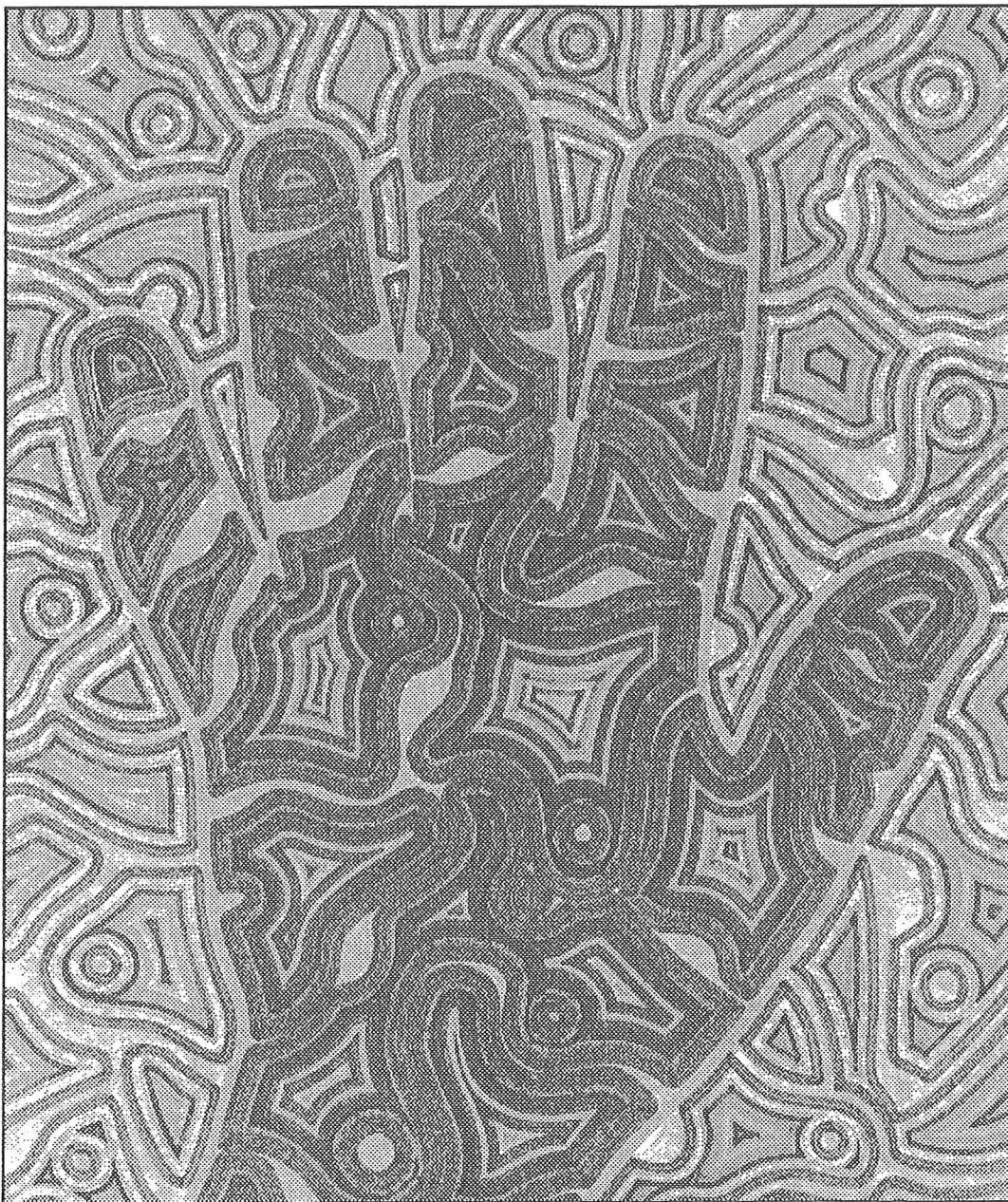


Produced by and for people with Asperger syndrome

united Asperger

Edition 22 Spring 2000



Peter Myer's life

AN



THE NATIONAL
AUTISTIC SOCIETY



Asperger United is a self-help newsletter run by and for people with Asperger syndrome. The newsletter aims to put people with the condition in touch with each other and to share information so that they can lead more independent lives.

Asperger United is produced by an editorial group consisting of:

Editor John Joyce

Additional support from The National Autistic Society's Publications Department

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Thank you to George Cox who kindly produced the illustrations included in the Pen Pal Network section.

Thank you to Graeme Lawson for producing the 'AU' logo.

Please note that the views expressed in Asperger United are not necessarily those of the Editors, The National Autistic Society or those involved in the publication of the newsletter.

