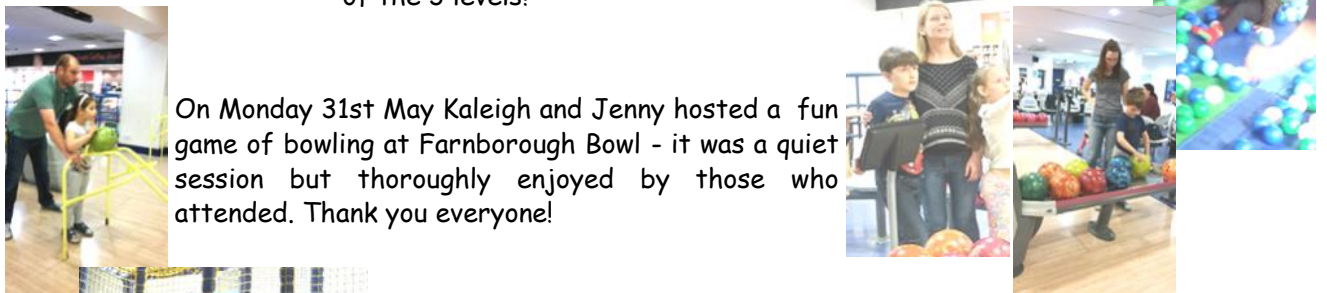
On Saturday 23rd April, we tried out a new event at Miller's Ark Farm in Hook. We had an amazing couple of hours to spend with all the animals; families loved being able to get into the pens with the goats and the pigs, hold a giant rabbit, walk the donkeys and so much more! Everyone had a brilliant time and really appreciated the members of staff with their understanding and enthusiasm.



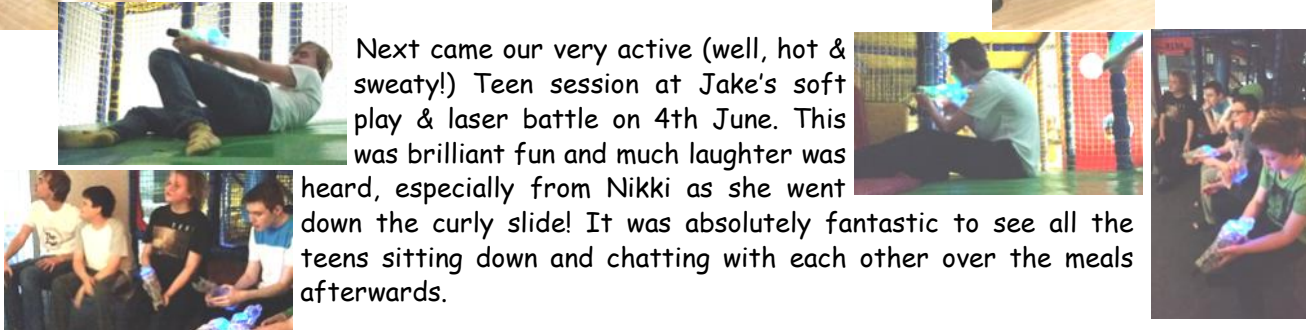
Then came our soft play session at Adventure Reef in Farnborough Leisure Centre on 21st May. We had great time in the ball pool, whizzing down the slide (though it really needed a bit more polish to make it go!) and climbing up all the way to the very top of the 3 levels!



On Monday 31st May Kaleigh and Jenny hosted a fun game of bowling at Farnborough Bowl - it was a quiet session but thoroughly enjoyed by those who attended. Thank you everyone!



Next came our very active (well, hot & sweaty!) Teen session at Jake's soft play & laser battle on 4th June. This was brilliant fun and much laughter was heard, especially from Nikki as she went down the curly slide! It was absolutely fantastic to see all the teens sitting down and chatting with each other over the meals afterwards.



Messy Moos gave us a fantastic sensory/messy play session on 18th June; we had brown linseed slime, compost, red sparkly sand, cornflour goop, sparkling grey rice, blue ice and more!



Information-Zone!

The last Info-Zone session before the Summer holidays is on Wednesday 13th July, from 9.30am to 11.30am. This session is for parents/carers to come to The-Zone without their children, whether it's to meet us for the first time, to bring along your DLA form for us to read through/help with, browse through our library books or discover our collection of sensory toys. Nikki and Kaleigh will be there, with plenty of tea, coffee and biscuits, so come along and meet us.

