



August 2008

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AYLESBURY & DISTRICT VOLUNTARY GROUP NEWSLETTER

The weeks continue to fly past and now the school summer holidays are here. Let's hope we have a little more sunshine than of late and we get some of those wonderful summer evenings that we all remember from our childhood. Were they really like that or is it our memories that are selective?

BUCKS COUNTY SHOW

The date for this year's county show is Thursday 28th August. We will have our stall there as usual and this year we are concerned with spreading the message that "diabetes is serious". We hope to have a large amount of free literature on diabetes to give away to anyone who is interested in finding out more. Our goodies stall will have a wide range of diabetes cookbooks and other promotional merchandise. We will have a huge range of Christmas cards for sale. There will be a Lucky Dip for children. If you have any small gifts that could be included in the Lucky Dip, or spare wrapping paper please contact a member of the committee who will arrange to collect them from you. As we mentioned in last month's newsletter we are also running a raffle. The first prize is £500, second prize is £250 and third prize is a balloon flight so it is worth buying some tickets for this. You have to be in it to win it! Included with this newsletter you will find a book of tickets which we hope you will buy. As a group our overall takings show a marked decrease this year. This may be due to a number of different things, but if you can sell these tickets amongst your family and friends we would be most grateful. More books are available from Chris Arnold and cheques (made payable to Aylesbury and District Voluntary Group) may be returned with the counterfoils to him in the stamped addressed envelope provided. Please sell as many tickets as you can so that we can continue to support Diabetes UK in their work to help the lives of people with diabetes and to continue to search for a cure.

SPONSORED WALKS

Thank you to everyone who has contributed to the sponsored walks. We are continuing to collect money that has been promised and hope to have a final total for you by next month. It appears that our final total, including money which is reclaimed from HM Government through the Gift Aid scheme will be over the £1700 target which we set ourselves this year. Considering the low numbers of walkers that took part, this is indeed a remarkable sum of money and our thanks again go to all who took part.

JULY MEETING

On 3rd July the meeting room at the Diabetes Centre was turned into a greenhouse for the evening when Edwin Rye and his wife, Pam, came to give us a talk about his experiences in preparing a garden for BBC "Gardener of the Year". He gave a fascinating account into the behind the scenes workings of the programme and his experiences in front of the camera and brought us up to date with what had happened to the garden in the year following it's broadcast. He also hinted that there might still be more to come! A number of us bought plants from those he had brought with him. His garden in Wendover was to be open on the following Saturday as part of the "Open Garden" scheme although

Supporting people with Diabetes and raising funds for Diabetic research—Charity No.215199

Secretary: David Robbins, 1 Dunsmore Ride, Monks Risborough, HP27 9JT

the weather was not good on that day. If you missed it this year, look out for his open days next year. Thank you to Edwin and Pam for an enjoyable and informative evening.

NEXT MEETING

We are busy with the Bucks County Show in August and so there is no monthly meeting at the Diabetes Centre. Our next meeting there is on Thursday 4th September when Mary Smith from Diabetes UK is coming to give us a talk on their Careline. We supported Diabetes Careline with a cheque for £5000 last year and it is hoped that Mary will give an informative talk about it's work. The meeting will be held at the Diabetes Centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital starting at 8pm. Please get in touch with a member of the committee if you would like to attend but are unable to because of lack of transport. The October talk is by a podiatrist from the local health service—put the date in your diary now—October 2nd!

OUT AND ABOUT

The work on the new stages of the hospital are continuing to move forward rapidly, although we have not yet heard when the Diabetes Centre will be moving to its new premises. The committee have already raised some issues about the new premises and we will keep you updated as we find out more. Following the success of our meeting in June at Stoke Mandeville Community Centre we would like to take some of our meetings to other parts of the county from time to time. If you know of somewhere near you (that doesn't cost too much) where we could hold a meeting please get in touch with us. The idea is to go somewhere that members who don't normally attend the meetings would be able to get to more easily. This is your chance for some input so please get in touch. Of course we welcome your comments, articles and pictures at any time so please think about this now and get in touch.

TIME ON YOUR HANDS?

Do you have any spare time? We are looking for someone to organise our stores collections. This is not something which takes a lot of time but it is vital for us to help raise funds. It involves liaising with the stores (mostly supermarkets) to find suitable dates when they will allow us to collect outside their stores and then organising a rota of people to actually do the collecting. You do not need to be a member of the committee, but would be very welcome if you wanted to be. It is a role that could be developed if you wanted to as we are always looking for new places to collect. Please get in touch with the chairman, Ken Parker if you think you could help.

We are also looking for new blood to join our committee. As I mentioned in the last newsletter we are looking for a new treasurer and membership secretary for next year. Can you help? We would also like to see some new faces on the committee— please think about joining us. This is your chance to have a say in how the group is run—if you feel strongly about something connected to Diabetes then we need to hear from you. Get in touch now!

COLLECTION TINS

Do you know anywhere that would allow us to place a Diabetes UK collection tin on their premises? It could be your canteen at work, a local shop or pub, or your favourite restaurant. Please get in touch if you know of anywhere.

NEW WEBSITE

Buckinghamshire Hospital NHS Trust have set up a new website (www.buckshospitals.nhs.uk) It contains lots of information about High Wycombe, Amersham and Stoke Mandeville hospitals as well as details of their plans to apply for NHS Foundation Trust Status. This would make them independent of the NHS. The site contains details of how you can have input into the consultation process as well as lots of information for both staff and patients of all three hospitals. If you do not wish to become a member but have a comment on the website, please get in touch with Pat Housego who will forward all messages to the relevant people.



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