Dear Readers,

Welcome to the first edition of your paper for 2000. Hope you are all enjoying the year. I have had some good news so far this year. I was successful in my Open University exam and have moved on to a course in Philosophy. The Open University is the subject of the an article on the back page of this edition.

With reference to a letter about access to the internet, printed in the last edition, I wrote to my MP who has sent a copy of my letter on to the appropriate Government minister. You can read more about this on page 5 of this edition.

I recently attended the European Autism Conference in Glasgow where some familiar names who spoke were Ros Blackburn, Richard Exley and Pat Howlin.

On 6th June I went to tea in the House of Commons with a number of fellow readers at the invitation of Angela Browning MP whose son has autism and who therefore has a deep interest in fighting our cause.

Thank you to all who have contributed to this issue and apologies for late publication. Please do continue to send contributions in to the newsletter. Would any readers like to introduce themselves in the pages of future editions? If so, please tell us of your interests. I hope to receive your articles for inclusion in the newsletter.

Your editor,
John Joyce

Contributions needed for the next edition of Asperger United

Asperger United will be published again this year. Please send in any stories, articles, poems, pen pal requests and letters.

Contribute to your newsletter

We are always looking for new ideas and stories to fill the pages of the newsletter. We would like to hear any news, receive articles about yourselves, see your artwork and read your poems and short stories. So, send them in! Perhaps you may like to write about holiday experiences, for example.

Send all contributions to:
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Peter Myer has been producing artwork for *Asperger United* for some time. Here, Peter lets us know more about himself.

The Peter Principle

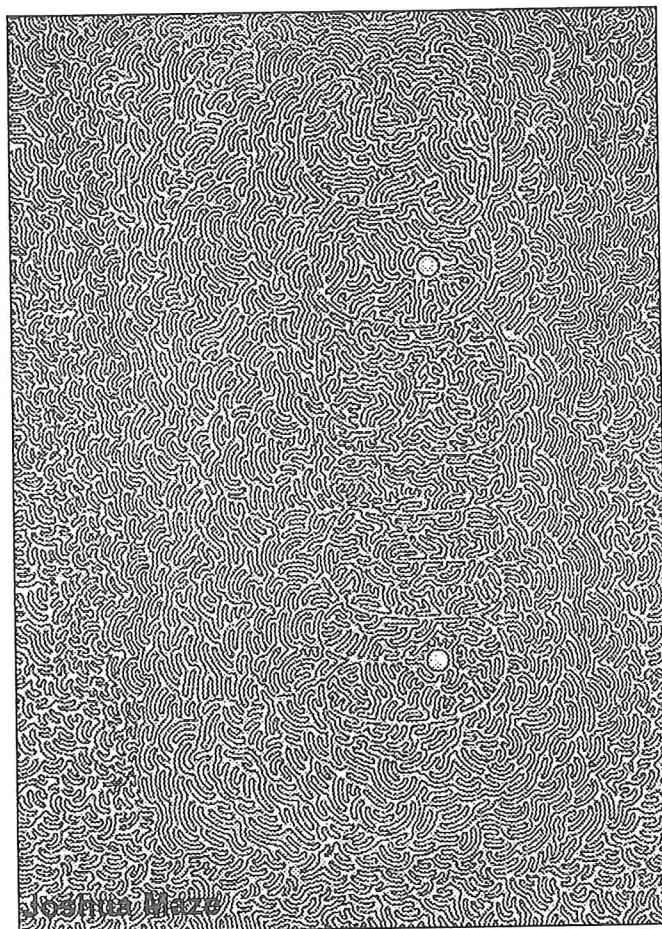
I must admit that I have found it somewhat difficult to condense over 40 years of experiences into this one article, having overrun this limit several times thus far. Anyway here goes.

I was born in a 'gilly' (a sandstorm), in the Sahara Desert, on 1st June 1959 at the RAF sick quarters, El Adhem, Libya. Throughout my life, I have lived in Tobruk (Libya), Billighay, Skegness, Singapore, Bassingborne, Darlington, Sunderland, Killingworth, Riyadh (Saudi Arabia) and La Coruna (Spain). I currently live in York, in England.

At school I did not study at O-level standard, but did attain a CSE Grade1 in Art. However, since school, I have passed three subjects at O-level (Geometric and Mechanical Drawing, English and History) and Art at an advanced level: achieving a pass with merit in my Diploma in Applied Design; a pass with merit in my Higher Diploma in Applied Design – Precision Model Making; and a pass on an Open University foundation course in Society and Social Science.

I have spent 3 years working in Engineering and 14 years in model making (specialising in Architecture). Currently, I work as a factory worker.

