24.08.19 12:00PM
Surrenden Field, BN1 6YJ

2019

PICNIC IN THE PARK

AUTISTIC PRIDE

Brighton

PREFACE

I wanted an Autistic Pride for Brighton & Hove to be organised by autistic people. To give autistic people an opportunity to entertain and to educate.

I have over 20 years of experience in the events industry, my first event I worked at, was when I was frog marched by my mother to Lambeth Country Show, when I was just six years old. On the first day, I had kids my own age, coming to witness a demonstration of how to use a real life tractor. (Because they lived in the city and never seen a tractor before.)

As I got older, I worked at many successful events including gigs with Live Nation, Wembley Stadium, Glastonbury and Brighton & Hove LGBT+ Pride. I've achieved all of this and I am autistic.

Brighton has a proud tradition of celebrating Pride events; Brighton & Hove LGBT+ Pride, Trans Pride Brighton and Disability Pride. But as an autistic person, I wanted an Autistic Pride, so I started **Autistic Pride Brighton.**

Autistic Pride Brighton is about the celebration of autistic identity, and to educate people that being autistic, or any disability, is something to be proud of. Autistic Pride is for all autistic people, of any support needs. If you are not autistic and you still want to celebrate autistic identity, than Autistic Pride Brighton welcomes you.

I hope you have a great day at Autistic Pride Picnic in the Park. We have a packed programme of autistic entertainers, homemade cakes and bubble blowers. Thank you to our First Aid volunteers, Brighton & Hove City Council, PPL PRS and Roebuck Enterprises for supporting us, and the many talented performers and entertainers who have given up their time for us.

Happy Autistic Pride!

Adrie van der Meer
Project Manager

AUTISTIC PRIDE Brighton

A SUPPORT GROUP FOR ADULTS WITH ASPERGERS OR THOSE WHO FEEL THEY MAYBE ON THE AUTISTIC SPECTRUM

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easpergers@gmail.com

Eastbourne Aspergers Support Group

@ASEastbourne

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Live Chat
with an Autism Specialist^

˘Support available from 1pm Friday at The Deerfold Centre by appointment only.
*First group visit between 2-5pm free, than £3.50 a session. No commitment required.
^Advisors are available online 9.30-1.30pm Monday to Friday.
Autism specialist advisors are available between 7-9pm on a Wednesday. Go to www.aspens.org.uk for more details

ORGANISE

What is your name?
Joseph Redford

How old are you?
35 years old.

Occupation
London Autistic Pride Organiser (2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019)

Tunbridge Wells Autistic Pride (2019)

Member of the Autistic Pride Alliance

When did you first discover Autistic Pride?

I first read about it in early 2007 on the internet. It was also the first time I heard about the forum Aspies for Freedom and the tagline that year was was "Acceptance not cure".

I interpreted Autistic Pride as a demand for society to accept autistic people, and as a challenge for autistic people to accept ourselves.

What do you know about the history of Autistic Pride?

Autistic Pride Day began on 18th June 2005 on the internet forum Aspies for Freedom.

The date was decided because it was the birthday of the youngest member on the site at the time.

The day was created with the intention to empower autistic people, and enable us to assert ourselves in public, in the same way Black Pride, LGBT+ Pride and Mad Pride sought the same for their respective communities.

In 2006, it was the first time a picnic was held to celebrate Autistic Pride, in London's Hyde Park.

It was organised by Amy Nelson, and other members from Aspies for Freedom. In subsequent years, other autistic people celebrated the day and it now has grown to become a global movement.

What made you choose to organise Autistic Pride events?

My first Autscape in 2014. I was im-mediately struck by a sense of belonging with the other autistic people in attendance. So in 2015, I decided to host a picnic in London's Hyde Park, a decade after the first one and also because it has been a venue of radical movements for over a century. I gave everybody in attendance the option of either having a quiet picnic or speaking in Speakers Corner.

What recommendations would you give to somebody considering to host an Autistic Pride event?

Start small and simple.

My first attempt of organising an Autistic Pride did not have no more than 20 people arrive. Than decide on a venue. Think of how people are going to get there, and if it is easy to get to. Make sure toilets and other amenities are nearby, and shelter

in case the weather turns bad. With smaller events, ensure that people who attend do so at their own risk, and people who need support themselves, should bring carers. Advertise your event on social media and the local newspaper. Use the first year experience of organising your Autistic Pride, determine what works, how much you can handle, and build upon it in future events.

