



# HALLIWICK ASSOCIATION OF SWIMMING THERAPY

## teaching disabled people to swim

C/o Hollycrofts, Walnut Tree Lane, Loose, Maidstone, Kent, ME15 9RQ, UK  
(correspondence address only)

Association Inaugurated in 1952  
Registered Charity Number | 250008  
Affiliated to the International Halliwick Association (IHA)  
Website | [halliwick.org.uk](http://halliwick.org.uk)  
Facebook/X | [@HalliwickUK](https://www.facebook.com/HalliwickUK)

## Halliwick AST – General Information Sheet

The aim of the Halliwick Association of Swimming Therapy (Halliwick AST) is to further and to foster the use of the Halliwick Concept as a means of teaching swimming to disabled people.

The Halliwick AST is a registered charity (number 250008) and has clubs affiliated to it throughout the United Kingdom and in other countries around the world. It is also a registered data controller and its privacy policy can be found at [www.halliwick.org.uk/privacy](http://www.halliwick.org.uk/privacy).

Most of the work, including administration, production of publications and DVDs, is carried out by volunteers. The National Executive Committee, (made up of elected officers and representatives from regional committees), manages the Halliwick AST. Regional Associations – Halliwick ASTRAs – are made up of representatives from clubs and groups in each region. The National Executive is supported by sub-committees, including, for example, an Education sub-committee.

### The Halliwick Concept

James McMillan ('Mac') devised the Halliwick Concept of teaching swimming in 1949, whilst working with 12 girls from the Halliwick School for Disabled Girls in Enfield, North London. It is from this school that the Concept takes its name.

The Concept is based on known scientific principles of hydrostatics, hydrodynamics and body mechanics. It has proved to be safely applicable to people of all ages, both those with disabilities and those without.

Swimmers are taught on a one-to-one ratio of instructor to swimmer, until the time when complete independence is achieved. The swimmer-instructor pair becomes a unit within a group activity, so that the swimmer gains the advantages of social interaction with their peers, whilst, at the same time, enjoying the unobtrusive but constant attention of an individual instructor. Through the medium of games appropriate to age and ability, groups are made aware of the properties of water and of how to control their own balance. No floatation aids are used.

The giving of correct support by the instructor enables the swimmer to experience mobility that may be impossible on land. After the initial mental adjustments to water are made and balance control principles are learned, the swimmer reaches a stage where they are prepared to disengage from instructor contact. Now, often for the first time, they experience complete independence of movement.

Swimmers are taught how to maintain a safe breathing position; how to regain such a position from any other position; and how to control exhalation whenever the face is immersed in water. They are made familiar with all conceivable body rotations and learn how to initiate, control and inhibit such rotations at will.

**President: Patrick Hastings**

**Chairman: William Wyatt**

**Treasurer: Martyn Saville**

Water properties of upthrust, turbulence and impedance to movement are studied, together with metacentric effects. The product is a secure swimmer whose confidence is based upon sound knowledge of water and the ability to control their own movements in water.

## Training

The basic training consists of the Foundation Course, lasting four days.

Instruction given is both theoretical and practical. Courses may be four consecutive days or over two weekends and are arranged throughout the country. They can also be arranged in any club/establishment if the requirements can be met. Costs and expenses are kept to a minimum. Details of these requirements and more information about the course content etc. can be found on Halliwick AST's website at [www.halliwick.org.uk](http://www.halliwick.org.uk) by downloading 'How to Arrange a Halliwick AST Foundation Course'.

When the basic training has been completed and experience gained, other courses are available.

## Badge tests and awards

Halliwick AST has its own system of tests and awards, designed to test skills learnt via the Halliwick Concept.

## Further reading

1) 'Halliwick Swimming for Disabled People' 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

This book is the textbook of the Halliwick Association of Swimming Therapy. It describes the Halliwick Concept and gives information about Halliwick AST. The book, in paperback, costs £5.00 (including post & packaging).

2) A range of other publications and DVDs is also available.

For details and an order form, go to [www.halliwick.org.uk/orderforms/](http://www.halliwick.org.uk/orderforms/).

## Affiliation

Clubs, organisations and individuals can affiliate to Halliwick AST. Application forms are available on the Halliwick AST website at [www.halliwick.org.uk](http://www.halliwick.org.uk).

## Further information

Further information can be obtained from the Halliwick AST website at [www.halliwick.org.uk](http://www.halliwick.org.uk) or by sending a stamped addressed envelope to:

Halliwick Association of Swimming Therapy  
c/o Hollycrofts, Walnut Tree Lane  
Loose, Maidstone  
Kent, ME15 9RQ, UK  
(This is a correspondence address only)

Please specify what information is required if writing.