I became aware of autism watching a programme 'The Human Brain' on BBC2, in November 1988. Autism seemed familiar, but I did not consider myself classically

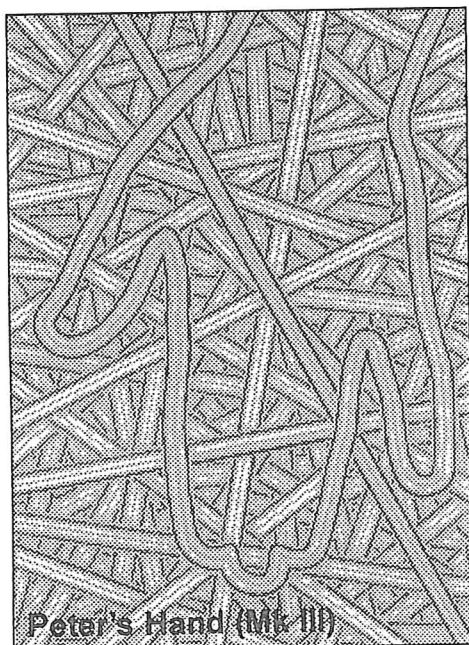


autistic. In 1992, I acquired more information on higher-functioning autism and Asperger syndrome. I diagnosed myself as 'near normal functioning' or 'blurring into normality'. I was formally assessed and diagnosed as having Asperger syndrome by Professor Patricia Howlin in London, in 1996.

My earliest memory, from when I was aged just under 2 years old, is of a trip to Scotland with my parents to attend the wedding of a friend. My first memory of creative endeavour is playing with a coloured bead game, arranging them into patterns on a board. The first drawing I recall doing was a snowman, in chalk on slats at nursery school.

I think the desire to create is intrinsic to my nature, be it drawing, making things (like models) or writing. In a sense I am a sort of introverted-extravert, expressing inner things outwardly. I don't draw from memory, as this is indistinct and unstable. Often when I draw I do not know what I will draw, only a vague idea of what I want. I sort of sense and feel my way along, until the drawing finishes itself. I like patterns, detail and geometry.

Thank you Peter for letting us know more about you. Keep sending in the artwork.



Peter's Hand (Mt III)

Turn of the century experiences

Welcome to the year 2000

I would like to share with you my New Year celebrations. On New Year's Eve I had a house party and watched the television programme Count Down 2000, which showed New Year celebrations all over the world. On the programme, I saw Bethlehem, China, Germany, Sydney, Paris and London celebrating the big moment.

On New Year's Day I went up to London and saw the New Year's Day parade. I also went on the bumper cars in the fair, which was outside Buckingham Palace during the bank holiday weekend.

I then went to Cophall Stadium to see the fireworks on the Sunday. They also had a parade and several acts, including a man setting fire to a special jacket he was wearing and five men doing a parachute jump together.

On Monday I met up with some of my old friends and went to the fair, which was still going on outside Buckingham Palace.

The following Sunday, I went to the – much-talked about – Dome. I got to the Dome by boat from Waterloo and, when I got there, I found the Dome was sectioned off into 'zones'. Firstly, I went to the 'Body Zone' which is quite interesting. Then I went to the 'Mind Zone' which was very disappointing and really not worth bothering with. Then I went to 'Living Island Zone' which was about the environment and looking after it. It was set on a seaside resort. Both the Living Island zone and the Body Zone were good, but beware there are still long queues at the best zones, and it isn't possible to see everything in one day. They are also making a time capsule there for the year 3000 at (you guessed it) the 'Time Capsule Zone'. The acrobatics show in the middle of the Dome was breath taking. Real indoor fireworks go off during the show.

Not to be missed is the last Black Adder programme. It's called Black Adder Back and Forth, and is shown daily, at the Dome's cinema. You must be at the cinema on time to see it and make sure that you stay right until the end of the programme, to make sure you don't miss the theme tune – it's the funniest part.

On the whole the Dome was quite impressive. Although the money that has been spent on it is criminal – it is, however, definitely worth a visit. Book at your local agent and go this year!

Bye for now everyone,

Anna Belinda Cohen

Writing to my MP

John Joyce wrote to his MP in December, 1999 on issues of communication.

Dear Mr Brake

DISABILITY: COMMUNICATION DISORDERS: ACCESS TO INTERNET

The attached letter [*not shown here*] has been passed to me as Editor of Asperger United. It comes from a person with Asperger syndrome, a communication disorder, who finds communication much easier over the web than person-to-person. He has, however, encountered the problem of large telephone bills for use of the facility and has been disconnected. Perhaps there are others who experience such problems.

