

Autism Friendly Surrey

August 2026 – West Surrey Updates Meeting



1

News from West Surrey

We are keen to hear from you about any activities, events, developments happening in West Surrey related to Autism Friendly Surrey.

We will update you about some of the things we've heard about.

Please feel free to share any updates or news you may have.



2

Cinema Survey

We have collated the results of our Autism Friendly Surrey cinema survey. 40 people shared their views and experiences.

We will be sending out the summary of the survey we have designed later this month.

We are keen to work with a local cinema to pilot putting on both a relaxed and a quiet screening based of the recommendations of the survey.

If anyone else is interested, please email Mike at AFC@autismbyexperience.co.uk

Autism Friendly Cinema



Tips for offering Autism Friendly screenings

Relaxed screenings

Autism Friendly cinema screenings are mostly aimed at children and families, and it's understood that some children may need to move around and make noise. These are often described as Relaxed Screenings.

Quiet screenings

Autistic adults often find autism friendly relaxed screenings noisier and more unpredictable than general screenings. Many adults choose screenings at less popular times or when films have been out for a week or two.

Some adults have told us that dedicated autism friendly quiet screenings would be very appealing to them.



Our cinema survey

40 people responded to our online survey focusing on autism friendly cinema screenings, including autistic adults, parents of autistic children and adults.

Our survey

27 People gave their views about Quiet Screenings

13 People gave their views about Relaxed Screenings

Our survey revealed that many autistic people have positive experiences at the cinema, but others do experience challenges and don't go to the cinema as often as they would like to.



How often people went to a cinema to see a film

5 People never go

24 People go once or twice a year

9 People go around once a month

2 People go more often than once a month

95% of our respondents (38 out of 40 people) said they would be very likely to go to the cinema more often if they could access screenings with appropriate accessibility adjustments.

3

Adult board games night



The Sovereigns pub in Woking are hosting an inclusive board games night for adults.

This has been developed independently of us.

It is a free event, the pub will provide the board games and you can buy food and drinks at the bar if and when you wish.

The age range is 12 and up with anyone under 16 needing to bring an adult with them.

4

The Manor Hub in Farnham

Earlier this month we visited the Manor Hub in Farnham.

This is a fantastic new inclusive activity and skills hub, now open for first visit enquiries.

It has been created for neurodivergent and additional needs children, young people and adults who may find mainstream clubs or busy social environments difficult and would benefit from a calmer, more predictable place to explore interests, build confidence and connect with others.



5

The Manor Hub in Farnham

Parents, carers and young adults can contact The Manor Hub directly without needing a formal referral.

The Hub provides structured, low-pressure opportunities across social activities like interactive golf and interactive shuffleboard, gaming & e-sports, Dungeons & Dragons, chess, creative and digital skills, 3D model-making, cooking and life / employment skills.

The first step is a low-pressure visit to look around the venue, discuss interests and needs, and consider which sessions may be suitable.



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The Manor Hub in Farnham

The main age groups are 11–16, 16+ young adults and selected adult specialist sessions, while children aged 10 and under usually need to attend with a supervising adult.

As they introduce their regular programme, first visits are being scheduled gradually based on availability so that they can ensure every family receives a welcoming and well-supported introduction.

For more information or to arrange a first visit, visit www.themanorhub.com and choose Plan a First Visit or use the website enquiry form.



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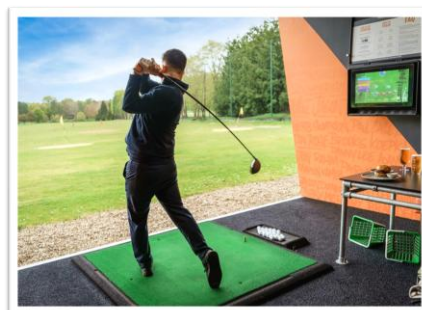
Hoebridge golf driving range

Following on from our taster session in June, we now have a small group of young adults meeting monthly at Hoebridge Driving Range.

