On 13 October Research Autism held its renowned gala dinner event, Cabaret in the City.

We were privileged to have comedian and impressionist Jon Culshaw compere the evening and provide the entertainment. Guests were also treated to the award-winning Adele tribute act, Olivia Leigh. Special guest speakers included accomplished autistic speaker Helen Ellis. The event took place in the stunning setting of Clothworkers Hall in the city where guests enjoyed an exceptional dinner and set about raising vital funds through the auction and raffle.

The event was a great success with nearly £30,000 raised or pledged on the night. The money raised will help us to continue running our vital Information Centre and enable us to reach more people in need of trustworthy information.

We would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all of those who attended or contributed to the evening.
We are delighted to announce that we are launching an innovative, world-leading research project to better understand the relationship between autism and cybercrime.

The case of hacker Gary McKinnon was the first of many to make an association between cybercrime and autism. Our preliminary research shows that a number of autistic individuals were getting caught up in cybercrime offences, and that there is a high level of concern among law enforcement agencies worldwide, and a belief that there is an over-representation of autistic individuals in this population. As we do not know if this is the case - this project will seek to establish the facts and explore possible risk factors that lead to cybercrime activity. It will also identify prevention and diversion measures, including the possibility of employment opportunities.

This research will be carried out in partnership with the Centre for Applied Autism Research at the University of Bath and is generously supported by Barclays and the National Crime Agency.

"These individuals are often highly skilled, pay attention to detail, and drive for problem solving – these particular strengths and characteristics are also found in autistic people. That is why we decided to partner with Research Autism to understand whether there is or is not an over-representation of autistic offenders. We want to know what can be done to prevent pathways into cybercrime activity and tap into a potentially strong talent pool for our teams."

Troels Oerting, Barclays Group Chief Security Officer

Information Standard Award

It brings us much pleasure to confirm that Research Autism has been awarded the NHS Information Standard accreditation for the third year running. The very high standards and rigorous assessments required to achieve the accreditation demonstrate our commitment to providing robust, high-quality information. The standard also allows individuals, family members and professionals to easily identify us as a resource which they can trust. One that is sadly needed now more than ever...

Autism in the Headlines

It will not have escaped your notice that autism has been mentioned in the news frequently in recent weeks, and unfortunately not for positive reasons. Recent reports of rogue ‘therapists’ and unfounded, even dangerous, treatments, really underline the necessity for trustworthy, evidence-based information. One extreme case featured in a recent BBC programme ‘Inside Out’ focused on a private practice which claimed its trainers could cure autism. A so-called trainer was then filmed on hidden camera abusing an undercover reporter. Our Research Director Richard Mills was interviewed for the feature. If you missed it you can read the story here.

Royal College of Psychiatrists

We are very pleased that The Royal College of Psychiatrists has appointed its inaugural Autism Champion - Dr Ian Davidson. The RCPsych Championing Autism programme aims to ensure that all consultant psychiatrists and psychiatrists in training have the necessary knowledge, skills and values to identify and support people on the autism spectrum coming into contact with their services. Areas of focus already identified as in need of change include timely ASD diagnosis; autism friendly mental health services; and improved health outcomes.

We look forward to working with Dr Davidson and to extending our expertise to the initiative.
We are very pleased to be supporting Learning Disability Today London 2016, taking place on 29 November. LD Today is the largest inclusive learning disability event of the year - back next month for the 16th year running.

The day brings together a host of exhibitors, briefings and a multi-stream CPD certified seminar programme. Themes for this year’s seminar programme include health and well-being, and learning disability and autism. The speaker programme includes our Research Director Richard Mills. More information can be found on the event website.

On 19 October we were in sunny Manchester delivering our second conference outside of London - Beyond Autism: What does an autism diagnosis mean? Highlights included speakers Professor Chris Gillberg and Kabie Brook. The conference sparked lively debate on the pros and cons that come with an autism diagnosis, and comments from attendees included ‘As a parent, I feel empowered and encouraged...’ ‘Such a brilliant day.’

Thank you once again to The Waterloo Foundation for their funding of the subsidised places.

Friends of Research Autism can access the presentations from this conference and the entire Lorna Wing series on our website.

In the lead up to the conference we held two online Q&As – the first with Consultant Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist Sami Timimi, and the second with Autism Consultant and APPGA Vice-Chair Ann Memmott.

Both discussions were hugely informative and eye-opening. You can read transcripts from all Q&As here.

Following the success of recent projects we have decided to make the consultancy services of Research Autism more widely available.

Together with our network of expert partners we are able to undertake commissions for work across all areas of autism. This could be in service design, project evaluation, advice on education, social care, employment, criminal justice, CPD accredited training or other related areas.

For more information please contact us on 020 3490 3091 or info@researchautism.net.
Thanks to our Heroes

Thank you to all of our Summer Heroes who helped to raise much-needed funds by taking on a challenge for Research Autism. Your support will help us to develop our services. Some summer highlights below!

In August Sarah Jane Brabin and her daughters (pictured here) joined the Liverpool Fun Run inspired by Sarah’s autistic son Aybe.

Thank you and congratulations to the Brabin family!

A big congratulations to Leanne Simmons who took on the Wolf Run - a gruelling 10k off-road obstacle challenge, and raised a fantastic £690 for Research Autism.

Leanne’s son Toby is six and autistic. Thank you Leanne.

Waitrose Community Matters

We support good causes. You decide who gets what.

Christmas Shopping

Whether we feel ready, or entirely unprepared, Christmas is fast-approaching! When shopping for gifts this year please remember the simple ways in which you can raise money for Research Autism without spending any extra:

Access Amazon through this link and they will give us a donation for each transaction you make.

Buy through Give as you Live - just sign up here and shop with over 4,000 stores online and they will donate to us.

Happy shopping!

Community Matters

Thank you to all the shoppers in the Waitrose Edgware Road branch who last month put their green token in the Research Autism box. The Community Matters scheme enables shoppers to choose which cause they think is most worthy of a donation. £348 was raised for our work.

For fundraising ideas, advice, or to let us know what you’re planning, contact Frances Thurgood at frances.thurgood@researchautism.net or 020 3490 3091

Research Autism

25 Nutford Place, London, W1H 5YQ | Registered Charity No. 1096508
020 3490 3091 | info@researchautism.net | www.researchautism.net