



Zone-Info!

The-Zone! newsletter, for families with additional needs

www.The-Zone.org.uk

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Get in touch

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[www.facebook.com/
TheZoneASD](http://www.facebook.com/TheZoneASD)
[www.facebook.com/
groups/TheZone2014](http://www.facebook.com/groups/TheZone2014)

Twitter: #The-Zone!

Issue 6

October 2015

News from the AGM...

We held our 2015 AGM on Saturday 26th September 2015 at Run About, Laser-Run and Ignition. It was a brilliant, busy and fun-filled evening - thank you to everyone who came along, there were 29 adults! The crucial news is that Nikki Smith stepped down as Trustee and Chair of The-Zone! and the new Trustee line up is as follows:

- Carol Bulman, was the Treasurer and Trustee, is now the Chair of Trustees.
- Karen Smith, is a new Trustee and also the Treasurer.
- Sharon Sutcliffe is a new Trustee and Secretary.

All of their contact details are in the Get in touch box and you can find them easily in The-Zone closed Facebook group too. A copy of the Annual Report is being sent out with this newsletter (if you require a paper copy, please contact us and we will arrange this.)



Huge thanks to...

- The Greggs Foundation for their Local Community Project Grant of £1010 towards Christmas parties for The-Zone! families (the younger members' party details are on page 3 and for the Teens event, make sure you're in the Teen FB group for details.)
- Melanie Hynes from Perforce Software Ltd for arranging a donation of £500. A big thank you to Diana Taylor for making this possible.
- All the staff and customers at Day Lewis Pharmacy in Giffard Drive, Farnborough for raising £88 for us at the shop earlier this year.
- Thanks also to those who have donated prizes for our Christmas raffle; so far from VG Travel, Elvis, The Thatched Cottage, Mark Thomas and Michelle Robinson complimentary therapist.

Thank You!

Facebook

The-Zone! Facebook page is for anyone interested in what we do. Go to www.facebook.com/TheZoneASD & press the "Like" button. Our closed Facebook group for parents of children on the autistic spectrum and similar issues, at www.facebook.com/groups/TheZone2014 and for parents of those 11 years and over, we have an additional closed FB group too: www.facebook.com/groups/TheZoneTeens/



www.The-Zone.org.uk

Our website is kept as up to date as possible, so please do check it and the calendar to make sure 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 The-Zone! We will have all our indoor equipment; games consoles (XboxOne, PS4, PS3, Wii's, Xbox360, handheld games; (PSPs, PSvita, DSIs, 3DSs) laptops, Ipad, Android tablets, 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

Usually one Saturday each month (7th November & 23rd January), 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!



Fun Zone

Just like our Saturday Zones, but on Wednesdays during half-terms and school holidays (28th October, 17th February), 10.30am - 2.30pm. The cost will be £3.50 per child/£10 per family and you're welcome to bring a packed lunch.



Teen Zone-In and Out

These are sessions specifically for families with those aged 11yrs+ to attend. Zone-In sessions are one Friday night each month (9th October, 13th November, 29th January), 6 - 9pm, 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/



Booking your places at Zone-In! and Zone-Out! events

You are now able to book and pay for your event places via our website, www.The-Zone.org.uk (simply click on "Events" and the "Event bookings") and then you simply pay via Paypal. Just get in touch with us and we will help with alternative payment methods.



Hampshire
County Council

Hampshire funded activities!

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



Please remember our Zone Rules are available on our website - you are responsible for your children at all of our activities and you must supervise them at all times!

Half-term Zone-Out bowling

On Monday 26th October we are going bowling at Farnborough Bowl at 11.30am. We have booked 8 lanes for Zone families to come along and have fun. The cost is just £3 per child and adults joining in are free! Book your places via the events page at www.The-Zone.org.uk or call us on 07860 806 179.



Christmas party!

Sunday 6th December, 5.30 - 7.30pm

at Run-About, Armstrong Way, Farnborough, GU14 0LP.

The cost is £5 per child and includes a hot kids meal.

Places are limited & **must** be booked in advance.

Parents are responsible for supervising their children throughout the session.

The play equipment is suitable for those **under 11 years**.

We can organise transport for those of you who need it - just get in touch.

For more details call/text Carol on 07860 806 179 or e-mail info@the-zone.org.uk



Teen Zone Christmas party

This is still a work in progress but we promise it will be worth waiting for! Details will be posted in the Teen Zone Facebook group as soon as it's all confirmed. If you're not on Facebook, let us know if you're interested in attending so that we make sure you are aware of the event.

Christmas Raffle!

1st



Brand new Kindle Fire Kids Edition!
7" display, 8GB, WiFi,
2yr worry-free guarantee!

2nd



IPG Paintballing vouchers - 40 free entry vouchers and 100 paintballs per person for the last game of the day! Can be used all at once or over several visits.

3rd

GHD cherry blossom limited edition hair straighteners!



The raffle will be drawn on Sunday 6th December at the under 11's Christmas party and winners will be contacted asap.

