

Produced by and for people with Asperger syndrome

Asperger *united*

Edition 26 April 2001

Peter Myers' art – now on postcards!

Regular readers of *Asperger United* will need no reminding of Peter Myers and his beautiful designs, which have often adorned our pages. Sadly, because *Asperger United* is printed in black and white, readers have not been able to appreciate Peter's use of vivid colours - guaranteed to brighten the dulllest day!

Several readers contacted us to ask where they could get copies of Peter's detailed and intricate designs. The sad answer until now was nowhere ...

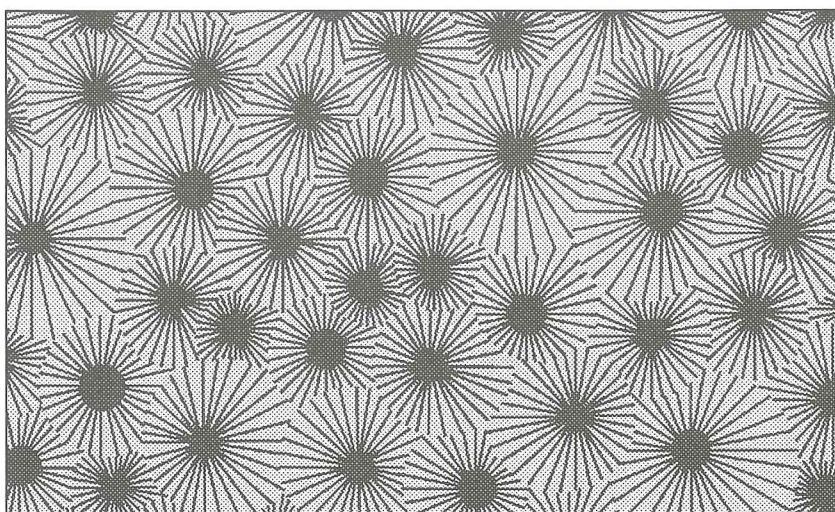
But all that has changed now!

Due to popular demand we've produced two full sets of colour postcards, each with ten postcards of five different designs. We've included familiar designs such as 'Peter's Hand' and 'Fish-E' and added new images such as 'Mosaic Circles' and 'Symbolic Impressions.'

The postcard packs are very good value, costing just £2 for a pack of ten cards – just 20p per card. Peter is kindly allowing us to use all profits to support Asperger United.

So by buying these postcards, you can:

- get beautiful images at a low price
- publicise Peter's work
- spread the word about Asperger syndrome and the NAS



'Daisies', Peter Myers, York, England

- help to support *Asperger United*! Postcards are a great way to brighten up your mail - or your wall.

“ I'm happy to donate the royalties on my art to help *Asperger United*! ”

Use them to send messages to people in the Pen Pal Network!

Special offer for *Asperger United* readers!

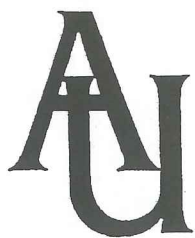
Normally all NAS publications are sold through our supplier and there is a charge for postage and packing of £3 per order. If you're only ordering one or two packs this can be more than the cards themselves!

So as a special introductory offer *Asperger United* readers can get their cards direct from NAS Publications free of postage and packing – but only until the end of June!

To get your postcards, simply send your order with a cheque made payable to the NAS at *Asperger United*!

Win packs of Peter Myers' postcards - see back page!





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 the *Asperger United* editorial group.

Editor John Joyce

Additional support from The National Autistic Society's Publications Department

Please send all correspondence and subscription requests to

Asperger United
c/o The National Autistic Society
393 City Road
London EC1V 1NG.
Fax: 020 7903 3767
Email: asp.utd@nas.org.uk

For enquiries about *Asperger United*

Tel: 020 7903 3543
Fax: 020 7903 3767
Email: asp.utd@nas.org.uk

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.

A History of *Asperger United*

A *Asperger United* was born in 1994 and is still going strong!

It's a self-help magazine for Asperger people and prints readers' articles, letters, poems, short stories and penpal requests. We often publish articles about the lives and experiences of people with Asperger syndrome but we'd happily consider a cookery or gardening column if anyone wanted to produce one!

