

NEWSLETTER

brothers autism social enterprise

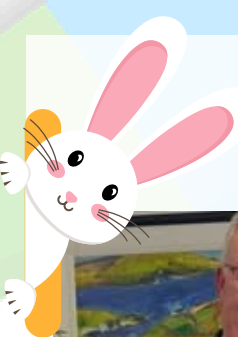


Our regular readers will be aware that any **Brothers Autism** directly associated news is typically reserved for the latter pages of our Newsletter; however, Brothers Autism Social Enterprise were recognised **FINALISTS** at the **Social Enterprise NI Awards 2024**, in three categories: best newcomer, best social impact, and best use of social media - several of our BASE attendees joined us on a great evening of celebration!

World Autism Day

Wednesday the 2nd April 2025





Independent Autism Reviewer

wishing Ema Cubitt the *very best* in her new role ...



Mrs Cubitt said: "I am honoured to take on this responsibility and I am committed to serving the autistic community.

"It is crucially important that we all work together across our public services to address the challenges faced by autistic people and I am committed to ensuring that their

voices, and those of their families and carers, are heard. Alongside Northern Ireland's autistic community, I am dedicated to overseeing consistent delivery of high standards and best practice across government departments and public services."



Congratulations to Elon Watson

great *achievement* and an *inspirational* young man



An autistic 11-year-old boy from East Belfast has written and published his first book that he created after being inspired by a joke that his teacher made in class. Elon Watson has released his book 'In the Heart of Belfast'; Elon said that he got the inspiration for the book from a joke that his teacher at Loughview



Integrated Primary School had made; saying that he has always wanted to write a book and has been thrilled with the reception that it has received.

"It has been amazing to hear how much people have enjoyed reading the book and I am already being asked if I can write another one!"

Elan's mum Naomi said that she was very proud of her son for writing a book at such a young age and people have been shocked to hear that such a complex and mature story came from an 11-year-old.

She said: "People have been amazed that such a young boy could come up with a story like this and it has been wonderful to see so many people praising his book and encouraging him to keep writing."



Inspirational: Joshua and Jacob



Diagnosed as autistic, Joshua defied expectations by becoming one of the youngest people to study at Oxford University at just 6 years old! His brilliance was evident from infancy, by 10 months, he could identify letters on a keyboard, and by age 3, he was fluent in Japanese.

His passion for learning led him to study Philosophy and History at Oxford, where he earned a Certificate of Excellence with distinction in both subjects.

But Joshua's story doesn't stop at academic achievements. He is also a powerful advocate for autism acceptance and diversity, using his platform to highlight the unique challenges faced by Black individuals in accessing autism support. His efforts have earned him recognition, including being named the Positive Role Model of the Year at the UK's National Diversity Awards and being listed among the top 30 most remarkable autistic people making a global impact.

Joshua dreams of becoming one of the world's youngest neurosurgeons and is dedicated to making a difference. In a TEDx talk, he shared his vision: "I want to save the earth. I want to change the world and change people's ideas to doing the right things about earth."



Mum Kristine said, "The way that autistic people think is beautiful, and we need to stop stripping them of that and to try to stop making them the same. As Temple Grandin says, they are 'Different, Not Less.'" Mum Kristine continued, one must admit that people with autism may think "differently," but they sure are anything but "less."



$$E=mc^2$$



SPRING





Lucy Bronze: Autism & ADHD



Lucy Bronze has found that some of her differences have been her strengths. "How I process things, being super-focused. People always say, 'Oh, you're so passionate about football'," Bronze says, "I don't know if I'd say I'm passionate, I'm obsessed. That's my autism, it's my hyper-focus on football." As someone who started playing senior football at 16, it is remarkable that Bronze is still performing at the highest level at 33. She says she partly has autism to thank for her longevity. "Something that is really good for ADHD and autism is exercise. Having that focus, something to do, keeping moving," she says, "Training every day is amazing for me. Some of the other girls will be like: 'Are you sure you're 33 because you don't stop?' All the things I have because of autism have worked in my advantage."

