

## NEWSLETTER - MAY 2007



### OUR AGM

Michelle is hanging onto the cheque for £4230, presented to us for Ataxia UK, by Hannah and her mother Dee (back row - 2nd and 3rd from left). This princely sum was raised by Hannah and Dee and their friends and regulars at the New Inn, Maidenhead.

The rest of this good looking 'mob', starting at the left, back row, are Rosemary (Dee's mother), Alan and Mik, Lynda (stood behind her grand daughter) and Cate. Front row is Bob, Jackie, Michelle and Julia.



## AGM

Our AGM, held on 21st June at Knowl Hill, was very well attended including some new welcome faces. A new committee was elected and now comprises:-

CHAIR: Bob

ASSISTANT CHAIR: Michelle

SECRETARY: Cate

TREASURER: Hannah

It was unanimously agreed that we should become a Branch of Ataxia UK. This would make us more 'official' and would mean that we could fund raise on behalf of the Branch and use the funds for the benefit of members and, of course, pass on surplus funds to Ataxia UK. Bob would contact Tina, at Ataxia head office, to set the wheels in motion.

Future events, which would be organised bi-monthly, would comprise 3 social events such as a pub lunch, picnic, boat trip, Christmas lunch and 3 meetings at Knowl Hill to include the AGM and, where possible, the services of a speaker.

Bob had now produced 3 newsletters but desperately needed contributions from members. These could include such items as:-

How I cope with Ataxia

Items for sale

Tips for making life easier

Items wanted

Holiday adventures

Photography

Gardening tips

Computers

Local news such as:-

Village fetes

Jumble sales

Steam rallies

Amateur dramatics etc

Items do not need to be long, just something to make it more 'newsy'

.....more AGM

It was questioned whether meeting on a Saturday afternoon was found to be convenient for everyone. It was generally agreed that it was and it should be left unchanged.

Finally, Hannah presented us with a cheque for £4230 for us to forward onto Ataxia UK (see front page for the 'mug shot'), which had been raised by friends and regulars at the New Inn, Maidenhead, by indulging in various escapades including bizarre hair cuts, (anyone for a mohican?), raffle etc. Hannah also gave us a cheque for £32 which had been raised for the Thames Valley Group - a much needed boost to our limited funds.

Anyone who would like a copy of the full minutes, please contact Bob.

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## **MOBILITY ROAD SHOW**

This not-to-be-missed show will again be at Kemble airfield, Cirencester, on the 19th to the 21st July. If you have never been before and have any sort of mobility problem, this is the show for you. It's not just for the motorist, although all the popular manufacturers will have specially adapted vehicles (cars with hand controls etc) that you will be able to take for a drive around a special test track, but will have plenty to interest the non-motorist as well.

It will also feature the latest in powered wheelchairs and mobility scooters, a holiday village and lifestyle sections and all the information you could need from various disabled organisations.

Obviously, the site is fully wheelchair accessible with wheelchair and scooter hire available (pre bookable to avoid disappointment on the day), plenty of food outlets and disabled friendly toilets. If the weather is anything like last year, don't forget the sun cream!!

And finally, should you want to drive one of the vehicles, don't forget your licence.



## **FREE MOBILE PHONE**

Don't forget, you can get a free mobile phone and help Ataxia at the same time by logging on to [www.avccommunities.com](http://www.avccommunities.com) or by phoning AVC Mobile on 0845 434 9472.



## **WHEELCHAIRS & SCOOTERS**

All members will qualify for 10% discount on their first order for a wheelchair, scooter or servicing and repair to their current 'machine' by contacting Classic Mobility on 01438 861732. For further information on their range of products and services, visit their excellent web site at [www.classimobility.org.uk](http://www.classimobility.org.uk).



## **CHARITY DISCO**

One of our members, Nikki Stowe, is organising a disco to raise funds for Ataxia. It will be on the 23rd June at the West Farnborough Social Club and tickets cost £10 and include a buffet. For further details and tickets contact Nikki on 01252 692622.



## **BOAT TRIP**

Fancy a boat trip around Southampton Waters? A specially built boat, the Alison MacGregor, offers FREE trips for people with disabilities taking up to 12 passengers including up to 6 wheelchairs. To book call 02380 843539 but be warned, the 2 hour trips get heavily pre-booked.



## **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

A pub lunch at the Red Lyon, Hurley, will be held on the 23rd June and in August we hope to organise a group picnic. There will be a meeting at Knowl Hill in October and there will be our Christmas lunch to look forward to in December. Full details of these events will be circulated to all in good time.

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