In the year of Our Lord 1994,
It was born in 'Social Skills',
And because of *Asperger United*,
We thank the Lord for Denmark Hill.

We publish stories,
Of all our glories,
Problems and heartaches as well,
But we hope the picture given,
Is more of heaven than hell.

We tell of the good and bad things,
We show all our talents and arts,
The skills we have nurtured since childhood,
The feelings so close to our hearts.

For my doggerel I hope you'll forgive me,
And - as I'm sure that you'd do better -
I want to get the evidence,
From you in your next letter!

John Joyce - Editor

Please send your contributions to :
Asperger United,
393 City Road,
London EC1V 1NG
Email: asp.utd@nas.org.uk

Dear Readers

I hope all is well and that you are enjoying the new millennium, even allowing for the indifferent weather endured by some parts of the country in the last few months.

We have certainly received a vast flood of material recently - enough to fill at least another two issues. If it's not too frivolous, may I ask you to keep flooding us with articles and artwork to keep the magazine going for another few years.

I recently had a meeting with one of my overseas correspondents, Eulalia Monge de Barros from Chile, who informed me of the progress being made in treatment of autism in South America. She was spending time in London on her way home from a conference in Gothenburg, Sweden.

Some other possible developments - Asperger Poets Corner may become a commercially-marketed anthology. And if there is enough artwork this may also get a regular edition of its own.

Any readers who have not yet contributed art or literary gems are invited to do so. All contributions gratefully received!

A new project has been launched by Peter Myers to help meet *Asperger United* costs. The NAS are selling his artwork on postcards for the benefit of this magazine and for this we give him a big vote of thanks.

More power to your elbow and thank you very much, Peter. Sorry this message isn't in Yorkshire dialect!!

May I finally thank all past, present and, hopefully, future contributors for keeping the paper going and wish all of you a Happy Easter.

Your editor

John Joyce

Contributions needed for the next edition of *Asperger United*

Asperger United will be published again in July. 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. If you can email us your articles we would be very grateful, see below for the address.

Send all contributions to:

Asperger United
c/o Publications Department
The National Autistic Society
393 City Road
London EC1V 1NG.
Fax: 020 7903 3767
Email: asp.uta@nas.org.uk

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More holiday tips from Debbie Hudson

You may remember Debbie Hudson's article about her holiday experiences in the Autumn 2000 Asperger United. Here is an update with more holiday advice.

While I was surfing the Internet, I came across an online support forum for people with Asperger syndrome, parents of those with AS and those with an interest in it. I registered and found it really helpful.

I posted a request in about my holiday needs. I asked if there was anyone who would like to take a young woman with AS on holiday with them. I was desperate because everyone needs a holiday. To my surprise I got a reply from a 31 year old woman called Rachel from Grimsby who was going through the process of having her son diagnosed with autism. She said that I would be very welcome to go and stay with her and her partner John for a few days.

“ I feel I would be safe with anyone involved with the National Autistic Society. ”

We e-mailed each other and she said that she and John would come and see me in Leicester. This made me feel really good because they were putting themselves out for me.

The day was a little nerve racking but it was easier with my Mum and Dad being there and it ended up going well.

Wednesday arrived - the day of my departure. I was actually very anxious but people were very helpful. Mum took me to the coach and I was met at Grimsby by John - who was on time! We then went to Rachel's home and I met Rachel's son Daniel. Even though everyone was so kind the whole evening felt weird as I was so nervous.

On Thursday we went to see Daniel's Occupational Health

Visitor and I was able to help. Rachel and I then went shopping and had lunch. In the afternoon I met Daniel's father. Later on I went out with Rachel and Daniel and met her family. Actually I felt pretty stressed out, because it is quite nerve racking meeting new people and I may have overdone it.

On Friday, I felt much better - not at all stressed. John and Rachel took me to Skegness for part of the day, which was really nice. We walked around a little, had something to eat and went to have a look at the sea. In the evening we went out for a carvery meal at the local pub - delicious!

Saturday was packed! I wanted to meet Rachel's sister and all three of us went for a walk round the local reservoir. We then met up with John and had lunch together and he took Rachel and me to the Grimsby Heritage Centre. This was great - a living museum of how the fishermen and their families lived a century ago. In the evening Rachel cooked us a real tasty supper.

