

Autism Friendly Surrey

October 2026 – West Surrey Updates Meeting



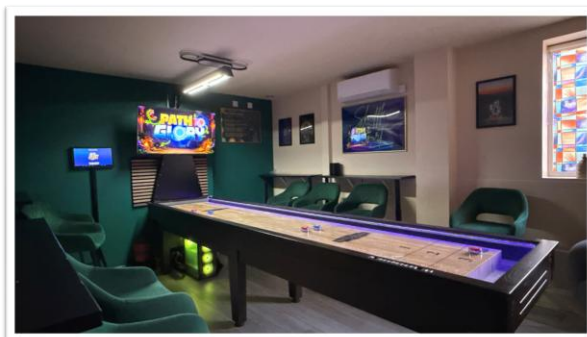
1

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.



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Adult board games night



The Sovereigns pub in Woking hosted an inclusive board games night.

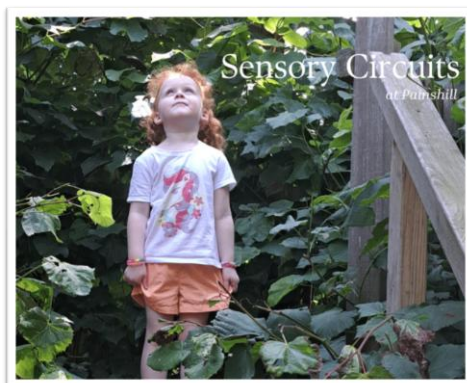
This has been developed independently of us, but Jo and Gill attended. It was a quiet evening with only a few attendees, but the pub manager is keen to run it regularly.

[Sovereigns Pub](#)

3

Painshill Park in Cobham

We visited Painshill Park in September and are now working with them to develop a visual story for their website.



During the summer holidays Painshill Park offered sensory circuits for neurodivergent children before the gardens open to the general public.

These sessions provided exclusive access to the landscape in a quieter, more relaxed setting.

There are also events that may appeal to adults

[Find out more on their website](#)

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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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Trading Standards

We have met with Surrey Trading Standards to advise on their leaflets and flyers.

They have sent us a stock of their uninvited traders door stickers which we will hand out at our in-person meet-ups.

We can also make people aware of the opportunity to apply for a door camera.



Buckinghamshire&Surrey
trading standards

Worried about uninvited doorstep callers?

Cold callers show up unannounced and try to pressure you into buying something or getting work done on your house, like fixing your roof, driveway, gutters, or trees.

Our top tips:

- You don't have to answer the door to people you don't know.
- Get quotes from other companies before making a decision.
- Do not pay cash on your doorstep.

Those who are susceptible to giving out personal/financial information and get frequent nuisance callers may be able to get a door camera for free. See who is there before choosing whether or not to answer the door!

Apply for a door camera

Apply online by scanning this QR code



Email us at trading.standards@surreycc.gov.uk

Or phone Citizens Advice on 0808 223 1133 and ask for a door camera from Buckinghamshire & Surrey Trading Standards.



@Bucks_SurreyTS



BucksSurreyTS



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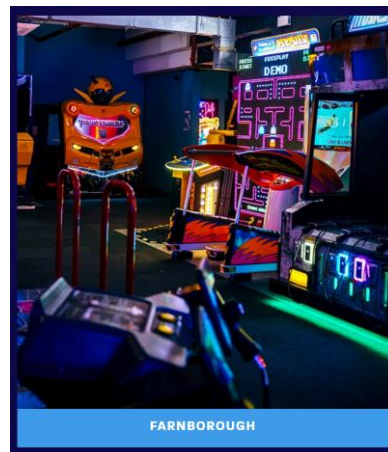
High Score Arcade Farnborough

High Score Arcade in Farnborough continue to offer their SEN Quiet hours on a Sunday morning.

These are once a month on a Sunday morning from 10am to 11am.

The cost is £12.50 per person, though a supporter can get a free entry.

[High Score Arcade](#)



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Connect to Work

Funded by the Government, Fedcap are delivering the Connect to Work programme on behalf of Surrey County Council.

This programme is open to neurodivergent people and people with a learning disability who are either wanting support to find work or to stay in their job.

Each person is supported by an employment specialist, and support can continue for up to 12 months while they settle into their role.

[Connect To Work](#)



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Nutritious Minds

Nutritious Minds offer a range of ADHD & Neurodivergent support groups

Our free monthly ADHD and neurodivergent support groups create welcoming spaces for adults to connect, share experiences, learn from one another and feel understood.