These young adults are keen to get better at golf, and we meet at Hoebridge once a month on a Tuesday evening.

We use a VIP bay which is enclosed, so very sensory friendly. The next date is **Tuesday 29th September from 6.30pm to 8.30pm** and the cost per person for the bay is £8.20

If anyone else is interested, please email Mike at AFC@autismbyexperience.co.uk



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Painshill Park Sensory Circuits

Painshill Park Sensory Circuits for children on Thursday 27th August from 9am to 10am.



Held before Painshill Park in Cobham opens to the general public, these sessions provide exclusive access to the landscape in a quieter, more relaxed setting.

Activities may include balancing, climbing, jumping, nature-based sensory play, mindfulness activities and opportunities for free exploration, all carefully adapted to meet individual needs and interests.

[Find out more on their website](#)

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Guilfest – supported offers

Guilfest took place on Stoke Park in Guildford on the first weekend in July 2026



We worked with the festival organisers to further develop the Supported Stewarding offer we piloted in 2025

We also piloted supporting a family with a teenager with a PDA profile to have a tour of the festival at a quiet time to see if they wanted to stay for the rest of the day (they did stay)

We plan to expand this offer in 2027.

10

Sayers Croft Family Fun Day - Ewhurst



Tuesday 25th August from 10am to 2pm - £10 per child.

Join us for an accessible outdoor adventure at the beautiful Sayers Croft! With 56 acres of woodland and meadows, the site is fully inclusive — accessible terrain, supportive staff, and a hoist/changing facility available

Activities may include: climbing wall, low ropes, zip wire, pond dipping, crafts, archery and axe throwing.

[Book your place on the f6it website](#)

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F6it



f6it helps children and young people, aged 0-25, with additional needs and disabilities - and their families - get active, connect and have fun.

They offer a range of activities including football, swimming, art, trampolining and dance.

Many of their activities take place at The Edge Leisure Centre in Haslemere.

[Find out more on their website.](#)

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Roller Rink SEN Sessions Camberley



From **1st August to 30th August**, visitors can enjoy skating fun in our dedicated roller rink, located in the unit next to Jack Wills in Central Square.

SEN sessions are at 10.30am and 11am – cost is just £1 per skate.

[Find out more on their website](#)

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Link Able Inclusive Games

The LinkAble Inclusive Games are open to people of all ages and abilities, bringing everyone together through accessible sport, friendly competition and community spirit.

Try inclusive activities including boccia, accessible cycling and walking football, with a dedicated children's area and sensory space available too.

Date: Tuesday, 25 August - 10:30am to 4pm.

[Click here for booking information](#)

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Autism Strategy

Opportunities for young people aged 16 to 24

The Surrey County Council Participation Team are keen to offer young autistic people opportunities to get involved in a wide range of activities – see the flyer

Email: allageautismstrategy@surreycc.gov.uk



Autism in Surrey

We Need Autistic Young People!

Aged 16 – 24

We need people to take part in:

- Writing Blogs
- Filming Vlogs
- Doing Interviews
- Speaking at our events
- Creating Artwork
- Taking Photographs
- Making Animations
- Doing Voiceovers
- Participating in our Focus Groups
- Helping with our Workshops

If you'd like to get involved, email:
allageautismstrategy@surreycc.gov.uk

SURREY

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Substance Use

We are working with Surrey and Sussex Probation to develop workshop materials about substance use and neurodivergence.

We are developing workshops for autistic / neurodivergent people to better understand their neurodivergence which is crucial to them accessing the right support during their recovery journey.

We plan to run these workshops in early 2027.



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Focus on Isolated People

On 23rd July we ran an online meeting focusing on the needs of very isolated people, and 24 people joined the meeting.

We organised the meeting in partnership with Action for Carers Surrey and it was attended by families as well as autistic adults.

Some actions came out of the meeting which we will explain.



