



**B**ORDERS **A**SPERGER & **A**UTISM **G**ROUP **S**UPPORT

Recognised Scottish Charity No; SC 032508

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April 4th 2015 we are having an **Autism Acceptance & Awareness Day**...in the Volunteer Hall in Galashiels.

- The day starts from **10am until 3pm** with a **Craft Fare and Kids Fun Day** - local people, including those with autism, will sell their home- made crafts....cooking, stories, paintings, jewellery, cakes, knitting etc...a wide range of things which autistic people, as well as their family and the wider communities all do to help them relax and unwind as well as earn a wee bit of money.
- At the same time, there will be face painting, bouncy castles, and a few fun activities for the children to take part in and all relax and play together....bringing the wider community into the autism fold!
- 7pm onwards, over 18's will be able to enjoy a **Gangster and Moll** themed night of **live** entertainment supplied by the **Jailhouse Blues Brothers** and the **Gangsters of Groove**.... entertaining, energetic, lively and highly respected acts.... *welcome to attend in fancy dress...tickets cost £10 and include a light snack.*

The purpose of this Day is to highlight the skills and creativity a person with autism can have – they can be authors, they can be artists, they can have baking skills, they can have an eye for detail, they can have an eye for clever designs – they also are able to plan their activities, they are able to design, to purchase and sell their products. There are autistic authors, there are autistic artists, and they are as able and efficient and talented as non-autistic people.

The aim of this Day is for people who live, work, employ and influence living within our community to come in and see what Borders people can do, maybe your business could benefit from someone with an eye for detail, for someone with such an artistic flair, someone with the concept of buying, selling and marketing their products. But also, it will highlight inclusion – that autistic people with or without a diagnosis, can and do live and work alongside non autistic people with no stigma, no judgements and no prejudice – therefore they are employable, they can bring something to the workforce, they can teach you about autism and you can teach them about society's' unspoken rules that you take for granted.

The children and young people will also be able to show they can all play as one, they can all enjoy the same activities, they don't always need special toys and special rooms – sometimes they just need to belong alongside their brothers, their sisters, their cousins and their friends.

Patron: GEORGE KENNEDY

We hope that whilst the children are having some fun the adults can share experiences and enjoy a few moments of respite together.

Making inclusion of all ages open to everyone - including employers, business owners and potential employers.... buying stock for their crafts, planning and organising what to make, how much to charge and when to re-stock...all good skills for the retail trade! Spotting the niche in the market, meeting deadlines with customer orders, discipline of time to fulfil those orders, and the administration of posting/delivering....skills to be very proud of.

Of course, the Fare will also have people from the wider community selling their crafts to raise money for their own needs - community groups, students, individuals...all will be welcome to take a table and sell their products...**Inclusion is the key word.**

***The tables and activities and entry are FREE... free to participate, free to support - all you pay for is your light refreshments and purchases.***

Thank you to the Scottish Government Autism Development Fund for extending the funding to allow us to host this Awareness Day alongside our Autism, Employment Project. We hope to have the interests of Employers, Business Owners, Support Agencies as well as employees, managers and supervisors. The students from Heriot Watt and Borders College are also encouraged to take tables to sell their work and to help organise/run the activities for the young people – the students of today are the employers, managers, supervisors and adults of the future = we need them to be accepting of Autism and the associated behaviours to ensure our autistic people also have a future.