There are groups that meet in-person in Lightwater, Camberley and Surbiton as well as an online group.

[Nutritious Minds](#)



Camberley

Camberley Theatre, Knoll Road
Camberley GU15 3SY

Group Lead: Nic Davie
When: The last Thursday of every month
Time: 6:30-8:00 pm



Online

Online group held over Zoom.

Group Lead: Dr Miguel Toribio-Mateas
When: The last Thursday of every month
Time: 6:30-8:00 pm

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Digital Skills workshops

A space for people who love board games and video games to come meet people and learn some new skills (3D Modelling, Programming etc)

It's hosted at The Vine Centre in Aldershot.
Workshops started on 5th of October 12 - 2 (every Monday) for 8 weeks.

[The Vine Centre](#)



Digital Skills
FREE WORKSHOPS
@ The Vine Centre, 33 Station Rd, Aldershot

Interested in picking up a new skill?
Pop in and learn to program, using Godot and C++, no matter your skill level!

Have a tech problem that you want to understand?
Drop into a session and get help from a friendly, knowledgeable tutor!

Interested in Game Design & Development?
We are starting a game studio project, where everyone collaborates to make a video game!
Learn or develop your programming and other skills - with guest tutors for topics such as 3D modelling!

Ages 16 - adult!
No problem too small, beginners welcome, neurodiverse & LGBTQ+ friendly!
Sessions last 2 hours & are adaptive to suit everyone's needs

Next session: TBC
Contact: The Vine Centre, Aldershot

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Glow at RHS Wisley - SEN Nights

Date: 26th November and 1st December 2026

Go on an enchanting journey around RHS Garden Wisley and see much-loved garden areas awash with colour against the dark sky night.

A special RHS Glow evening adapted to have fewer visitors, reduced noise and less distractions for those with sensory needs. Please only book these sessions if you or a member of your party have additional sensory needs, as spaces are limited.

[Wisley Glow SEN](#)



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Bus Improvement Plan

As part of the Bus Improvement Plan, Surrey County Council is developing a Network Accessibility Plan to help disabled people travel independently, safely and in reasonable comfort.

We would like to hear from autistic people about their experiences of using bus timetables. You can join a Teams meeting on Tuesday 27 October from 10am to 12pm to discuss the timetables and share your views. If you prefer, you can send your feedback by email. We will pay £15 for each hour you take part, up to 2 hours (£30 in total).



[Register your interest](#)

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Leisure Centre Survey

This autumn we will be circulating a new survey focused around people's experiences of using leisure centres.

We want to find out what is helpful for people and what barriers there are that prevent people from using their local leisure centres, such as:

- The sensory environment
- Cancellation policies

Both families with children and adults will be able to fill in the survey.



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Leisure Centres

We are working closely with the Surrey Inclusive Activities Network (SIAN) to map the range of inclusive offers across Surrey.

These are often hard to find on Leisure Centre websites and we will work with the organisations running Leisure Centres to hopefully develop a dedicated section on their website for inclusive offers.

We are also developing a guide for Leisure Centres around things to consider when supporting neurodivergent customers.



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Leisure Centres

We are also working with the Healthy Communities Manager at Xcel Leisure Centre in Walton-on-Thames

We are visiting Xcel again next week to begin working on developing a visual story, which could be a template for other Leisure Centres to follow.

We are working with Xcel to run a taster afternoon for neurodivergent children and adults in February 2027.



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Guildford Spectrum – multi sports

We are working closely Chris Sexton at Guildford Spectrum Leisure Centre to develop a monthly Tuesday evening multi-sports offer.

This offer will be for young people of transition age (14 to 25yrs).

It will be a supportive meet-up where people can choose from a range of activities each month including gym, boccia, bowling and even dodge ball. We plan to pilot this in January 2027.



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Burview Hall – The Hangout

Building on the open afternoon we supported in August, the team at Elmbridge Mencap are planning a monthly Saturday young people's social group.



This will also be an opportunities for families to meet each other, have a coffee and relax knowing their young person is safe.

This is aimed at young people aged 10 to 18yrs.

Burview Hall is not open to the public and this new social group would suit those young people who may struggle currently to access more mainstream environments.

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Hale Family Centre

After school sessions aimed at girls aged 6 to 11yrs.



A chance to play with peers in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Parents and carers stay on site and siblings are welcome.