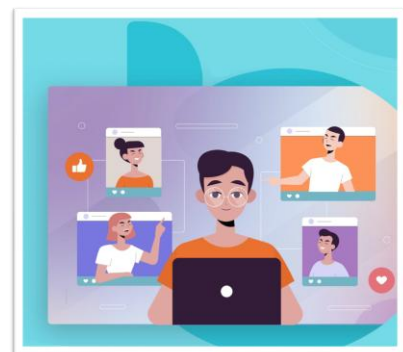
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Mapping online opportunities

Many people who spend most of their time at home connect with others online, often gaming.

These online opportunities are offered across the UK and being online there are no issues around travelling.

Autism Friendly Surrey will research and compile a list of supported online opportunities that may be of interest to autistic / neurodivergent people.



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Travel

Travel is a very real barrier for many autistic / neurodivergent people, particularly for people living in rural areas.

The 'Connect to Support Surrey' website has a section on Community Transport, which is long !

We plan to go through this and produce a signposting handout for West Surrey on the most relevant services.

[Connect to support - travel](#)



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Burview Hall – Open afternoon

We supported an open day at Burview Hall in Walton-on-Thames on 12th August



Around 40 people attended including autistic children and their families as well as autistic adults. It was an event aimed at people who struggle to access more mainstream community facilities. Burview Hall is a safe environment to wander around.

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Burview Hall – Open afternoon

There is lots of space at Burview Hall, which was great as some children attending needed to walk around exploring all the spaces.

Sitting still holds little interest for these children and young people !!

There were a range of activities including yoga, art, music and gaming which attendees dipped in and out of – we are going to meet with the team at Burview Hall in September to discuss setting up a regular offer.



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Autism Friendly Surrey meet-ups

We have had some success in involving very isolated and very anxious people to attend our meet-ups.

Some of our meet-ups are very lively and others are much calmer.

We can always work with a person (and their family) to support them to attend, often by meeting them outside the venue.

Please email afc@autismbyexperience.co.uk if you want to have a chat about attending



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Autism Friendly Surrey Meet-ups

We have further developed our range of supportive, inclusive meet-ups across West Surrey.

We are keen to continue to develop our offer with a specific focus on the north of West Surrey, where there isn't really much on offer for autistic adults.



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No diagnosis needed

For all of our activities, meet-ups and events a person does not need to have an official diagnosis.

Otherwise, people who are awaiting a diagnostic assessment would be excluded, as well as people who prefer not to seek a diagnostic assessment.

Although our meet-ups are supported we try to keep the support as discreet as possible – no lanyards on display !!



24

Silent Strikes – Guildford Spectrum

We base ourselves in the bowling alley once a month to support people attending Silent Strikes – It's £5 per person for an hours bowling

Our regular attendees include:

Families with children of various ages

Several adults came and didn't bowl but stayed in the café area for a chat

Adults who came on their own were grouped together for bowling



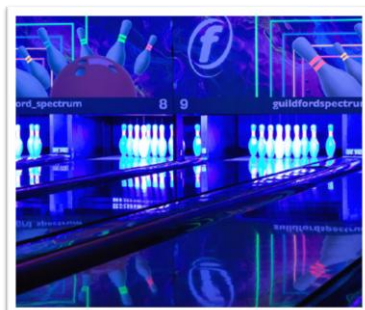
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Silent Strikes – Guildford Spectrum

Our team are there to welcome people. We have tables in the café area with colouring and sensory aids.

Dates for 2026:

- Mon 14th Sept
- Mon 12th Oct
- Mon 9th Nov
- Mon 14th Dec



Our team are there from 5pm to 7pm to welcome people and help people to get involved and get to know others.

If you come on your own, you won't feel left out.

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Coffee and cake

This a regular monthly meet-up on a Sunday afternoon at an arts café on Guildford High Street.

This suits people wanting to meet in a quiet environment, to connect with others whilst doing adult colouring / craft.

A very popular event which is fully booked each month with a mixture of new people and regular attendees. Our August session is fully booked.

Our September meet-up is on Sunday 27th.



27

Camberley Autism Group

This group has expanded its membership recently, with 10 new people enquiring about joining the group.