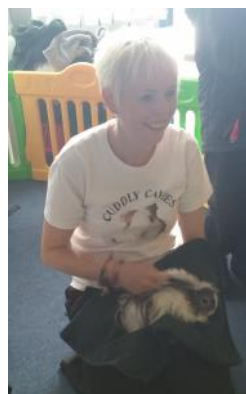
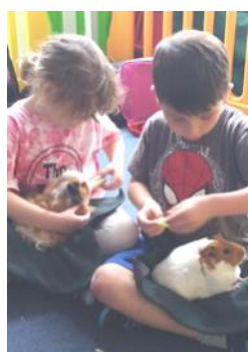
Tickets are 20p each
(in books of 5)

To request more tickets, please contact Carol on 07860 806179

Just some of the fun that we had over the Summer holidays!

A few snapshots of the events we had in the holidays: starting with a great session at Run-About to wear our younger members out; Teen Zone went to Creams in Camberley for a major sugar rush; our day at Thames Valley Playground was excellent fun as the weather was good to us and we had lots of time to play in the water area. For the first time, we tried x-bobs tobogganing and the usual donutting session in Aldershot - it was good fun and the yells of delight were lovely to listen to.

Our regular Fun Zone-In sessions each Wednesday were popular and very entertaining; we had the lovely guinea pigs from Cuddly Cavies join us; the next week we had a spectacular water fight outside (nearly everyone brave enough to be outside got absolutely drenched!); there was the Wendy Bus which gave us some soft play and unfortunately the week planned with the giant inflatable slide, we had horrendous weather and a flooded field!



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.



Christmas Pantomimes 2015

A relaxed performance usually means that the auditorium lights will remain on during the performance, the audience is free to come and go during the performance, music and sound effects will be quieter and the performances will be gentler in tone and pyrotechnics won't be used but please check with the individual venues as to what changes at their relaxed performances.

Cinderella at Princes Hall, Aldershot

Each year the relaxed performance is organised by local charity, PAG for Special Play, who host an event. So far the date and time are to be confirmed so for more info please contact them directly: <http://pagforspecialplay.co.uk/events/> or for details about the panto, go to <http://www.princeshall.com>



Jack & the Beanstalk at Anvil Arts, Basingstoke

The relaxed performance will be held on Wednesday 23rd December at 2pm. Tickets cost £10 per person. This is a specially adapted performance of the pantomime for those on the autistic spectrum and with other disabilities. This performance will also be signed.

<http://www.anvilarts.org.uk/whats-on/jack-and-the-beanstalk-relaxed->



Aladdin at Camberley Theatre, Camberley, Surrey

There are 3 special performances on at this venue; a relaxed performance with BSL signing on Thursday 31st December at 1pm, as well as 2 BSL signed performances on Sunday 13th December at 5pm and Tuesday 29th December at 2pm. To book places, call 01276 707600 or go to <http://www.camberleytheatre.biz/pantomime>

Dick Whittington at The Hexagon, Reading

The Hexagon's relaxed performance will be on Thursday 31st December at 10.30am. Tickets are priced at £12.50. All bookers will receive info to help familiarise themselves with the production, the venue and its facilities ahead of their visit to the theatre. Tickets can be purchased by contacting The Hexagon Box Office on 0118 960 6060 or email storme.gibson@reading.gov.uk More details about the panto are at <http://www.readingarts.com/thehexagon/pantomime>



Jack & the Beanstalk at The Yvonne Arnaud Theatre, Guildford

This years relaxed performance on Friday 11th December at 1:30pm. All seats to this performance will be £11. Relaxed performances are open to everyone, but especially aimed at those with additional needs. The performance will be adapted in a variety of ways in order to reduce anxiety and ensure a safe and enjoyable live theatre experience. To book please call 01483 44 00 00.

<http://www.yvonne-arnaud.co.uk/production/jack-and-the-beanstalk-0>



Aladdin at The Mayflower Theatre, Southampton



The Mayflower's relaxed performance will be on Tuesday 29th December at 1.30pm. Tickets will cost £9 each. This performance is specifically designed for people who will benefit from a more relaxed environment. An easy way to understand the atmosphere is perhaps, 'the opposite of the quiet carriage on the train'. This performance will also be signed. Call the Box Office on 02380 711811 for more info or to book. http://www.mayflower.org.uk/Whats_on/Panto2015

Let us know if you attend a panto and it works for your family!



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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

More cinemas are now running these special screenings including Odeon (Basingstoke), Cineworld (Aldershot) & Vue (Farnborough):

- Cineworld at 11am on the 1st Sunday of the month.
- ODEON at 11.30am on the last Sunday of every month.
- Vue at 10am on the last Sunday of the month.



The lights will stay on low, the volume is lowered, there are no trailers at the beginning of the film, you can take your own food & drinks and you're able to move around if you need to.

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.

To sign-up for the Dimensions Autism friendly newsletter, go to www.dimensions-uk.org/support-services/autism-care/autism-friendly-screenings/#News

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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