Email: Kathy.guy@barnardos.org.uk for more information

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Mapping Inclusive Opportunities

Gill works on our mapping and her next mapping projects are:



Updating our mapping of inclusive activities and clubs for neurodivergent children and young people.

Updating our mapping of inclusive offers for the Christmas / festive season.

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A guide to libraries

Our booklet about using your local library is close to being ready to publish.

It includes information on:

- Joining your local library
- How to see a virtual tour of a library
- The range of activities libraries offer
- Super Access – using a library out of hours (only available at some libraries)

Introduction to Surrey Libraries

Joining your local library is free

Surrey library membership allows you to borrow and return books to all Surrey libraries.

You can join at your local library.

Click here or use the QR Code to find your nearest library. You will need to bring some identification with your name and address on, such as a driving licence, bank statement or recent utility bill.




You can also join your library online



When you join online you will be given a temporary membership which allows you to access eBooks, Audiobooks, eMagazines, eComics and eNewspapers. Temporary membership expires after 2 years. You can upgrade to full membership at any of our libraries.

Click here or use the QR Code to join your library online.



Surrey libraries virtual tours



Thanks to funding from LibraryOn, virtual tours of a number of the libraries in Surrey have been created. This gives you the opportunity to navigate through the library ahead of your visit to understand how the space is laid out.

You can explore using your keyboard and mouse to see where key areas are located such as the children's library and computer area.

Click here to visit the Surrey Libraries Virtual Tours webpages or use the QR Code above.



Your local library is a community hub



In this booklet we will tell you about the wide range of services and events offered at Surrey Libraries, including:

- Free wifi, computers you can use and printing / photocopying
- Inclusive activities such as lego clubs and sensory rhymetimes
- Bus pass renewals and signposting to community information

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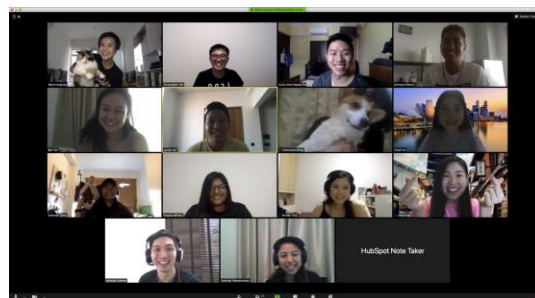
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Training Workshops

In November we will be advertising our next round of Autism Friendly Surrey online training workshops which will run during February and March 2027.

There will be three types of workshop:

- A general introduction to autism and neurodivergence
- Neurodivergence and employment
- Neurodivergence and wellbeing



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Showcase

Additional Needs Service Showcase

The next showcase is at Guildford Baptist Church on Weds 18th November 2026 from 10am to 2pm.

This is an opportunities for families, supporting children and young people aged up to 25yrs, to find out about opportunities and services in their local communities.

No need to book – just drop in



Additional Needs Service showcase

Wednesday 18 November
10am to 2pm

Guildford Baptist Church
Millmead Guildford
GU2 4BE

Parking and public transport available nearby.

- ★ Come and find out about local and national services!
- ★ Age range 0-25 years for Children and Young People with Additional Needs
- ★ For Families and Practitioners

If you would like further details please scan the QR code or email localoffer@surreycc.gov.uk

No need to book, just drop in!

Logos: Surrey Additional Needs and Disabilities Partnership, Surrey County Council, family voice surrey, Community Wellbeing.

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Autism Friendly Surrey Meet-ups

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 !!



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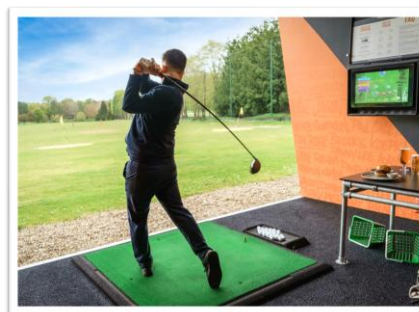
Hoebridge golf driving range

Following on from our recent meet-ups, 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 27th October from 6.30pm to 8.30pm** and the cost per person for the bay is £8.20 (to cover the bay booking cost)

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



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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 and adults who came on their own were grouped together for bowling.

Our next meet-up is on **Monday 9th November** from 5pm to 7pm – no need to book.



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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.

This does get booked up quickly.



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Camberley Autism Group

This group has expanded its membership recently, with new people having now joined 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. The next meet-up is on Sunday 15th November 2pm to 4pm.