As you gain confidence, you maybe able to work with local authorities and get your event registered. The largest Autistic Pride events are in Reading, Chester and Brighton.

What are some of the highlights you have experienced at an Autistic Pride?

- Watching people gain confidence to speak on front of an audience.
- Having passers by who are autistic notice us and join in.
- The sense of belonging and community at these events.
- Autistic people engaging with the world and not being faced with hostility, or if there is hostility, having the confidence to challenge it.
- Witness people who are newly diagnosed to explore the autistic side of themselves.
- Helping others organise their own Autistic Pride events.

How do you see Autistic Pride developing in the future?

I think over time Autistic Pride events will become bigger and more organised. For example, Autistic Pride Reading is now a registered charity and many more events may follow suit.

While some Autistic Pride's may grow to become major events for their local area, I'd like to see smaller events pop up and down the UK and beyond. This way it will reach more people and be more autistic friendly.

I am very excited to see people doing more overtly public events for Autistic Pride. This year, there was a march by autistic people in Galway, Ireland and there have been live performances pop up in the town centres of Spalding in Lincolnshire and Chester.

I would like to see smaller events like this develop.

A good resource is the Autistic Pride Alliance Facebook Group.



Joseph speaking at the first Eastbourne Autistic Pride on 14 June 2019.

STARTS 5PM
2 HOURS LONG

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AUTISTIC PRIDE EASTBOURNE



Eastbourne successfully hosted its first Autistic Pride at Princes Park on 14 June 2019 with **Autistic Pride Brighton** guest speaker **Paul Wady** headlining. **Erin Ekins** and **Joseph Redford** also spoke. If you would like to get involved next year, please send an email to *easpergers@gmail.com.*



FRIENDS of SURRENDEN FIELD

Join our team of local community volunteers and BHCC Rangers to carry out ongoing maintenance of the butterfly bank, plant new plants and clear up any litter to improve and tidy Surrenden Field.

At all organised events tools, equipment, and refreshments will be provided, just ensure you wear suitable clothing and footwear.

For further information please contact surrendenfield@gmail.com or like our Facebook page @surrendenfield to hear about volunteer activities and ongoing projects for the field and woodland.

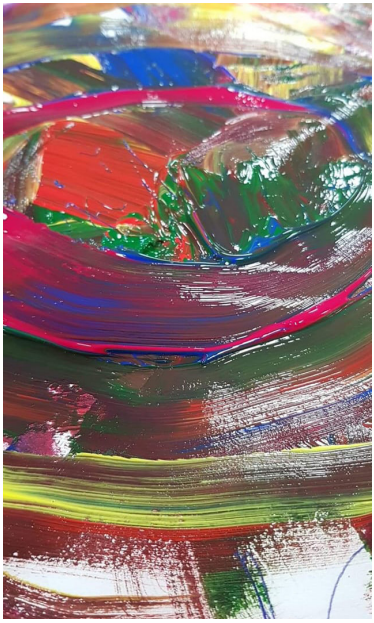
100 Day Community Kit

BY AUTISTIC PEOPLE.

The charity Autism Speaks, which actively campaigns for a cure for autism, has created a 95 page tool kit for families of young children, aimed at educating them for the first 100 days after getting an autism diagnosis.

The 100 Day Community Kit is currently being reclaimed by autistic people and their allies. There are eight sections and hundreds of positives and helpful tips.

To contribute, follow '100 Day Community Kit' on Facebook.



WORD FINDER

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CANTERBURY
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LIVERPOOL
NEBRASKA
PARIS
READING
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MANCHESTER
TUNBRIDGE WELLS

R V R E S U N N G F K T O N G F G F W P
T U A M D Y E Y F Y N X A L P C B J X D
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What do these place names have in common?

They all have hosted an Autistic Pride!

NOTES

PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME

12:00	ARRIVAL
12:25	INTRODUCTION
12:30	JORIK MOL
12:45	DANIEL BENDELMAN
12:55	STEPHEN FRENCH
13.20	ABI MOORCOCK
13:35	HEATHEN ROSE
13:40	PAUL WADY
14:00	CALLUM BRAZZO
14:35	LAVA ELASTIC
15:00	JANE GREEN
15:30	STEPHANIE MELNICK
15:40	ADRIE VAN DER MEER
15:45	AGONY AUTIE
16:15	RYAN O'DONOVAN

2019

AUTISTIC PRIDE Brighton

Your Name Here
020 7946 00 64

AUTISTIC PRIDE Brighton