This suits people wanting to meet in a quiet environment, to connect with others whilst doing adult colouring / craft and games. This would suit people may be isolated and experience a lot of social anxiety

It meets on the first Weds evening of each month from 7pm to 9pm.



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Guildford Autism and ADHD friendly Meet-up

This is run independently, though members of our team attend and we have financially supported the network.

This is a free group for adults who are autistic / ADHD who find it hard to socialise.

They meet once a month on a Sunday afternoon to catch up in a private room in a pub in Guildford town centre.

To find out more go to the group's page on the [meetup.com website](https://www.meetup.com/guildford-autism-adhd-friendly-meetup-group/)



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Gamers Lounge

Gamers Lounge (retro gaming sessions) are running events at The Boileroom in Guildford and also Woking Library – for children and adults

Woking Library – Saturday 22nd August
Sessions at 12noon and 2pm - £5 cash on the day

- **Email:** wokinggamerslounge@gmail.com
- **Book:** [Go to the Eventbrite page](#)

Boileroom Guildford – Sunday 13th September
Sessions at 12noon and 2pm - £5 + 50p booking fee

- **Book:** [Go to the Boileroom website](#)



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LGBTQ+

This group has been meeting for a few months now, and is for LGBTQ+ adults wanted to connect with others.

The group meets on the last Monday evening of the month from 7pm to 9pm at The Weyside Pub in Guildford

It has been really popular and has attracted people who are very isolated

The next one is Monday 31st August.

Email jo@autismbyexperience.co.uk for info



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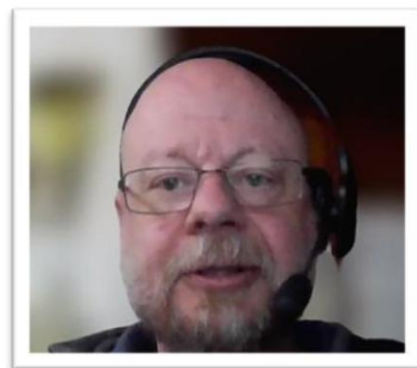
Chat with Matt !

This is a monthly online meet-up for adults who may prefer to meet online to connect with others.

The group next meets on Friday 4th September from 1pm to 2.30pm. It will meet regularly at this time on the first Friday of each month.

People can talk about whatever interests them

Email matt@autismbyexperience.co.uk for info



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New - Woking Library Meet-up

On Saturday 8th August we hosted a one-off Board Games meet-up at Woking Library for adults and 9 people came along.

Woking Library are very welcoming and is right in the town centre.

We plan to make this a monthly meet-up and have booked the meeting rooms in the library on **Saturday 12th September.**

It will be for relaxed chat, board games, and adult colouring,



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New - Staines Library Meet-up?

We are keen to offer a meet-up for adults in the north of West Surrey, and are in communication with Staines Library.

This would be a very similar meet-up to the new Woking Library meet-up - relaxed chat, board games, and adult colouring.

Recently two people from Staines and Weybridge have travelled to Reigate to attend one of our meet – ups as they couldn't find anything locally.



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New - Haslemere one-off meet-up

We are planning a meet-up in Haslemere on Sunday 11th October.

The Haslemere Signal Box and Museum is open every second and fourth Sunday from 11:00 to 16:00 (last entry 15:00).

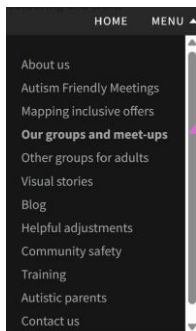
We plan to reserve tickets for both families and adults who may be interested. For adults, there will be an optional café visit afterwards.