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



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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 24th October
Sessions at 12noon and 2pm - £5 cash on the day

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

Boileroom Guildford – Sunday 8th November
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 26th October.

Email jo@autismbyexperience.co.uk for info



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Woking Library Meet-up

We have piloted a quiet board games and discussion meet-up at Woking Library on a Saturday afternoon.

We are in discussions with Surrey Libraries about potentially using Library meeting rooms in other towns (such as Staines) to run similar meet-ups.

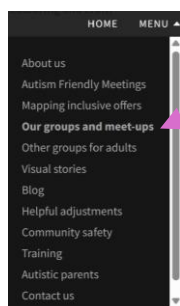
The games and colouring give a focus and help people get to know each other and can help to prompt discussion.



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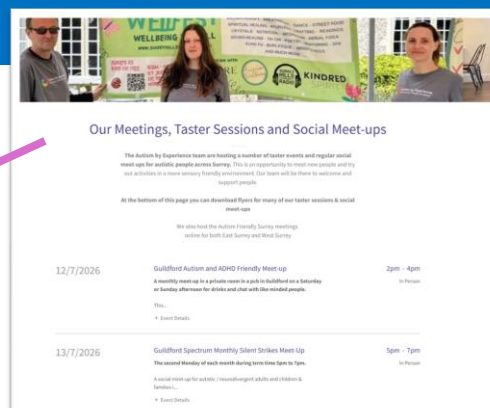
Our events calendar

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

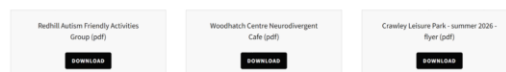


We update this most days so that the information is always current. At the bottom of the webpage you'll see the flyers with more info

[Go to our calendar page](#)



Download flyers for our events



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Sustainable meet-ups

We are aware that the funding for the autism strategy ends in March 2027, and we want to make our social meet-ups sustainable.



This autumn we are working on:

- Recruiting more volunteers to support our meet-ups
- Costing our meet-ups so we are clear about the funds required
- A national lottery bid to fund out meet-ups and a wider peer network

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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



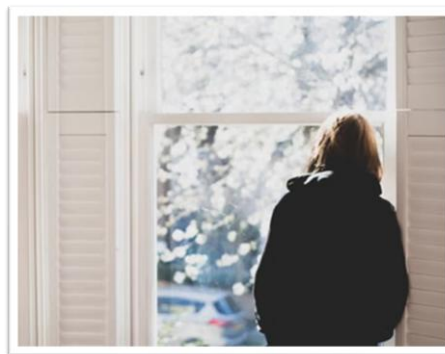
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Focus on Isolated People

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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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 !

Gill has gone through this and produce a list for West and East Surrey on the most relevant services, which Mike will design into a handout

[Connect to support - travel](#)



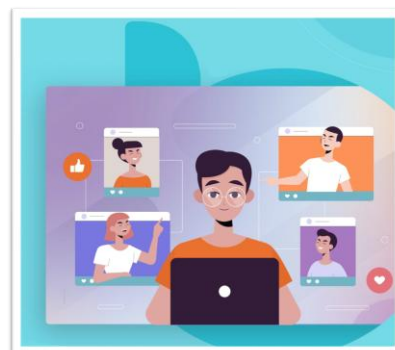
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Mapping online opportunities

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.

Gill has researched and compiled a list of supported online opportunities that may be of interest to autistic / neurodivergent people. Mike will be designing these into a handout.



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Online discussion groups

Based on our meeting around very isolated people, the Autism Friendly Surrey team are keen to further develop our online offer.

This recognises that for many people, travelling to an in-person meet-up might be too overwhelming.

We are planning an online consultation evening in November (date to be confirmed) for autistic/neurodivergent adults to tell us what themes we could have for the groups and how they might run.



We think that online meet-ups for people diagnosed in adult life and also for people who are autistic and ADHD might be popular.

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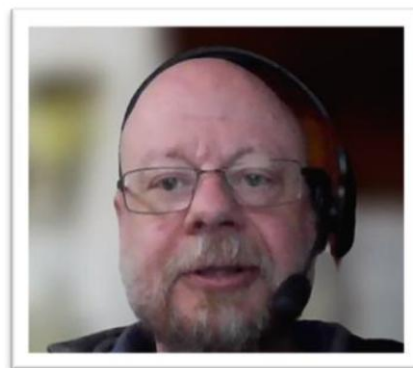
Chat with Matt !

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 6th November 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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