My holiday went very quickly and I was so sorry when it all came to an end and I had to catch the bus back to Leicester on Sunday.

This has been one of the most successful holidays without my Mum and Dad. Rachel and John were the perfect hosts who understood my needs and cared for me very well. National Express Coaches were excellent as well: easy to book, reasonably priced, simple to use and punctual.

I feel I would be safe with anyone involved with the National Autistic Society.

Debbie Hudson
Leicester

If you are interested in using this website the details are all explained below!

How to access the holiday website

The address of the support forum I used is:

www.udel.edu/bkirby/asperger/index.html

This is an online Asperger syndrome Information and Support site. To take part in the forum you have to register and then you are given a personal number. You have to use this only once to gain access.

You then only have to log on and the whole website is very straight forward to use.

On this website, just click on the link AS Support Forum and follow the instructions!

Debbie Hudson
Leicester

A self-help checklist

I have created my own self-help checklist to help me in awkward social situations.

It's designed for quick reference for when I most need help in awkward social situations. It has short snippets of information which are easy to take in quickly, strong graphic branding, icons and glorious technicolour – though that doesn't come out too well in the black and white of *Asperger United*.

It's broken down into categories which I call 'situation points' and I keep it in a small A5 ring binder which I carry around with me for reference. There are hints for conversation, first impressions, appearance preparation, on the street and lots of other topics.

This concept might not be the answer to everyone's problems but hopefully this checklist can reduce ignorant judgement in others – being shunned or snapped at by impatient people. I have shown it to many people with Asperger syndrome and the feedback has been mixed.

Some people say I should publish it or put it on the Internet. What do you think?

Keith Mckenzie
Redditch

Skill targeted: communicating

- Terminology – cut down on alternative terminology – keep it basic! You can easily annoy others.
- No talkover – do not impatiently interrupt! Only if people don't listen to you – then challenge them.
- 'Next' – be aware when to change the subject.

Skill targeted: face control

- Head – keep your head up straight – not down.
- Eyes – look directly at the person you are talking to.
- Hand – keep it in control.
- Mouth – when talking slow down a bit – but not too slow.

If you are interested in Keith's checklist write to him via Asperger United and tell him your views!

The NAS needs you!

Are you aged 16-30?

Are you interested in getting involved in a new NAS book about young people with Asperger syndrome?

We are looking for young people who would like to share their own experiences with other people who have Asperger syndrome. This will involve a few interviews, in person or on the phone.

If you are interested in helping to develop awareness of Asperger syndrome, please email or write to the author, Tom Rigby, as soon as possible!

Please send Tom a few brief details about yourself:

- Your name, age and address
 - Details of your family and friends
 - Your interests
 - Your education – school and college
 - Any work experience you've had
 - Any other important details
- He'll get back to you as soon as possible!

Tom Rigby
The Old Corner Shop
1 North Street
Banbury
OX16 3LH
Email: TomHRigby@aol.com

Volunteers wanted!

Are you over 16, with a diagnosis of high-functioning autism or Asperger syndrome?

I am doing research looking at how people understand their world. I need volunteers to fill in some questionnaires.

For more information please contact:

Frances Abell
Academic Dept. of Clinical Psychology, R and T Block,
Withington Hospital,
Nell Lane,
Manchester, M20 8LR.
Tel: 0161 291 4319
E-mail: f_abell@hotmail.com

I look forward to hearing from you!



A fan letter for Asperger United!

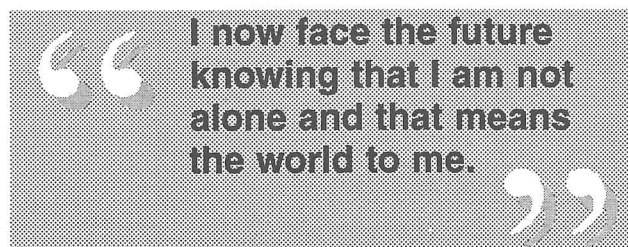
Dear all at *Asperger United*,

Thank you for my first copy of *Asperger United*. It could not have come at a better time!

I am 33 years old with a son of six who has Asperger syndrome and a daughter of four awaiting diagnosis. On top of that I also am waiting for a diagnosis!

