



July 2008

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AYLESBURY & DISTRICT VOLUNTARY GROUP NEWSLETTER

My apologies for the slight delay in getting the newsletter out this month but I was lucky enough to be invited away to Wales unexpectedly and then stayed longer than I originally intended. On with the news....

DIABETES WEEK

On Friday 13th June a number of volunteers turned up in the Market Square to help with the collection in the town centre as part of Diabetes week. We used the stall in the square to promote ourselves and lots of diabetes literature. Quite a bit of interest was shown in the stall and the income and interest generated was encouraging. Unfortunately, the collection in the rest of the town centre was not as good and most of the collectors felt that the general public were not as keen to part with their money as they have been in the past. Whether this is because of the "credit crunch" or some other reason is difficult to say. Thanks must go to all the collectors who stood around the town centre and to David & Diana Robbins who ran the Diabetes stall. The total collected during the day was £509.96 Thanks also to Ken & Maria Parker who supported and encouraged all the collectors.

SPONSORED WALKS

The walks took place on Saturday 10th May, starting and finishing at Wilstone Village Hall. It was a warm day and although the number of people doing the walk was lower than in previous years they set out in good spirits. Both walks were well organized and led and the groups returned to the village hall to a welcoming cup of tea and good spread of food. (It is hoped to have one walker's report on the website in the near future.) Money has been coming in steadily in sponsorship since then and a total of about £1227 has already been received, with a small amount more still to come. There have been some very generous donations considering the smaller number of walkers and our congratulations and sincere thanks go to all those who took part or donated to this cause (including those from Ridgeway and Vale Diabetes Expeditions). We will be walking again next year but the date has not yet been set. Dust off your walking boots and start practicing now so that you can join us!



Walkers at the start of the 5 and 10 mile walks preparing to leave from Wilstone village hall.

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

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

A SMALL PARTY IN THE PARK

Last month instead of the usual meeting we held a supper and games night at Stoke Mandeville Community Centre. It was a lovely evening and although once again attended by only a few people those that did turn up had an enjoyable evening. An impromptu game of bowls was organized for some, whilst others watched the rabbits and other wildlife in the park. It was a very pleasant, social evening and is something that we will consider doing again in other areas. If you know of somewhere that we could hold an evening near you, please get in touch with a member of the committee.

BUCKS COUNTY SHOW

The county show takes place this year on Thursday 28th August. The committee has spent a lot of time discussing our presence at the show and how we can best use our stall there. It has been decided that this year we will hold a large raffle. Many local firms and businesses have been approached to donate prizes and there has been a promising start with these. Tickets will be printed and a book will be sent to each of you with the next newsletter. We would be grateful if you would sell these tickets amongst family and friends. More tickets will be available on request. A promotion for this raffle will be on our stall at the Bucks County show and tickets will be on sale there. In addition all the Diabetes promotional goods, such as cookery books and teddy bears will also be available to buy. Volunteers will also be handing out free Diabetes literature and information about our group. We believe that raising awareness of diabetes is an important part of our role as a group and this is what we aim to achieve at the County Show this year. There will still be a lucky dip stall for children but we will not be having a book stall, or bric-a-brac or cakes this year. This also means that we need fewer people to run the stall, so no further volunteers are needed this year. We would still be very pleased to see you if you are visiting the County Show—do come along and say hello.

NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting takes place on Thursday 3rd July at the Diabetes Centre at Stoke Mandeville Hospital, when Mr Edwin Rye will talk about his experiences in preparing a garden for the "Gardener of the Year". This should be an interesting and informative talk and everyone is welcome. If you have difficulty attending the meeting because of lack of transport, please get in touch with a member of the committee and we will do our best to collect you and return you home.

TREASURER AND MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

These two jobs are currently done for us by the inimitable Chris Arnold (once seen, never forgotten!) However, Chris has informed us that he will not be standing for either of these posts at the AGM in February 2009 and so we are looking for a person (or people) to fill his shoes! Chris will be happy to give you details of what either of these roles entail. It is getting harder and harder for us to continue to function as a group as we watch our membership fall without being replaced by younger members. Who knows if we will have a group at all next year—without a treasurer we will certainly not be able to continue! Please help!

CAN YOU HELP?

I have recently been contacted by a student from the University of East London who would like to interview young people aged 18-30 with Type 1 diabetes in connection with her thesis. Please get in touch with me if you can help and I will forward the information.

..AND FINALLY!

On behalf of the committee and members I would like to wish our chairman, Ken Parker, a very, very happy 70th birthday this month. Congratulations Ken, and many more. Have a lovely day!



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