

My Town Tiggers Annual Autism Conference

'The Hidden Agenda'

14 May 2010, 9.00am—4.30pm

De Vere Hotel, Blackpool



'Floor Art in Plastic' Conceived and Maintained by Asa Ainge (13 y.o.)

Keynote Speakers:
Dr Wendy Lawson, Ros Blackburn
& Dean Beadle



Event Speakers and Personnel



Wendy Lawson was diagnosed when 40 years old with an autism spectrum disability. Wendy is a psychologist who shares her knowledge, understanding and experience of life encounters, yet, at the age of 17 she attempted suicide and ended up in the Mental Health system. However, aged 20, she married and eventually had four children two of which are on the autism spectrum. She and her family live in Australia and Wendy operates her own business working as a writer and sessional lecturer at a number of universities, including Melbourne University and as a distance education tutor for The University of Birmingham.

Ros Blackburn is a woman on the autistic spectrum who lives by herself in a small home. At 40 years old, she is very articulate and expressive. Very expressive. She comes across as being very capable, but the truth is she is unable to dress or cook food independently. Face to face she can appear quiet. Give her an audience and a platform and she suddenly transforms into a dynamic whirling communicator of intense voracity. Ros is an impressive speaker and quite unforgettable. She isn't what you think she is and that is all your impression of her. All she wants to do is bounce on a trampoline.



Dean Beadle, a young man with Aspergers Syndrome, developed from a child considered a "monster" to an A-Grade student. He was awarded an "achievement against the odds" award at a local education awards ceremony. Dean encourages his audiences to see the condition in a much more positive light, through his humorous and poignant anecdotes. Aside from speaking work, Dean is an experienced writer and has written articles based on autism for Cerebra Bulletin and NAS Communication Magazine. Dean is also a columnist for a commercially released magazine Autism File.

Mick Connelly is currently Assistant Manager, Targeted Services for Children with Additional Needs with the Service for Pupils with Physical, Sensory, Severe and Complex Learning Difficulties including SEN in the Early Years for Blackpool Children's Services Authority. Mick offers that rare combination of an international reputation for his expertise with pragmatic, local knowledge and experience gleaned from a career which started in 1972 as a teacher. He has chaired the annual autism conference for My Town Tiggers in 2008 and 2009. He shares that honour for 2010 with Suzanne Pinder from Blackpool Tiggers.



Suzanne Pinder is a single mother of two boys on the autistic spectrum and is Chair of the Blackpool Tiggers charity. She lectures in art at the Blackpool And Fylde Central Art College and is part of an Artist Studio Collective, exhibiting her work regularly. Suzanne also works as a nurse at the Victoria Hospital, Blackpool. A keen gardener, she is the project leader on the Digger Tiggers Community Allotment. She also sits on the Hate Crime and Scrutiny Panel for the Crown Prosecution Service raising awareness of crimes committed against groups of race, gender and disability. She has a wealth of experience and knowledge in dealing with issues appertaining to the conference theme, and will be on the programme as part of the Q&A panel.

The cover illustration, 'Floor Art in Plastic', features the changing and evolving bedroom floor of **Asa Ainge**, a thirteen year old boy on the Autistic Spectrum.

About the Event

This event brings together a range of high calibre speakers who have significant knowledge of, and happen to be on, the Autistic Spectrum. The day seeks to peek into the world of autistic people and look at the less obvious aspects of their experience and the impact on those who live with and care for them - the everyday aspects, although some perhaps being less obvious, even hidden, that have to be meticulously planned for and arranged; organised strategically or they don't happen. For autistic families there is no other way.

Who should attend?

Health professionals (i.e. speech and language, mental health –psychology/psychiatry, occupational therapy), service design strategists, clinicians, service managers, teachers, teaching assistants, children's services, social care, police, criminal justice system, local authority staff, parent, carers and anyone with an interest in the Autistic Spectrum.

The Hosts - My Town Tiggers

The event has been arranged by My Town Tiggers, a Social Enterprise specialising in encouraging and supporting the establishment of independent social development opportunities for children and young adults with autistic spectrum conditions, based on the model provided by Blackpool Tiggers.

For more information visit: www.blackpooltiggers.co.uk.

The Venue



The De Vere Hotel at Herons' Reach is easy to find from the M6. Take junction 32 for the M55 and then exit at junction 4 for Blackpool North (A583). Beware of speed cameras on this 30mph dual carriageway. Follow the signs for Blackpool Zoo into South Park Drive and East Park Drive and keep an eye out for the hotel on the right. The hotel has 500 parking spaces.

Herons' Reach
East Park Drive
Blackpool
Lancashire
FY3 8LL
Telephone: 01253 838866
Fax: 01253 798800
sales.herons@devere-hotels.com

Application

Please complete the application form on the back of the flyer and forward to the contact at the bottom of the form. As interest is expected to be high for this event you are advised to complete your application early .

COURSE FEES:

£145.00 for practitioners, professionals, those in employment

(Discount of £20.10 for bookings received before 31st December 2009 = £124.90)

£49.00 for parents and carers, people with ASD.

Course fee includes refreshments and lunch. Fees are payable in advance of the conference. Where applicants are unable to attend the event fees may not be refunded if we are unable to allocate all tickets, however a substitute attendee may attend. If we are able to reallocate tickets and provide a refund, a £10 administration fee will apply.

Please address general enquiries to: Blackpool Children's Workforce Development Unit,
Tel: 01253 476533 Fax: 01253 476144 cwdu@blackpool.gov.uk

Application






Autism: 'The Hidden Agenda' 14 May 2010, 9.00am—4.30pm

Fees

- £145.00 - Main conference fee applying to Professionals, Practitioners, etc.
- Early bird discount for main conference fee of £20.10 for applications received before 31st December 2009 (=£124.90)
- £ 49.00 - Parents/Carers of people with ASD (not Professionals)

Once applications are received, fees will be payable in advance of the conference. Where applicants are unable to attend the event fees may not be refunded if we are unable to allocate all tickets, however a substitute attendee may attend. If we are able to reallocate tickets and provide a refund, a £10 administration fee will apply.

Booking

-  Telephone: 01253 476533 for enquiries
-  Fax: 01253 476144
-  Post: CWDU, Children and Young People's Department, Blackpool Council, Progress House, Clifton Road, Blackpool, FY4 4US
-  eMail: cwdu@blackpool.gov.uk
-  Internet: <http://www.mytowntiggers.co.uk/>

Applicant 1

Name:
Job Title:
Email:
Telephone:
Special/Requirements or Diet:

Applicant 2

Name:
Job Title:
Email:
Telephone:
Special/Requirements or Diet:

Address

Organisation Name:	
Address:	
Town:	Post Code:

Invoice Address (if different)

Contact Name:	
Address:	
Town:	Post Code:
Email:	Telephone No:

Payment

- I enclose a cheque for _____ made payable to 'My Town Tiggers'
- Please provide an invoice. I understand that this will require payment before the event. ORDER NO: _____

Signature: _____

Date: _____