James McClean: Adult Diagnosis

Autism was something that I never knew too much about, even though it had been with me forever. I was diagnosed as autistic in 2023, having had our daughter, Willow-Ivy, diagnosed previously.

When I decided to go through the diagnosis process, it was because there were so many similarities between Willow and me. I had thought about it for a long time, particularly watching Willow grow up, seeing her little ways, her little differences to her older siblings and recognising that her family was her 'safe space'.



Last of US and Game of Thrones: Bella Ramsey

Bella Ramsey Opens Up About Their Liberating Autism Diagnosis

“There’s No Reason For People Not To Know.” “I’ve spoken a bit about neurodivergence before, but I always for some reason didn’t want to,” Ramsey admitted. “I got diagnosed with autism when I was filming season one of The Last of Us.”

“I’ve always been watching and learning from people. Having to learn more manually how to socialize and interact with the people

around me has helped me with acting,” they said. “I have a call time, and I’m told what to wear, how to stand, where to stand and what to eat.” However, stated, “their diagnosis helped them “unmask immediately,” allowing them to be their authentic self after, without feeling the need to hide.”



BASE's overall Vision, Mission, and Key Values!



Social Enterprise
Northern Ireland



Social
Value



BROTHERS autism social enterprise

Find out what
drives BASE; read
our 'Vision, Mission,
and Values'

Vision

"to inspire autistic adults (aged 18-35) to lead fulfilling and self-directed lives by unlocking and igniting their potential through harnessing the power of art, creative expression, and community connections"

Mission

"to deliver exceptional autism intervention, training, and services through innovative art workshops, breaking down societal prejudice and barriers in education, employability, and social engagement; in partnership with autistic individuals, their families, and local communities"

Values

Befriending:

"to support autistic individuals foster a sense of belonging and the opportunity to develop positive friendships in a supportive community"

Actualisation:

"to support autistic individuals through knowledge and empowerment to help each person thrive, flourish, and shine as their truest selves"

Safeguarding:

"to support autistic individuals in a safe, welcoming, warm, and friendly environment, providing a space for free self-expression"

Education:

"to support autistic individuals by illuminating a path to self-awareness, development, & growth; self-identifying personal strengths & needs"



BASE's reflections of 2024 and hopes for 2025!

David McLaughlin (World Autism Day 2025) - "BASE had a wonderful 2024, completing two autistic adult 10 session programme; and all set to commence our first programme of 2025 in early April. In the midst of several social group activities [see below] BASE ended an exciting year as invited FINALISTS at the SENI Awards - we are a **non-profit** and have **zero funding** and this is what can be achieved! Our revenue is mainly generated through outsourced training and in the last 6-months have provided paid employment opportunities to several autistic adults in co-facilitating training in autism spectrum and neurodiversity [see bottom images]; so get in touch today and support our Social Value NI registered local non-profit and support us in continuing to deliver and develop our vital intervention service!"





Social Enterprise
Northern Ireland



**Does your business, group, or organisation
require high quality training in the following
areas?**

autism spectrum & neurodiversity

disability & safeguarding

secondary mental health disorders

**training typically includes insight from guest autistic and/or
neurodiverse speaker*

Call David - 07551 159 083

positive mental health art workshops

a selection of our recent partners and training provided to ...



**Contact us today to discuss options on 07551 159 083
or email contact@brothersautism.co.uk**

**We are a non-profit social enterprise and generated revenue supports the
continued facilitation of our Autistic Adult [aged 18-35] 'Understanding &
Expressing Autism through the Arts' intervention programme - see our social
media channels to see how you can help support autistic adults!**



www.brothersautism.co.uk



Understanding & Expressing Autism through the Arts

Autistic Adult 18-35 year olds

**Apply today; contact David 07551 159 083 or email
contact@brothersautism.co.uk**

**Commences on Friday 4th April 2025, each Friday evening
6pm to 9pm**



**Location University of Atypical [Ledger Studio], 109-113 Royal
Ave, Belfast BT1 1FF**

www.brothersautism.co.uk



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Northern Ireland**



**Social
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