At first you think back to your childhood: was I different and, if so, how? Then comes the blame: it's my fault that my son has A.S. because it looks like I have it – and then there's my daughter! Things become so stressful and you start to cave in under the mounting pressure.

I was lucky enough to find out about a good support group in my area. After a good long chat and a few tears things started to fall into place and they put me on to *Asperger United*.



I picked up the first copy and read it from cover to cover several times. I was so impressed by everyone who had written in it – adults who have been in my situation and live with Asperger syndrome everyday.

I now face the future knowing that I am not alone and that means the world to me. If I do have Asperger syndrome then what great company I find myself in.

Thank you to you all at *Asperger United*!

Yours faithfully

Richard
Mansfield, Nottinghamshire

John Joyce writes
Thank you for your kind words, Richard, and welcome on board!

Calling fans of Dungeons and Dragons

Dear John,

I am a big fan of Dungeons and Dragons and I have written a lot about it. It would be good to know what other people feel about Dungeons and Dragons!

I think one day I might start to write some of my own Dungeons and Dragons scripts. I might write a story where my friends and I go on the Dungeons and Dragons ride and we get blown into the realm and become Dungeonmaster's new pupils.

I would call it: Dungeons and Dragons – the new generation!

With best wishes

Stephen Langley

Gravesend, Kent

Always good to hear about new ideas for old favourites, Stephen.

Get in touch with him if you're also a Dungeons and Dragons fan!

Faith, hope and love

I am 24 and I was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome in 1999. Ever since then I have struggled to put into words my thoughts and feelings about everything – until last week, when I wrote this piece. I would really like to know what *Asperger United* readers think. I wrote it on behalf of everyone who has been diagnosed with Asperger syndrome.

- I am in a crowded room but I feel so alone.
 - I am shouting. Why can't anyone hear me?
 - I want to be heard and understood but no one listens.
 - I am cruising down a long, long road but I am going nowhere.
 - I am not alone with these thoughts and feelings. There are others like me.
- One thing which can never die, which binds us all together, is hope. So with faith in God, hope and everyone's love:
- listen
 - learn
 - care.

Sam Mills - Newbury



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.

Seeking friends in Southampton

Martyn writes: I'm 22 and was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome five years ago. I like working in the fresh air and have a wonderful job as a gardener. I share a house with my friend Joe and enjoy pubbing and clubbing, music and computer games.

I'd like to hear from anyone with Asperger syndrome in the 20-30 age group, especially single ladies!

I look forward to hearing from you!

Martyn from Southampton

Outsiders – a self-help group – a spring update

We ran a piece on the Outsiders group in our autumn 2000 issue.

Outsiders is a group for anyone who feels isolated and wants to meet other people in a similar position. Several members of Outsiders have autism or Asperger syndrome.

Outsiders have since changed their contact details and here is an up-date.
PO Box 28724
London
E18 1XW
Tel: 020 8220 5949
E mail: outsiders@beeb.net

Do you have Asperger syndrome? Do you live in London?

Then why not join the Contact Group?

The Contact Group was set up in 1999. We run social activities in various pubs and in the summer we organise walks.

We have two committees:

- the social committee which plans the social activities. This is unusual because in most clubs for disabled people the staff decide what to do, not the clients.
- the political committee which discusses ways of making people more aware of Asperger syndrome. We gave a presentation to NAS members in March and are planning to lobby MPs in the summer.

If you live in London and have Asperger syndrome why not join us?

Better still, come to both and join the committee meetings at the NAS Head office in Islington. They are always very relaxed with as much tea and coffee as you want.

For further details call Judy at the NAS:
Tel: 020 7903 3557
Email: jlynch@nas.org.uk.

David Shamash
London Contact Group

Calling Bedfordshire!