In view of the above I would request you to consider either framing, or supporting, amending legislation on disability, in the following manner: 'Because there are many disabled people for whom internet is an essential means of communication, telephone use for this purpose should be free of charge.'

Maybe you will have better access to legal advice on framing the text of such an amendment, and of getting further evidence in support of your case, than I can give you. The National Autistic Society of 393 City Road, London EC1, can give you information on the disorder Asperger syndrome and the need of internet communication for some people with the complaint. It is only the people concerned who know their telephone bills.

I hope you can take some sort of action during the next few months

Yours sincerely, John Joyce

Mr Brake responded in January, 2000. Nick Harvey, Health spokesman and Dr Webb, Social Secretary Spokesman, are aware of the suggestion for a possible amendment to a Bill. Alan Millburn, Secretary of State for Health, also has a copy of the letter which he passed on to Patricia Hewitt at the Department of Trade and Industry.

Patricia Hewitt replied in March, to say sorry that people are being disconnected and that she is aware that Part III of the Disability Discrimination Act gives people rights of access to goods, services and facilities. She wrote '...it does not prevent businesses such as service providers from making normal commercial decisions such as the charges they make for their services.' She then mentioned the existence of a variety of low cost Internet packages and suggested that it is worthwhile looking out for announcements in the media about absolutely free Internet access packages.



Holby City treats Asperger syndrome well

Dear Asperger United,

The writers of a recent episode of Holby City deserve to be in the Queen's Honours list, by my reckoning.

I was amazed to hear the words 'Asperger Syndrome' being used in the first sentence of dialogue in that episode. As it progressed, the episode focused on a young man with autistic traits.

Ask someone who isn't autistic something about Charles Dickens appearing on a bank note, and they would be struggling for an answer. Yet, the character portrayed could have possibly won Mastermind, answering questions on that subject.

It's about time that dramas like Holby City make awareness of what Asperger syndrome is about.

I hope that the writers of that episode will get to see this letter published.

Once again, let's all say 'hooray' to Holby City and it's writers.

Yours sincerely,
George Handley

“

The writers of Holby City deserve to be in the Queen's Honours list, by my reckoning

”

George has since been pleased to hear from the actor, Ged Hunter, who played this role in Holby City. Considerable research had gone into the structure of the character. He does not have Asperger syndrome himself, yet is glad that George found his portrayal of the character sympathetic and believable.

Friends through trust

Dear Asperger United,

I joined the Mid-Kent National Trust Volunteer's Group last February, although my first activity with them was not until 25 April, doing clearance work at Chartwell, the former residence of Sir Winston Churchill and his wife.

As an Asperger syndrome person, I faced the initial event with more than a little concern. However, I found the group to be very welcoming, taking time to at least get to know something about me. That makes someone like me feel more comfortable.

Although it took some time to build up my confidence in certain situations, I have found everyone to be friendly and helpful. My rapport with them has developed, particularly since they now know more of my background and difficulties and act accordingly. The improving social situation has given me more confidence. I now have new friends.

There are tasks at various locations, at 2-3 week intervals. However, the group is much more than that. Many social events occur, such as walks, day trips, cinema visits, swimming and ten pin bowling – so there is plenty to do and a variety of people to do these things with.

I would very much recommend a local National Trust Volunteers' Group to any of your readers and enclose the address of the National Trust Volunteers, for those wishing to join a local group or find out more information. I hope you find as much enjoyment, new friends and contacts as I have. The address to write to is:

National Trust Volunteers
33 Sheep Street
Cirencester
Gloucestershire GL7 1RQ

Yours sincerely,
Simon Redshaw



How to reply to **Pen Pals**

- Please remember to let us know the full name (including surname) of the person who your letter is for.
- To contact a pen pal, please send your letter to *Asperger United*, c/o The National Autistic Society, 393 City Road, London EC1V 1NG.
- We will pass your letter onto the person you wish to contact. However, we cannot guarantee the person will reply as that is entirely their decision.

Peter French, Stoke Newington, London

I am a man aged 43, feel isolated and would like to contact others in London or elsewhere for letters and phone calls, to exchange news and interests. My hobbies are reading (especially novels, travel and biographies), watching video films, computers, collecting postcards, trains and cycling.

Reginald Pelle Jnr, Winchester, Hampshire

It makes me very happy and comfortable to know that I am not the only one in this unusual mess. I am twenty-one and it is pretty lonely and quite depressing for me. I would like to hear from the opposite sex who have Asperger syndrome to write to me.

Nigel Wood, Oswestry, Salop

Nigel is interested in getting in touch with Theresa Dann. Could Theresa please contact Asperger United if she is interested. Thanks.

