

Welcome to our Annual General Meeting

Monday 21 July 2025

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Branch Chair's Report (Mr D Carter)
3. Treasurer's Report (Mrs C Edmondson)
4. Election of Officers
 - a. Branch Chair
 - b. Branch Vice-Chair
 - c. Branch Treasurer
5. Planned activities 2025–26

Branch Chair's Report

Our regular activities:

- Autism Support Group
- Family Youth Club
- Lego Club
- Southampton Adults' Social Group
- Southampton Children's Social Group
- Partners' Group

Branch Chair's Report

Special events:

- Visit to Marwell Zoo – May 2024
- River Hamble boat trips x 7 – June and July 2024
- Quiz Night – October 2024
- Trip on Watercress Line – October 2024
- Branch evening at Winchester Science Centre – November 2024
- Mayflower Theatre pantomime – Jan 2025

Branch Chair's Report



Branch autism talks:

- To Eastleigh Borough Council (Staff drop-in) – June 2024
- At Southampton neurodiversity event – June 2024
- 2 x online talks for Watercress Line volunteers – Feb 2025
- To Communicare volunteers in Southampton – March 2025

Branch Chair's Report



Branch attendance at events:

- Southampton SEND Family Fun Day – Apr 2024
- Fareham Community Showcase – July 2024
- Stewarding at Mayflower Theatre Aladdin relaxed performance – September 2024
- Eastleigh Community Showcase 2024 – October 2024
- Barton Peveril College Disability/Neurodiversity Awareness Event – Dec 2024
- Advising at Mayflower Theatre panto dress rehearsal – December 2024
- Stewarding at Mayflower Theatre panto relaxed performance – January 2025

Branch Chair's Report



Collaborative work:

- Administrative support to and partnership with:
 - Hampshire Autism Voice
 - Hampshire Autism Ambassador Scheme
- Hampshire Autism Partnership Board:
 - Represented on the Board and its Autism Steering Group
 - Working with Hampshire & IoW ICB on Mental Health Charter for autistic people
- Close links with other local organisations including:
 - Autism Hampshire
 - Friends of In Touch
 - Speaking Space
 - Re:Minds
 - Southampton Autism Support Service

Branch Chair's Report



Branch membership:

- Currently have just over 1000 Branch members
- Regularly circulating information to over 1100 people (including autism professionals)

Branch Chair's Report



Branch organisation:

- Run entirely by volunteers
- Branch Chair (assisted by Vice-Chair) – responsible for all aspects of running the Branch. Supported by Annie Dax, NAS Senior Branch Engagement Officer
- Branch Treasurer, supported by NAS Branches Team Finance Officer
- Committee (11 volunteers) meet regularly to discuss the running of the Branch, look at funding issues and new ideas. Committee members undertake support roles including:
 - Helping to staff and organise events
 - Running resource library
- Other volunteers help out at specific events

Branch Chair's Report



Branch organisation:

- All volunteers undergo basic training and annual refresher training
- We have recruited more volunteers this year and currently have a total of 25 trained volunteers
- On average, our volunteers give over 180 hours per month supporting our activities (excluding special events that take even more time)
- 3 local churches provide venues and some storage for our activities. We continue to be very grateful to:
 - Junction Church, Bishopstoke
 - Chandlers Ford Methodist Church
 - St Patrick's Church, Woolston
- Most of our equipment is stored at Eastleigh's Ready Steady Store

Branch Chair's Report



Branch organisation:

- All activities are fully risk assessed and covered by NAS insurance
- We receive numerous email enquiries each week requesting advice on many aspects of autism
- We strive to keep our website and Facebook page up-to-date
- The Branch committee welcomes ideas and suggestions on how they can continue to make this Branch a helpful resource for autistic people and their families
- Please contact us with your comments – it is your Branch and we want to make it work for you!

Branch Chair's Report



Our thanks to all volunteers, without whom there would be no South Hampshire Branch

(we welcome more volunteers too!)

Treasurer's Report



Branch account separated on paper as:

- Main account:
General branch finances including Eastleigh-based activities
- Southampton sub-group account:
Funds held specifically for Southampton social groups
- Hampshire Autism Voice sub-group account:
Restricted account which we manage on behalf of Hampshire Autism Voice and Autism Ambassador Scheme

PayPal account:

Used for all ticket transactions before money is transferred to main Branch account

Treasurer's Report



Donations:

- Total donations to Branch £1,017.18

Fundraising:

- Easyfundraising income £123.36
- NAS membership contributions £103.00

Treasurer's Report



Main costs of running our groups

(venue/refreshment costs less attendance income):

- Autism Support Group – -£163.74
(Church hire bill not yet received)
- Family Youth Club – £207.85
(Church donation still to be paid)
- LEGO Club – £522.13
- Partners' Support Group – £335.57
- Southampton Social Groups – £767.06
(without donations - £1,647.44)

Treasurer's Report



Main costs of running special events:

- Marwell Zoo visit 2024 £658.50
- River Hamble boat trips 2024 – £1,022.15
- Watercress Line trip 2024 – £224.80
- Winchester Science Centre evening made a profit of £308.66

Treasurer's Report



Balance brought forward 1 April 2024	£42,390.92
Net surplus for 2024/25	-£9971.75
Total balance at 31 March 2025	£32,419.17

Un-reserved savings Main Branch account	£16,222.90
Reserved savings Southampton sub-group accounts	£6,524.85
Restricted savings HAV account	<u>£9,671.42</u>
	£32,419.17

PayPal account:

Balance Brought Forward 1 April 2024	£1,467.12
Balance at 31 March 2025	£2,421.95

Branch Chair's Report



Our thanks to Caroline for looking after our finances so efficiently

Election of Officers



- Branch Chair**
David Carter willing to be re-elected
- Branch Vice-Chair**
Rachel Carter willing to be re-elected
- Branch Treasurer**
Caroline Edmondson willing to be re-elected

Contribution to NAS HQ



- A % contribution imposed on Branches from July 2025
- Calculation based on average monthly balance of our funds in previous year (excluding any restricted amounts)
- 5% contribution in 2025 (over £1300 for us), possibly 10% from 2026
- Workshops and one-to-one meetings have been held between most Branches and head office
- All Branches are against this contribution as branch funds have been raised by volunteers for local use
- Branch committee has written to NAS CEO and Trustees
- Have received reply stating that before any decisions made for next year, the process will now be reviewed with input from Branches

Planned activities 2025–26



All usual monthly activities plus:

- Autism Seminar 2025 – Saturday 17 May
- Eastleigh Community Showcase – Sunday 15 June
- 7 x River Hamble boat trips: 21 June, 12 July and 13 July
- Visit to Marwell Zoo – 6 September 2025
- Circus Starr performances – 22 September 2025
- Watercress Line visit – Sunday 19 October
- Possible Winchester Science Centre evening – November 2025 or Spring 2026
- Mayflower Theatre panto relaxed performance – Friday 2 January
- Autism Seminar 2026 – Spring 2026



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