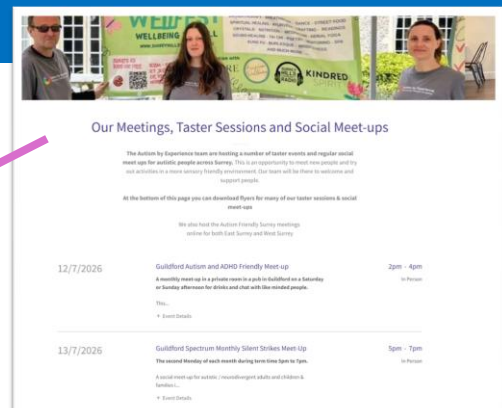
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Our events calendar

We have now collated the details of all our regular social meet-ups and taster sessions in one place on our website.



We update this most days so that the information is always current. At the bottom of the webpage you'll see the flyers with more info



Download flyers for our events



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Our guidelines

We have developed our guidelines for social meet-ups.

We have worked in partnership with some of our meet-up members to develop these and the aim is to provide safe and welcoming environments at our meet-ups.

We will publish these soon.

Guidelines...



...for Autism Friendly Surrey Groups and Meet-ups

To maintain a safe, friendly, welcoming and respectful environment, we ask that all members agree to these guidelines at our in-person and online meetups, and any group chats such as Facebook or WhatsApp groups.

Please do:



- Respect all group members' privacy. What is shared within the group should remain confidential. However, if you are concerned about someone's safety, please inform a member of the Autism Friendly Surrey team so that we can offer support.
- Treat all group members, team members and volunteers with kindness, dignity and respect.
- Be mindful that other group members may have different experiences, sensitivities and triggers. Avoid graphic or distressing discussion topics.
- Respect other people's personal space and boundaries. Always seek consent before initiating physical contact, such as hugs or touching.
- Follow any guidance provided by the Autism Friendly Surrey team to help ensure the group remains a safe and positive environment for everyone.

Please do not:



- Use any sexualised, discriminatory, threatening or abusive language or behaviour, including threats to harm yourself.
- Make excessive use of swear words or use swearing to insult another group member.
- Attend Autism Friendly Surrey events if you are intoxicated by alcohol, medication or drugs, or become too intoxicated during the group.
- Debate or attempt to influence other group members about politics or religion.
- Pressure another group member to share their contact details with you.

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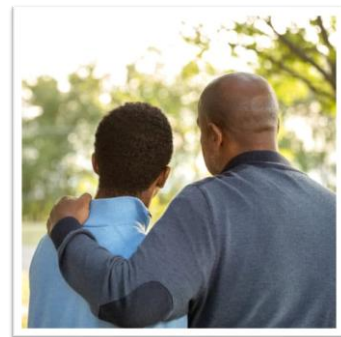
Come and have look and a chat !

We are keen to encourage people to come and have a look at any meet-ups they may be interested in joining.

A person can come with a family member or other supporter. Also, a person's family member can come on their own on their relative's behalf if that is helpful.

We will always find time to have a chat with you, discuss the different social meet-ups on offer and how we can help the person you support to join us.

Email: afc@autismbyexperience.co.uk



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Autism Friendly Surrey funding

The funding for Autism Friendly Surrey has been extended to 31st March 2027, which is great news for us !

From 1st April 2027 two new Councils, East Surrey and West Surrey will be operational, so things are uncertain, but as well as continuing to liaise with the Councils we are working on a National Lottery Bid.

It could be us !!



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National Lottery

The National Lottery fund we plan to apply to is called 'Reaching Communities', and we feel we meet their criteria which includes:

Helping people come together through inclusive places, spaces and activities (either physical or virtual), especially for communities where people are least able to come together

Helping children and young people thrive by developing positive social and emotional skills

Tackling health inequalities by addressing the conditions in which people live, work and grow



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Our volunteer offer

We are currently developing our volunteer offer 'Autism Friendly Surrey Reps', currently we are finalising our volunteer policy.

We would like to recruit volunteers to:

- Support our social meet-ups, meaning we can offer more meet-ups in the future
- We have informally 'onboarded' our first 3 volunteers who are all autistic adults.



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Our volunteer offer

We want to make sure that our volunteer offer is appealing to people, so we will be offering:

- A DBS check
- Safeguarding training
- Clear role descriptions
- Ongoing support
- Work reference
- Expenses



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