Jim Scott, Plaistow, London

My name is Jim Scott. I'm 27 years old. I have Aspergers. I have a job and my own flat. I'm a football fan (sorry). I would like a girlfriend to have country walks and eat out with.

Tom Lee, Elgin, Scotland

Tom writes with advice for all
I'd like to tell all those Asperger folk who haven't yet met their ideal partner that they should not give up trying.

Richard Dawkins writes in his book *The Blind Watchmaker* that we all inherit the genes for the characteristics which were attractive in both our parents and also genes that make these characteristics attractive to others. Remember one of your parents will probably have Asperger, too, and they found a partner.

You must, then, be able to find someone for yourself and they don't have to have Asperger too. They don't have to be someone of the same age either.

An Apology

The production team at the NAS would like to apologise for the delay in the publication of this issue of *Asperger United*. We are very sorry for any distress that this may have caused.



Richard Sheils's good formula for success

I have here a formula to help people, like me, with Asperger syndrome, who have suffered problems to do with choosing, or responding to, topics of conversation. These problems can often be a barrier to all kinds of friendships and relationships. The formula has helped me – in fact, it has been a vital source of help for me. It has allowed me to begin to relate to other people outside of my family. It has been an emotional lifeline, in terms of friendships and relationships. However, the formula does require – and this is important – much listening, hard work and patience.

The formula is as follows:

The first rule of social interaction is to show a friendly interest in the other person. Good body language is important. By this, we mean how you communicate with someone besides speaking. About 80% of communication is non-verbal.

Generally, it helps to try and appear relaxed, with shoulders hanging loose rather than being hunched. Something as simple as a smile can be a great help to positive communication. It is worth avoiding nervous habits, such as frowning or nail biting. Also it is vital to hold good eye contact. This is done by looking towards someone, showing friendly interest – without a fixed stare.

In terms of what you say, start by showing interest in the other person rather than yourself. An opening question could ideally be: "Hello, what have you been doing?" Listen carefully to their responses and respond with questions.

The best questions to ask are usually to do with the 'Three Ps': People, Places and Purposes. For example if when asked "What have you been doing?", the other

person responds with "I've been playing at the local tennis club". The 'Three Ps' response could be in terms of people:

"Oh yes, are most players local?" or "What age are people at the club?" or "Do any semi-professionals play there?" Once again listen to the other person's response, and ask more questions to do with people, places and purposes.

The 'Three P' routine is always useable and easy to remember, at each stage of any conversation. For example, if a person says, "Oh yes, about an equal mix of professionals and amateurs attend the club", the 'Three P' routine is useable, as it can apply to every stage of a conversation, like someone who digs into progressively deeper layers of soil. In response to the above question, one could apply the first of the 'Three Ps' which is 'People', by asking, "Are the professionals helpful at assisting the amateurs at tennis?" In terms of 'Places' one could ask: "Do the members of the club travel much or do they tend to play locally?" Again, listen carefully to responses, and apply more of the 'Three Ps'. By 'Purposes', we mean the reasons why people do what is being discussed, for example you could say, "Do most

people go to the club for relaxation or are there many youngsters wanting to become professional?"

However, conversation does not have to follow a strict routine. If you are naturally able to say or ask something else, feel free to do so. The routine being described is just a safety net that is always there to prevent you becoming tongue-tied.

Here is another example of the routine which you may find easier to use. The example below relates to mutual friends. I would recommend the following kind of conversation:

You: "How's Alex?"

Other person: "He's OK. He's been asked to write a song for Middlesbrough Football Club."

You: (an easy, natural response) "How did that come about?"

Other person: "Well, he's always supported the club and he wrote to them explaining his musical talents and past recordings. They let him write a song for the end of the season. Also, he knows a guy who runs Shed Seven's studios, and the guy let him record there."

You: (a response to do with 'People') "A lot of youngster's seem to have the dream of acting or pop stardom, but it seems that Alex has an advantage in knowing the right people."

Other person: "Yes, he's got contacts with managers at Boyzone and Kula Shaker. In fact he's almost made himself too busy in the past, with too many recordings at once."

A useful point to make is that as well as responding to what people say with the 'Three Ps', other questions to show you are listening are also a good idea. Also, repeat in different words, or

The routine being described is just a safety net that is always there to prevent you becoming tongue-tied

summarise what the other person has just said. The two lines said by the other person above, for example, could be summarised by you saying: "Yes, too many commitments at once can make it harder to concentrate on each individual thing you are doing."