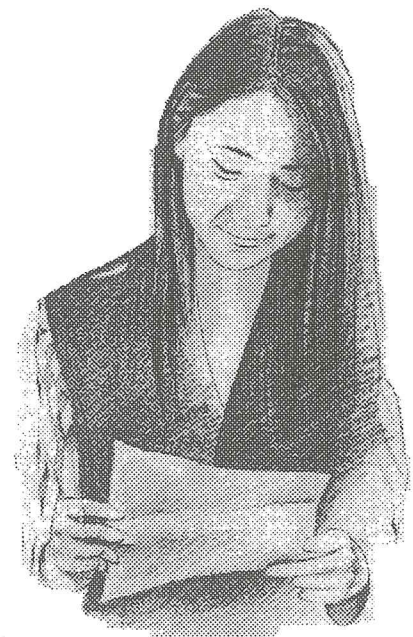
I am 24 years old and would like to contact people with Asperger syndrome in the Bedfordshire area, including Bedford, Luton and surrounding villages.

I would also like to correspond with anyone anywhere who has the condition.

I like ten-pin bowling, walking, listening to music and swimming.

Neil, Flitwick

See page 11 for more Pen Pal requests!



Words from one of the founders of *Asperger United*

Hello there! My name is Anna Cohen and I'm now 26. I first discovered that I had Asperger syndrome when I read a magazine article about Donna Williams' experience of mild autism. My father agreed that I have the same problems and within a year I was diagnosed.

Shortly after my diagnosis I started attending the social skills group at the Maudsley Hospital. We started a magazine and I named it *Asperger United*.

Throughout my life I've had many problems mixing socially and with work. I feel constantly depressed, isolated and trapped in my mind with obsessive thoughts.

“ I didn't tell anyone about the bullying because I was so ashamed. I even thought it was my own fault. ”

As a child at school my main problems were keeping up with my class mates with schoolwork and being bullied. The worst time was when my so-called friends ganged up on me during the lunch hour. They knew that I'm Jewish so they forced my mouth open by pinching my nose and then stuffed a pork meat ball into my mouth.

At the time I didn't tell anyone because I was so ashamed. I even thought it was my own fault. Eventually I left that school and went to another one but I got bullied there as well. I ended up in a special school for children with

problems where I actually got on quite well and ended up with six GCSEs, including two grades Cs in English and an A in art.

After school I went to art college but I struggled with the work there. I left and got a job on a YTS scheme in a florist in the West End of London. Unfortunately they sacked me after two months when they discovered my difficulties.

I then did another YTS scheme in office skills. I lasted for 18 months but then I was asked to leave because of my learning difficulties. My teacher even said to my parents: 'I'm afraid the system has failed her.'

Things got even worse when I became ill with S.L.E., Systemic Lupus. For a while I had difficulties even walking and got tired very quickly. I'm still on medication for it.

I then got a job on a special needs scheme called 'The Deli', run by a charity called Norwood / Ravenswood. I learnt catering but in the end they decided I wasn't really suitable for that either. However they found me a job in the post room at the head office of a charity.

This job at last was a success and I've now been working for Norwood / Ravenswood for five years.

Anna Cohen
Stanmore, Middlesex

Thank you, Anna. We hope that all continues to thrive. To prove that AU is still around we'll print your article.

John Joyce

Anna has also written a special article for readers of Asperger United with handy tips about claiming benefits!

I am writing to warn fellow readers of the importance of claiming everything that you are entitled to. Whenever your circumstances change – when you start living independently or get a new job – then the best thing to do is visit the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Even if you think you're getting all that you're entitled to, often you're not. You could be entitled to other benefits such as housing benefits or working disability tax credit, if you are working. Sometimes benefits can be back-dated and it is important to claim straightaway.

If you live in London, you may be entitled to a Freedom Pass. If you have trouble getting this, you may find it helpful to go to the civic centre.

Make sure that you claim all you're entitled to – don't miss out on benefits like I did!

With best wishes

Anna Cohen

This is a really useful article, Anna.

Thank you for keeping us updated on the ever-changing world of benefits.

John Joyce

AU Editor

Learning late about Asperger syndrome

Many people struggle for years before getting their diagnosis for Asperger syndrome. But how does a late diagnosis change your life?

Does it make a difference?

If so, what?

Read this article – then write to Asperger United with your own experiences!

I should have realised much sooner than I did that life was slightly different for me – going along with the majority and then living secretly in my own secret world.

I was diagnosed with Asperger syndrome at the age of 50!

Quite by chance, within a week of each other, I found an Asperger web site and watched a television documentary about Asperger syndrome. My immediate reaction was: 'I've read all this before!'