NAS Surrey Branch: Women and girls with ASD info day

This information day about women and girls with ASDs is on Saturday 1st October from 10am - 4.30pm at Leatherhead Leisure Centre.

Headline speakers are: Sarah Hendrickx, who has Aspergers and will talk about developing social relationships, and Dr Louise Connor, Independent Chartered Consultant Clinical Psychologist, on diagnostic assessment for women & girls. There will be workshops in the afternoon led by experts including Bettina Stott, manager of the NAS ASSIST service, on strategies and support for adult life, and Sarah Wild, Headteacher of Limpsfield Grange School, on educating girls with autism. You will also hear from other people who have autism, including Marianne Scallon, co-chair of Surrey's Autism Partnership Board. Lastly, there will be an open forum when those attending can ask questions on any topic that concerns them. Parents/carers/people with autism: £30 Professionals (including care staff): £60 Prices include lunch and refreshments.

You can book online: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/women-and-girls-with-autism-tickets-22504324039
For more information contact Sara Truman via conference@mugsy.org or 07989 315609.



Aldershot Social Group

Autism Hampshire have set up a new social group for adults with Aspergers or high functioning autism. It meets fortnightly on Monday afternoons at the Aldershot Wellbeing Centre. For more info contact Jamie Pratt on 02380 633951 or email Jamie.pratt@autismhampshire.org.uk



Special Needs Info Day 2016



Support4SEND and Parent Voice are busy organising the next Special Needs Information Day that will be on Saturday 15th October at Yateley School, Yateley. Further details of the workshops and talks that will run alongside the exhibition will be available soon.



Attwood on Autism 2017

Following the NAS South Hampshire Branch's very successful seminar in 2011, they are delighted to announce another seminar for parents and professionals featuring: Professor Tony Attwood, MSc, PhD, AFBPsS, MCCPs. On Friday 19th May 2017 at Winchester Guildhall. Full details will be available at www.shantsnas.org.uk from July onwards. Prices will be kept as low as possible.

Basingstoke Autism Support Hub

The Basingstoke Autism Support Hub (formerly the NAS North Hampshire Branch) is a community organisation providing fun activities and support to children/young people with Autism Spectrum Disorders and associated conditions and their families. They plan to run activity sessions and trips/celebrations during term time and mini projects in the holidays.

For more info go to www.AutismSupportHub.com or e-mail help@AutismSupportHub.com





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We're on the web:

www.The-Zone.org.uk

Make sure you let us know if you move or change your e-mail address.

If you don't, we can't get this newsletter to you!

Useful info...

Autism Friendly Screenings

The sessions are designed to be suitable for those on the autistic spectrum and with other additional needs. The lights will stay on low, the volume is lowered, there are no trailers at the beginning of the film (unless they are unavoidable), you can take your own food & drinks, choose where you want to sit and you're able to move around if you need to.

- Cineworld (in Aldershot) at 11am on the 1st Sunday of the month.
- ODEON (in Basingstoke) at 11.30am one Sunday every month.
- Vue (in Farnborough, Camberley and Basingstoke) at 10am on the last Sunday of the month.



There's more information and downloadable social stories available at: www.dimensions-uk.org or you can talk to staff at your local participating cinema.

Cinema Exhibitors' Association Card

This national card for the child/person (aged 8 years or older) with a disability, that entitles them to one free ticket for a person accompanying them to the cinema. To be able to apply, the cardholder must have proof of one of the following criteria:

- Be in receipt of Disability Living Allowance
- Be in receipt of Personal Independence Payment
- Be a registered blind person



You will need to complete a form (this can be done online at the CEA website or you can print a copy out and post it to them), you will also need a passport sized photo and a proof of entitlement document. The card costs £6 and is valid for 1 year. For more info or to apply for a card, go to www.ceacard.co.uk or call 023 9224 8545.

Radar Keys for disabled toilets

These are available free of charge from your local council offices (you may need to complete a form with all your details) if you have a diagnosis letter to show your child is entitled, or you can purchase one from The-Zone! for just £2.50 (this is great if you need a second key for another carer). Just ask us at any of The-Zone! sessions.



For more information about the scheme, go to www.radar.org.uk

This is the newsletter of The-Zone! a local charity (charity no. 1156806) for special needs families in North East Hampshire. Views expressed in this newsletter are for information only and reference to specific services or approaches to autism does not imply endorsement.
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