Also you should listen out for 'iceberg statements'. These are so called because a little bit of the statement can be seen above the surface, but it can point to a great deal more information that has not been said below the surface. Thus most of it is hidden below the iceberg. An example would be when someone says: "He records music." By asking questions and showing interest you can find out a whole mass of things beneath the surface, such as what he plays, when he started, who his favourite pop stars are, etc.

The conversation, in the above paragraph, could be continued by listening and responding in these ways. 'Places' could bring about the question, "Does he record at local studios or tend to travel around the country?" and for 'Purposes' you could ask, "As he's got contacts at fairly well known bands, it seems he wants a future in music rather than merely pursuing a hobby for the time being?" This question as well as being the last of the 'Three Ps', is also evidence that you have been listening to what has been said before. In using information that was explained at an earlier stage of the conversation, (for example, "his contacts at fairly well known bands" came from an earlier part of the conversation when his contacts at Kula Shaker and Boyzone were mentioned). The technique of using material from previous bits of conversation is helpful and is proof of listening – and will provide you with things to talk about.

A skill which took me time to develop was to listen to what people were saying without thinking too much about what my next response was going to be. In

terms of how you speak when socialising, it is best to sound informal. This can be done through varying the tones, words and expressions you use in language, rather than sounding mechanical or repetitive. As you use all these routines more and more, and become more familiar with their stages, communication becomes easier.

A further good idea is to openly explain your autism/Asperger syndrome to your friends. I found, at college, that by choosing two or three people I liked and explaining my condition they were accepting and understanding – and, gradually, I got to know their friends and thus entered a wider social circle.

I will emphasise again that patience is vital. Things will develop at a steady and

gradual pace. To start with, you will chat to people and, over time, arrangements can begin to be made to meet people in the evenings. You must also realise in the early stages of developing social contact, that you cannot escape the limitations of your Asperger syndrome, and thus won't be able to chat, laugh and joke with the same level of ease as other people. If you've explained the condition however, they will understand this. Also, don't try too hard, it is important to take time out from company for rest and relaxation, and sometimes sitting with people and only saying three or four very brief things during a conversation will be OK – if they know your needs.

Be patient and persevere, and the formula could work for you.

Here is an overall plan:

- Show interest in the other person first – ask them what they have been up to.
- Ask questions to do with mutual friends or the other person's family. This is showing interest in them rather than just yourself.
- Tell them about what you have been doing. Initiate the topic in terms of the 'Three Ps': People, Places and Purposes
- Talk about what you have seen or heard on the TV, on the radio, in magazines and newspapers. Again, you could talk in terms of the 'Three Ps'. For help with this stage, it would be a sensible idea to get into a routine whereby you watch a TV programme at the same time each week. You could choose something you are interested in, but there are certain types of programme that people of different age groups will be most likely to want to talk about. In the case of young people, it could be either a soap opera such as *East Enders* or *Hollyoaks*, a chat/music programme like *Top of the Pops* or *TFI Friday*, or cartoons like *The Simpsons*. In newspapers like *The Sun* and *The Mirror*, stories about sport and pop stars could also be good conversation material.
- For middle-aged people, things like cookery and gardening programmes and documentaries would be a more ideal choice. In either case, even if these programmes are not your immediate interests, think that they are helping you make friends and therefore it is very progressive and worthwhile watching them. Most of these programmes last 20–40 minutes and so won't take up too much of your time.
- It may well be a good idea to write down the above routine on your bedroom wall or somewhere clear, highlighting or underlining the important points. This way you can learn it off by heart.

Writing about his life, Jim Ashworth says he wants to 'start at the beginning'. Read about his life in the article below and 'watch this space' for further articles from Jim.

About my life

Let's start at the very beginning. I was born towards the end of the Second World War in a Lancashire industrial town. I was the third child to be born to my parents, but my two brothers died in childhood and so I did not grow up with them. My schooldays were unremarkable and I coped quite well with academic work although I sometimes appeared to lack confidence in myself and was wrongly thought to be lazy. Anyhow, I passed the 11-plus examination and gained a grammar school place. I had never been very fond of school and I left at 16 with a few O-levels to my name. Although I had been teased from time to time during my schooldays, I was never a victim of the terrible bullying endured by some contributors to this newsletter.

I found work in the technical department of a paper mill, where I remained for the next few years. During this time I joined a local outdoor club which went on youth hostel weekends every month. These weekends involved hard walking and hard drinking! Although I was quite happy with my life at this time, I felt I was still searching for something. While I was at school the idea of a vocation to the priesthood or monastic life was put to us, but I gave it no further thought at the time. The idea now came again and I investigated it further. After much thought I decided to

try my vocation in a monastic order which worked in education. This came as a real surprise to family and friends. I had not been very pious as a child, although I had gone to mass every Sunday.

