

# MEET THE TEAM

## THE Autism FILE



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## Welcome to this very special issue!

You will have noticed that we have changed our image for this issue – in both the cover message and in this being a bumper issue – with a lot more content for you to enjoy.

We have done this to coincide with World Autism Awareness Day in April as this is fast becoming a major event in the autism calendar and will, we hope, continue to go from strength to strength. I remember seeing a whole host of autism-specific programs on CNN and other channels last year showing, particularly in America, that the rising tide of frustration is massive. I was inspired, and I hope and expect that we will see far more coverage in the UK along similar lines this year.

We, therefore, decided to work to raise the profile of autism in a media campaign. My “Polly’s Piece” article on page <\*> explains just why we have taken these steps and what our core messages are. We hope that our cover photograph, taken by Terry O’Neill, will help us to capture the attention of a wider audience and show that we, the “Autism Mothers” who are representing so many, will not stand for the discriminatory and unfair standards that some end up having to live with. Please become a part of this and demand the attention that autism needs.

We have also compiled a superb range of informed and expert articles on all facets of the autism challenge – as always I am so grateful to Teri Arranga for her dedication and attention to detail; we are honored to have her as our US & Canada edition editor. It is a real pleasure for *The Autism File* to be able to have the clout and standing now so that the major researchers and writers on autism are keen to be a part of what we are doing.

Finally, we plan to take a further major step starting in our next issue with a new special section of the magazine being dedicated to scientific issues. We want *The Autism File* to be the place where peer-reviewed articles and reviews on autism science appear for a wider readership than is currently the case. To ensure this is done in line with academic protocol, I am delighted to announce that Carol Stott, BSc, PhD (Cantab) CPsychol, a chartered psychologist and epidemiologist with over 10 years research experience in the epidemiology and measurement of childhood developmental disorders, has agreed to become our scientific editor across all of our international editions.

I hope you enjoy this issue. Please let us know your thoughts and views on the content. That’s what we need to know, and it’s why we are here.

Finally, please know that *The Autism File* and our worldwide team are passionately committed to improving the lives of all individuals with autism. We will continue to campaign and bang on government doors, support the research, discuss the science, and look at every issue that needs addressing

We will not give up....



**Polly Tommey**  
Editor-in-Chief, *The Autism File*