Eventually in 1998 the diagnosis was confirmed and I was ecstatic. I had finally found the answer to a lifelong question. Like a man possessed I read every book, journal, paper and article on the condition.

Now I am having the time of my life!

I'm using my diagnosis, modern medication and my own intellectual gifts to improve the quality of my own life and of those around me, especially my own dear wife Abbie and my two wonderful grown-up children. At 52 my life has just begun!

Of course I still have mild situational anxiety attacks and I still can't hear what's being said to me in crowded and noisy places – I just can't sift the sounds out. As a family we have a laugh about some of my Asperger traits: the tins of baked beans, lined up like rows of soldiers, all with their labels facing fully forward and the same red jumper I wore every Sunday for more than six years until it fell to pieces. My wife Abbie hides my shirts and ties to try to stop me from wearing the same thing time and time again. I have always had a thing about doing everything round the number five: locking the door and counting five keys clicks; drawing the curtains with five movements; checking everything five times.

There are some very positive sides to having Asperger syndrome. If I order something over the phone there's no need to take out my credit cards because I know the numbers. I don't need to store mobile phone numbers because I know these too. I must admit that I do show off a bit whenever the opportunity arises!

Finally, I want to express my eternal gratitude to all the people who have helped me: the dedicated professionals past and present who have shown a genuine concern for my well-being; and, most of all, my dear wife, Abbie and my two wonderful children, Matt and Nettie Noo Na who had to forgo most of their childhood with Dad while he struggled with his skewed world.

By Chris Rourke

Thank you Chris.

This is a fine story of the experiences of being a married person with Asperger syndrome.

John

An Easter joke!

There were two brothers who used to repair to the bar for a lunchtime drink each day. One emigrated to Australia. The other continued to go to the bar taking two pints instead of one. He was drinking his absent brother's pint.

However, one day the barman noticed he was only drinking one pint and asked the reason. 'I've given up my pint for Lent,' was the reply.

This was told by a priest in Church as a reminder that once the Christmas festivities are gone we have to think of self control during Lent.

John Joyce

If you have any good jokes to share with readers of Asperger United - and to cheer us all up - please send them to the usual address!

My Psychological history

My psychological history is long and complex and much of it is personal. However, here are some of my basic symptoms.

- As a child I had severe temper tantrums and couldn't sleep easily or for very long. When I was three I lined up some cars I'd been playing with before going to bed but when I woke up they'd been put in a box. I went into a real rage because the order had been disturbed.
- I remember my teacher drawing the number six to show us what one looked like. For months afterwards I kept drawing numbers and writing in thin air.
- By the time I was six I knew all the local bus numbers. I wouldn't wear anything if liquids were spilled on them and when I came home I would throw all my clothes off. I refused to let anyone cut my hair and wore a woolly cap and wellingtons all the time – even in bed. I would throw a tantrum if anyone took the cap off.
- For any date between 1760 and 2100 I can tell you what day of the week it falls on – but I can't tell you how I work this out!
- I'm good at trivia! I can tell you what was number one in the charts from 1952 on; all the British prime ministers and US presidents; and who won the football league or FA Cup.
- I love routines. I stack my tapes in a very specific order; when I was ten I always went to bed at 8.31 pm; today I get in the bath at 9.30 pm every Sunday night!
- I love weather records and have kept records in my side garden since July 1997. I'm also interested in the weather itself.
- I dislike being held or touched and I'm hyper sensitive to certain noises. I can't dance or bowl overarm at cricket. My co-ordination is generally OK when it comes to general movements but it's clumsy when it comes to fine motor skills such as dancing or Karate sequences. I can't throw very far either.
- I can't concentrate at anything for prolonged periods and get tired mentally very easily. My mind wanders and races ahead of me so I can be impatient, impulsive and forgetful. I also get frustrated and can suffer from mood swings.

Many AU readers will recognise aspects of themselves in this psychological history.

Unfortunately the author didn't put his/her name on the article!

Please let us know who you are so we can credit your excellent contribution!

Recommended reading

Dear Asperger United

I would just like to say how much I enjoyed reading Tony Attwood's famous book about Asperger syndrome: a guide for parents and professionals, which was given to me as a present. For any reader or anyone who has Asperger syndrome I strongly recommend this book as it covers Asperger syndrome from every possible angle.