Leaving home was not easy and I knew that I would be away for two years. The discipline in the monastery was tough but

“ I can now see how Asperger syndrome has had some part in my life ”

it was never harsh, and it stood me in good stead for later life. The next few years saw me attempting to combine a monastic prayer life with university and professional studies. After gaining a degree in physics and mathematics I entered the battlefield of education. Thus was set the pattern of my working life for the next 27 years.

In the meantime, my religious life took a different direction and I left the order in which I had spent 20 years. My father had died in 1984 and my mother found it difficult on her own, though she would not admit it. They had been married for just over 50 years. I returned to my

hometown to look after her. Now being over 40, I found it difficult to get any good permanent work locally and I ended up with unsatisfactory temporary work. Soon after her eightieth birthday, my mother started with Alzheimer's disease and eventually had to go into a residential care home. I was now faced with two stark alternatives: either to stay in my home area with no good job prospects, or to move to an area where I could find a permanent appointment.

With a heavy heart I left my hometown in 1989 to take up a post in the south east. The next 7 years were not easy, as anyone recently involved in education would testify. Financial cutbacks caused my post to become redundant, but being over-50 I was offered a reasonable pension which I readily accepted. Meanwhile, my mother had settled very well in the care home and I made the journey north every few weeks until she died in 1997, just a month after Princess Diana and Mother Theresa.

Looking back, I can now see how Asperger syndrome has had some part in my life, yet I managed to survive. In a future article I hope to say something about my journey through faith, as this has been an important factor in my life. In another article I would also like to mention my mad interests, obsessions and manias which have really kept me sane.

Watch this space!

E1

As I walk into E1
A blast of noise hits me in the face
People chattering here
People chattering there
People chattering everywhere
The noise carries on
And on and on

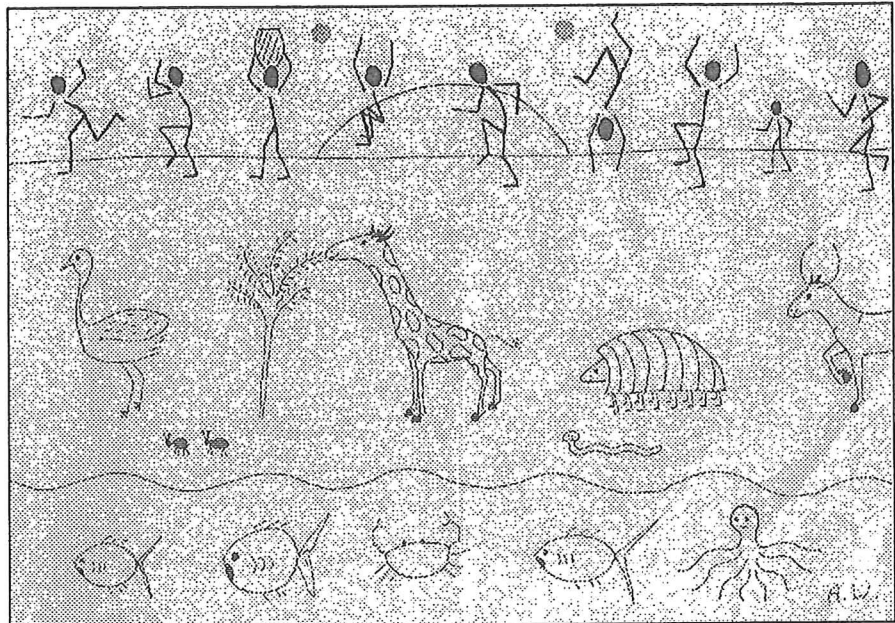
As I walk past the window
The sound of a whizzing train
Passing by
Leaves me stunned on the spot
In amazement

As I look down I see ants playing
A game of football
Colours zoom past
They suddenly score a goal
Yes!

As I look back into the classroom
I see a boy falling off his chair
There is no apparent reason
The clatter of his body
As he hits the floor

He clambers back into his chair
Footsteps are heard
Approaching the door
The door flings open
In he walks
Silence
Deadly silence

by Nick Raithby



Anne Wheeler

Artlook

Modern art has been much in the news recently: not only has the Tate Bankside opened with great interest from the media in the year 2000, two exhibitions which display the talent of people with autism and Asperger syndrome have featured prominently in the public eye, too.

The prestigious Gallery of Modern Art in Glasgow, 111 Queen Street, Glasgow G13A2, is showing Artism 2000, its 2nd International Exhibition, as well as displays and information. Open daily 11.00 - 17.00 hours, the exhibition runs until July 2nd. Work from all over the world is there, including paintings by children in Scotland.

