HAPPY NEW YEAR TO YOU ALL!

BAG PACKING

We are pleased to inform members that we raised the healthy sum of £302.87 at the Christmas bag packing event at Morrisons, Milehouse. Committee members, staff and other volunteers worked from 10:00am—1:00pm on the Wednesday before Christmas helping people with their ‘considerable’ shopping items.

The sum of £92.50 was raised at the Christmas Party and Raffle with a further £50 raised from the Hamper Auction. We would like to thank the John Munroe Group for their generous donation of the superb hamper which was much appreciated.

Of course, all monies raised go back into the NSAAA pot and will be used for the good of our members.

GOOD NEWS

We are extremely grateful to Newcastle under Lyme Borough Council Small Grants for their award of £1000 which will subsidise our Adult Social Club. We have also received further good news of a grant of £700 which has been awarded to us by Staffordshire County Council’s Community Wellbeing Fund.

We are very fortunate to have been considered for the above grants especially during these difficult times. Both schemes were hugely over subscribed, however they considered our applications as deserving which has allowed us to continue with the adult social.

We have also received a further donation from Leoni Wiring. Details of this will follow in the Easter Newsletter.

A number of events have already got underway with Fiona arranging further sessions at the Fun Factory. Angela runs the older A Dude sessions.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Older A Dudes—17th Feb, 23rd March, 20th April.

Younger A Dudes—24th Feb, 2nd March Fun Factory, 30th March, 13th April Fun Factory, 27th April.

Parent Support Groups—continue to be run by Sue on the first Wednesday of the month 10:00am—12noon and 7:00pm—9:00pm.

ADULT SOCIAL

YOUR Social Space!

The first club of 2012 was held on Thursday 26th January where Joan’s buffet tea was enjoyed by all (well I hope so!). The next meeting will be on Thursday 23rd February, 6:30—9:00pm and refreshments will again be provided. The cost is £2.00, or for those not wishing to eat 50p, which will go towards the running costs of the office. Members will receive a reminder with more details nearer the time.

NSAAA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This will be held on Wednesday 21st March 2012 at Newcastle Community Fire Station, Knutton Lane. You are asked to meet at 6:30pm for a 7:00pm start. It is anticipated the meeting will end at approx 9:00pm.

Please see the important information overleaf regarding several vacancies on the NSAAA committee. We need your interest and support in order to keep going!
NORTH STAFFS ASPERGER/AUTISM ASSOCIATION (NSAAA)

NEEDS YOU NOW

PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, RELATIVES AND FRIENDS

We need your action. There are no options for survival. The human cost will be high to our dearest without your help.

THE MEANING OF CHARITY STATUS

It is NOT FREE to users.

It DOES MEAN any money charged for its services through membership fees and donations asked for is used to:

1. Keep the office open at Andrew Place and pay the Rent, Council Tax and all other running costs.
2. Keep the 4 staff employed to cover administration and crisis drop-in advice.

No profit can be made – a legal requirement of a charity.

External Funding support obtained by bidding against other charities

Volunteers needed to be responsible for activities

Volunteer Committee doing behind the scenes practical help to staff, in order to keep the Association going on a day to day basis

A drop in centre provided for advice

Paying the staff to open the office three half-days a week

VOLUNTEERING REWARDS FOR YOUR SKILLS

1. Gets you out of isolation, whatever age, for the enjoyment of helping others less fortunate than yourself.
2. Enables you to listen to the history of others by chatting and caring, so that you may change others for the better.

WHY YOU?

Whatever time or skill/skills you can give, please come to:

1. Learn how the Committee and volunteers work together by coming along to our next meeting on Monday, 5 March at 7.00 p.m. – 8.00 p.m. at Andrew Place.
2. Come along to the Annual General Meeting on Wednesday, 21 March at 6.30 p.m. for 7.00 p.m. – 9.00 p.m. at Newcastle Community Fire Station, Knutton Lane (B5367).

There will be several vacancies for the Committee, so please offer your help on these occasions, which is important to keep us going.
**HOW BUSY IS THE NSAAA?**

You may be interested in how many people contact the NSAAA office. The above chart shows how many telephone calls we during 2011.

The chart below indicates the number of visitors to the office during 2011.