



October 2008

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AYLESBURY & DISTRICT VOLUNTARY GROUP NEWSLETTER

Hello again. The school holidays are already over and the nights are drawing in. Once the Bucks County Show is over it really begins to feel as if autumn is approaching. Still, many of us are eagerly awaiting the "Indian Summer" that has been promised. Fingers crossed; but don't hold your breath!

BUCKS COUNTY SHOW

It was good to see many of you at the show this year. Thanks for coming to see us. The committee were pleased with the look and layout of our stall this year. We were able to offer a good outreach service to the general public, providing information about diabetes and its implications by means of free literature— a lot of which was taken up. Several people approached us to ask more specific questions about diabetes, so it was good to feel that people were aware of our presence there. The Lucky Dip for the children went extremely well and was sold out by mid afternoon. A huge vote of thanks must go to Emily Denham, goddaughter of Tony Miller, who organized this. Emily often helps out the group at events and it is lovely to have someone younger who is taking an interest in the group. Thank you again Emily for all that you do. The Diabetes Christmas cards and goodies sold steadily throughout the day as did the raffle tickets. An update on the amounts involved will be given in the next newsletter. The cost of having a stall at the County Show continues to rise and the committee intends to debate whether or not we should continue attending. If you have any strong views on this, either way, please let any committee member know your feelings.

SEPTEMBER MEETING

At our meeting on 4th September we listened to an interesting talk on the Diabetes Careline. Mary Smith, who gave the talk, has worked for Careline for the last seven years. She was able to tell us about the sorts of calls that the line experiences and some of the new ideas that are proposed— such as extending the hours that Careline is available e.g. until 11pm and during the weekends; and providing on-going one to one sessions for those who require them. It was interesting to note that Diabetes UK are now having to employ more people to answer e-mail questions as the website grows in popularity. This was an informative talk, particularly when we remember that our group donated £5000 to Careline last March. Thank you Mary, for coming out from London to give us this talk.

ARE WE NEARING THE END?

This may sound dramatic, but it could be the case if we do not find some new recruits for the committee. In particular, we need a **TREASURER**, a **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY** and a **COLLECTIONS CO-ORDINATOR** to join us in the New Year. We consider ourselves to be a friendly and approachable committee, but the majority of us are in our "later " years and we urgently need help. We appreciate that many people in the group are also older and have already given their years of service, but surely there are some

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

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younger people out there who could help us. Please think carefully about whether or not you could give us some time—even if you are in full time work. No-one is too young or too old. We need new people on the committee. If you want to know what any of these jobs would entail, please talk to a member of the committee. We cannot stress the importance of this enough— without new people there is a real likelihood that the group will no longer be able to continue. Is it time for you to give something back?

NEXT MEETING

The next group meeting will be held on **Thursday 2nd October** at the Diabetes Centre, Stoke Mandeville Hospital . The meeting will be opened by a representative of the Buckinghamshire Hospitals who will give a short talk about their application to become an NHS Foundation Trust and how we can help. More information about this can be found on their website at buckinghamshirehospitals.nhs.uk/foundation. After that one of the local podiatrists will be giving a talk on foot care. We hope that this will be a well attended meeting—if you would like to go but do not have transport, please contact a member of the committee and we will try to get someone to pick you up.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 10th October – Collection outside Morrison's Store, Aylesbury. Please contact Ken Parker if you can help.

Thursday 6th November — Meeting at Diabetes Centre, Stoke Mandeville. Talk on the wildlife of Ethiopia

Friday 7th November — Charity stall in the Market Square, Aylesbury

Tuesday 18th November — Draw date for Raffle. Make sure all monies and counterfoils have been returned.

Thursday 4th December — Christmas Social at Diabetes Centre. Come along and meet every one and enjoy a social chat, quiz and supper.

Thursday 5th February 2009 — AGM.— hopefully at the Diabetes Centre, but watch this space!

RAFFLE TICKETS

Sales of these have been going well, but we need to sell all the tickets if we are to make a reasonable profit to send to Diabetes UK. Please help us to do this by selling as many books as you can: to family, friends, work colleagues and anyone else you can persuade to have a ticket. Almost everyone knows someone with Diabetes, so most people are willing to buy a ticket, if not a book. Please help. Extra tickets from Ken Parker or Chris Arnold. Remember—if you are not in it, you can't win it!

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING

Bought your Christmas cards yet? If not we have a huge selection of Diabetes UK Christmas cards. These will be on sale at all the meetings at the Diabetes Centre between now and Christmas. They will also be available in the Market Square, Aylesbury on November 7th. Also available on that day and at the meetings will be a selection of Diabetes UK "goodies". These range from trolley coins, pens and notebooks and scruffy bears through to cook-books and a range of Diabetes UK T-shirts, sweatshirts and fleeces. Diaries for 2009 will be available soon. All of these make excellent presents. More details of any of the items for sale can be found by getting in touch with David or Diana Robbins.

OUT AND ABOUT

In spite of several enquiries about holding meetings at other places in the county there have been no suggestions forthcoming. Does this mean we do not need to go out elsewhere? We need to hear from you—whether we are getting it right or wrong— please get in touch! Hello....is anyone out there....?



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