Art in Autism (see the picture) has just finished at the Pump House Gallery, Battersea Park, London SW11, exhibiting work by adults and children with Asperger syndrome and autism sent in by NAS Services and private individuals.

Enjoy the work offered by our special contributors, too.

Three Faces of Autism

A lecture and forum by Donna Williams will take place on July 14th at 7.30pm at Manor Hall, Radcliffe Civic Suites, Thomas Street, Radcliffe, Manchester.

Tickets £10.

Bookings in advance by sending cheque and stamped addressed envelope to: Nobody Nowhere, 136a Worcester Rd, Malvern, Worcs WR14 1SS
Tel: 01684 575722 or e-mail: bookings@donnawilliams.net



The Open University

The largest educational establishment in the world, the Open University(OU) has over 100,00 students. I am in my fifth year as a student, now doing Philosophy.

Comparisons with traditional universities are as follows:

- The OU is divided into areas of study called faculties.
- The students' assignments can be compared with the written work required in conventional establishments.
- Like the older establishments, the OU has many buildings, but, as opposed to colleges, the OU has regional administration in the UK as well as nationally.

The major differences are these:

- Unlike the old universities, OU has no resident students, all study being carried out at home or at the students' chosen place.
- Tutelage: unlike conventional institutions, the OU depends on tutorials and, in some cases, video and audio cassettes. There are also residential summer schools in some subjects. For instance, during the past 3 years, I attended Summer School at Caen University in France.

La Ville de Caen (The city of Caen)

The last three summers have seen me at Caen for Summer School on an Open University French course. Founded by

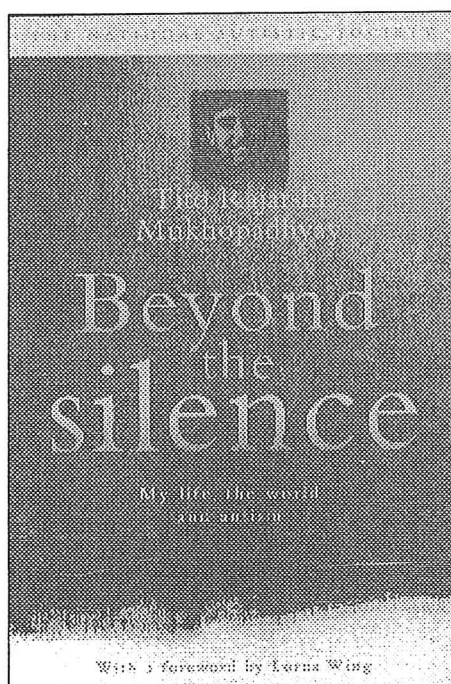
William the Conqueror, the city served as his capital before he undertook his conquest of England, leaving Normandy in the care of his wife, Matilda. This city has played a significant part in English/British history.

During the Hundred Years 'War' there were more periods of peace than of conflict, in one of which King Henry VI, more interested in education than in war, founded the University of Caen, which also played its part in the next major incident.

In 1944, shortly after D-Day, a siege of Caen was mounted by the Allies. After 2 months the Germans were driven out of Caen which was the beginning of the end of World War Two. There was, however, a major casualty: the University had been bombed. The bombs also removed the camouflage from the nearby chateau, King William's residence. Much of this chateau no longer exists, but from what is left, one can see the city. In 1956, the rebuilt university was opened.

The Open University has a student association, and, like other universities, many other societies. The OUSA (Open University Student Association) publishes a student newspaper, *Sesame*, wherein I sought information from other Asperger students.

John Joyce



Beyond the Silence

Tito's Story on BBC 2 in May featured the life and writings of an 11 year old Indian boy with autism. This book gives us an insight into his world in his biographical, philosophical prose and poetry.

Copies of his book are available from:
St John Supplies, PO Box 707B, Friend Street,
London EC1V 7NE
or telephone 020 7278 7888.

£7.99 plus £2.00 postage and handling.
Cheques payable to The National Autistic Society.

Do you live in Barnet?

Rita Moohan would like to hear from you

Rita wishes to identify the needs of children and adults within Barnet who have Asperger syndrome and is to report her recommendations in November, 2000. Please get in touch with her by telephone or at the address below:

Rita Moohan
Special Project Worker
Barnet Social Services
Community Care
Sapphire House
22 East Barnet Road
New Barnet
Herts. EN4 8RQ

Tel: 020 8359 5489



Asperger United, c/o The National Autistic Society, 393 City Road,
London EC1V 1NG.
Telephone: 0171 833 2299. Fax: 0171 833 9666. Email:
asp.uta@nas.org.uk
Website: www.oneworld.org/autism_uk/



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