Autscape 2005:
Creating Autistic Space
A conference and retreat
for autistic people and their
supporters

Address:
Autscape
c/o BAS
13 Boult Street
Reading RG1 4RD

Phone:
01606 48798

Website:
http://www.autscape.org/

E-mail:
autscape@paradox.freeserve.co.uk

Key Presenters
We are looking forward to an excellent programme including the
following presenters and several more.

Dinah Murray
With Mike Lesser, Dinah has developed the idea of mind as an interest system
and argues for its relevance to understanding autism as a naturally occurring
way of being rather than an illness.

Jim Sinclair
Special guest from the USA. Co-
ordinator of Autreat, the conference
that inspired Autscape. Jim has unparal-
leled experience and expertise in autistic
identity and culture.

Charles Burns
Highly successful freelance artist and
entertainer. His workshops will explore
the possibilities of self-employment for autistic people. He will also lead Shin-
taido exercise sessions.

Larry Arnold
Member of the board of the National
Autistic Society. A well known advocate,
eccentric and original thinker. Larry
examines and challenges conventional views of autism.

We would like to thank the Ammerdown Centre
Bursary fund and Lord Sainsbury of Turville’s 1991 Discretionary Settlement that have made
Autscape possible.

Autscape 2005: Creating Autistic Space

July 26-29 2005
Ammerdown Centre, Near
Radstock (Bath area),
Somerset, UK

WWW.AUTSCAPE.ORG
What is Autscape?

Autscape really turns the tables on the usual autism conferences! Autistic people are the majority of organisers, presenters, and participants. The environment, schedule, social and behaviour expectations, and presentation topics are all designed to encourage full participation of autistic people.

Held in a peaceful rural retreat centre, Autscape will serve as a retreat, an educational conference, a social gathering, and a foundation for a formal organisation to carry the event forward. We hope to encourage self-reliance and foster self-respect among our attendees and to enhance the lives of autistic people through empowerment, advocacy, and a nice relaxing time.

Who can attend?

All varieties of autistic people from all parts of the spectrum, whether diagnosed or not. Don’t worry about being ‘more different’ from other participants; diversity enriches the experience for everyone.

Non-autistic people are also welcome. All we ask is respect for ‘autistic space’ and an open mind.

This year’s Autscape will take place in the UK, but participants from elsewhere, especially Europe, are encouraged to attend.

Children and teenagers may attend with a responsible adult.

A few things to consider before registering

‘Autistic’ behaviours such as stimming, and perseverating are perfectly acceptable at Autscape. Overload and shutdowns are also expected for some people. However, this acceptance does not extend to behaviour which infringes on others rights or their ability to safely participate in the programme.

Meals are served in a communal dining hall, but you may take yours to the garden or your bedroom. Special diets can be catered for. Self-catering is possible for a limited number.

Help with self-care or coping, beyond casual peer support, cannot be provided by Autscape. If you need a high level of support, please bring your own carer.

Transport to the venue from Bath Station will be available for a small extra charge. There is a small international airport in Bristol, a short train ride from Bath.

Accommodation will be in shared twin rooms with ensuite shower. (It is possible to put a third bed in most rooms.) You can choose a specific roommate or we can match you with someone based on your preferences. It may be possible to pay an extra fee for a private room. You may also camp in the woods on-site (for a nominal pitch fee), or you can arrange to staying off-site. There will not be a discount for alternative accommodation due to the fact that Ammerdown Centre has given us a bursary which provides a substantial discount for full board accommodation.

Please complete columns for each participant from your household. If you have more than 5 people, include another sheet.

What will happen there?

All activities are optional. You may choose to do things alone, with others, or not at all.

Lectures and workshops on issues relevant to autistic people. Topics will include: autistic identity, self-employment, sexuality, parenting, and non-medical concepts of autism. In the evenings there will be both formal and informal discussions on a variety of topics.

Socialising without pressure. Autscape can be a great opportunity to meet other autistic people in an accepting environment. Everyone will be provided with a colour-coded badge to let others know whether they would like to interact. We hope to set up a computer network for text-based group interaction with your own wireless devices.

Leisure activities, both structured and unstructured, are part of the programme. We will have a class on Shin-taido (meditation in motion), swimming in an outdoor pool, sensory software, walks alone or in groups, indoor and outdoor games, a quiet room, and the venue’s bar will be open in the evenings.

Children will have a variety of activities with experienced and qualified staff at a ratio of 1:6. If your child requires more support, please bring someone to help. Places are limited, so please register as early as possible. Workshops of particular interest to teenagers will be included in the main programme.

A limited number of single rooms may be available for an additional fee of £20-£30 depending on ensuite facilities. Ticking this column will add you to the list of those who would like to have a single room, but it is not a guarantee that one will be available. Complete the next column even if you tick this one.

If you are camping or staying off-site, please indicate that here. Otherwise, if you have a specific person you would like to share with, including someone else on this form, write their name here. Make sure they also put you on their application. If you don’t specify someone, you will be sent a roommate questionnaire to help match you with a compatible roommate.

Attach another sheet if needed.