I am very proud that I have now got my very own copy of the book at last as there was at least 13 people waiting to borrow it at my local library and there were a lot of disappointed people when they were told that the book was out on loan.

My local autistic society also has a copy, but even that was always out on loan.

I recommend any *Asperger United* reader to try and get a copy of Tony Attwood's book as it is one of the best books around.

All the best

George Handley
Nottingham

A note from NAS Publications

You can buy this book for £12.95 plus postage and packing from the NAS and help yourself - and the NAS.

Contact us for further details.

Tel: 020 7903 3543

Email: publications@nas.org.uk

Asperger United editor John Joyce replies

Dear Author,

Thanks for your excellent contribution. My personal situation is mirrored in some areas of your letter. I have a wide knowledge of various subjects but must refresh my memory and therefore have a collection of reference books. I also have a collection of 20,000+ sports programmes, mainly soccer but also including rugby, hockey, Gaelic football, basketball and a number of others.

Sorry for this expose of myself as some other readers have read more about me than they want to know!!

We look forward to hearing from you and discovering the identity of our mystery contributor!

Test your trivia!

People with Asperger syndrome are often very good at quizzes.

Test your trivia in this new quiz specially designed for us by Steve Stace, Estelle Jones, Matthew Thomas, Richard Weaver, and Julie Mallett at the Hayes Herald in Bristol.

Answers below - upside down so no one cheats!

1. Which early evening TV magazine show was transmitted throughout the country in the 70s?
2. What is the nationality of Agatha Christie's detective Poirot?
3. When was Blackpool Tower built?
4. Where did Ken Barlow's father get the money that let him move out of *Coronation Street*?
5. How do you luge?
6. In which Shakespeare play do we meet two grave diggers?
7. In the rhyme what is 'Friday's child'?
8. What did Stephanie Rahn do in the *Sun* in 1970?
9. Whose album was *Oxygene*?
10. Who recorded *Let's Have a Party* and *Let's Have Another Party*?
11. Who said 'Genius is 1 per cent inspiration - 99 per cent perspiration'?
12. What is the deepest lake in the world?
13. In which decade did Disneyland open in California?
14. What percentage of the adult male population in Britain smoked in 1974?
15. In *Pickwick Papers* who is Mr Pickwick's landlady?
16. In *Great Expectations* whom did Estella first marry?
17. What is the botanical emblem of Australia?
18. What does the computer language 'Basic' stand for?
19. Which Greenpeace ship was sunk in Auckland harbour in 1985?
20. Where in the cell is DNA stored?
21. Who took the song *Africa* into the record charts?
22. How many legs has a spider?
23. What is the green colouring matter in plants called?
24. What is the coloured part of the eye called?
25. In which war was the charge of the Light Brigade?
26. What is a sinologist?
27. Which fruit contains the most calories?
28. Where in the world is the Devil's Tower?
29. Which element is the most toxic substance known?
30. What is the physics of friction properly called?

Now look below to check how well you've done!

1. Nationwide. 2. Belgian. 3. 1894. 4. A Premium Bond win. 5. Lie on your back. 6. Hamlet. 7. Loving and Giving. 8. Became the first topless Page 3 girl. 9. Jean Michael Jarre. 10. Winifred Atwell. 11. Thomas Edison. 12. Lake Baikal, Russia. 13. 1950s. 14. 81 per cent. 15. Mrs Bardell. 16. Bentley Drummle. 17. Watte Blossom. 18. Beginners All-purpose Symbolic Instruction Code. 19. Rainbow Warrior. 20. Nucleus. 21. Toto. 22. 8. 23. Chlorophyll. 24. Iris. 25. The Crimean War. 26. An expert on China. 27. The Avocado. 28. Wyoming, USA. 29. Plutonium. 30. Tribonysics.

More Pen Pal requests

So many people have written to us asking to be put in touch with other people with Asperger syndrome that we're running an overflow section from page 7!

David of Bristol calling cross country

My name is David, I'm 41 and I'd love to get touch with people through *Asperger United*.

Once we're in touch it might be easier to talk on the phone rather than write to each other but please start off by dropping a line to me via the *Asperger United* letterbox.

Photographer seeks friendship!

My name is Steven and I would like to get in touch with anyone in the London area - especially ladies in the London area where I live.

I have Asperger syndrome and am a professional photographer. I also enjoy writing wierd and wonderful short stories!

The AU Pen Pal Network

This is one of the most popular sections in *Asperger United*. It's a really good way for people with Asperger syndrome to get in touch with each other, exchange tips and form friendships.

We'd like more people to use the Pen Pal Network so please get in touch with us. Write to us with your address and age and tell us your hobbies and interests.

Here are some tips to help anyone using the Pen Pal Network.

- Be as positive as possible. Be ready to write to people from across the country - and around the world!
- It's worth being as open as you can to give as many people as possible the opportunity to get in touch.
- Encourage as many replies as possible - promise to answer all letters!
- If you appear in the Pen Pal Network, try to write back to everyone who writes to you!
- Send a letter to someone in the Pen Pal Network!

Competition time!

We have three double packs of postcards to give away to three lucky winners of our Peter Myers' postcards competition!

All you have to do is answer the easy question below and send it with your name and postal address to:

Peter Myers Postcard Competition
Asperger United
The National Autistic Society
393 City Road
London EC1V 1NG

Tel: 020 7903 3543

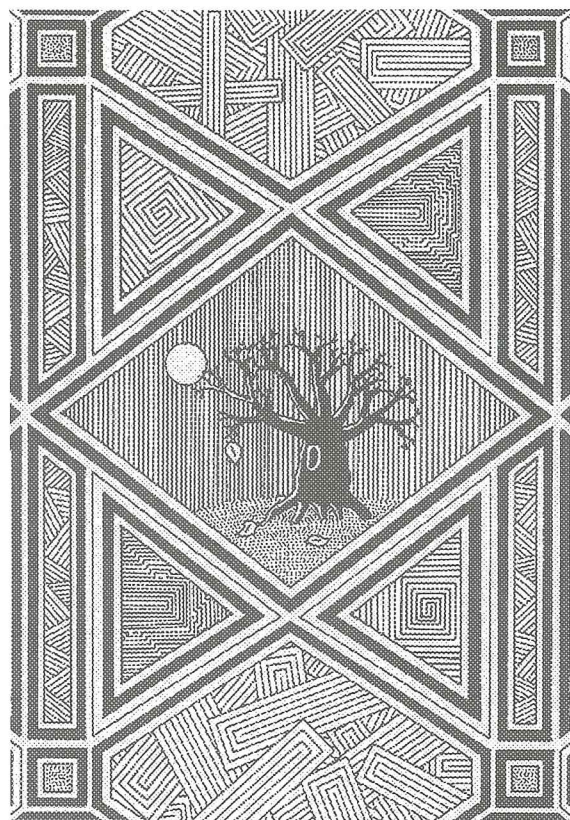
Email: asp.utd@nas.org.uk

Closing date for competition – 31 May 2001

Question: How much does one pack of 10 Peter Myers postcards cost?

Hint: the answer can be found on the front page of this issue of *Asperger United*!

Please note: for printing reasons we have used black and white designs in this edition of *Asperger United*, not the colour designs used in the postcards. This also helps increase the number of Peter Myers designs that the NAS can publish!



Corrections and clarifications

All the main newspapers seem to have introduced a corner for corrections. Now it's our turn to show that we don't always get things right!

In our last issue we ran a feature on David Braunsberg's life and art but unfortunately we got the caption for his etching wrong. It should have read: the inspiration for this etching was the juxtaposition of a church spire against high-rise blocks. Our apologies, David.

A poetic request!

Send it to me in verse or prose,
When it appears God only knows –
But appear it will.
This is your editor speaking
Your stories seeking
Pages to fill.
Do tell us your troubles
And your pleasures too.
Perhaps we'll sort the problems
But the joys we'll share with you.

John Joyce - AU Editor



Asperger United, c/o The National Autistic Society, 393 City Road,
London EC1V 1NG.
Telephone: 020 7833 2299. Fax: 020 7833 9666.
Email: asp.utd@nas.org.uk
Website: www.nas.org.uk



The National Autistic Society
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