

## **EAST SCOTLAND BRANCH OF ATAXIA UK**

Brief summary from Branch meeting held 22 September 2012.

Apologies: Penny Gardner & Derek Main.

Present: Anne-Marie Thomson, Richard Thomson, Kenny Hunter, John Hunter, John Reid, Liz Dalby, Pete Dalby & Frances Wright.

As Penny was not present the minutes were taken by Pete.

Minutes of the previous meeting were approved and seconded. Anne-Marie chaired the meeting.

### **Treasurer's report**

Income since our last meeting was: £40 donation from D Downie; £50 from Nigel, Katie, Gus and Penny collecting cans in house; £64.20 from Anne-Marie's fund raising. There were also our 2 regular standing orders received of £10 and £15 per month.

Expenditure: A £500 donation was made to Head Office. £15 to Midlothian catering (teas / coffees at the last meeting), £10.50 for Gala Wheels driver's meal at end of meeting meal at Laird and Dog; £45.50 Gala Wheels transport of members to meeting in May. In addition a payment to £85.50 Gala Wheels for members' trip to Falkirk Wheel in August is still to come off the account.

This makes the current balance on 22 September £1034.56.

It was decided to send a donation of £40 to Seagull Trust for our (eventually!) very enjoyable day trip to the Falkirk Wheel on board the Govan Barr boat. Frances received a letter of apology from the trip organiser for a booking mix up which nearly saw the trip not happening at all.

Frances has received contact from CAF Bank regarding updating / improving the services we get from them on our account. It was discussed with Penny and was thought that a debit card/s might be a useful addition to our account for paying in money. Also it could be used for paying bills if the recipient was able to receive debit card payments (eg Midlothian Catering) and also might save writing cheques where 2 signatures are needed it is not always convenient to get together. There can be more than one card holder on the account. A local CAF

representative, Stuart Niven, is willing to meet with us to discuss this.

The branch did not take part in Ataxia awareness Day (25/9/12). Tina Thatcher sent posters to download and put branch contact details on but it was felt that the posters supplied would not make any difference if put up in a surgery/hospital as they had not yielded much more "awareness" in the past.

There was mention made by John Hunter of a company called Whistling Tortoise who have a shop in Edinburgh and who make aids for disabled people. It was thought we may be able to get someone along from them to discuss their various aids.

## **AOB**

It was decided to ask Mary Gilhooley along for a reflexology session at our next branch next meeting to be held on 17 November (changed from 24th ) This will be followed by a "pre Christmas "meal at the Polton Inn where we will subsidise Mary's meal as we did last year as a thank you for coming to our meeting. Liz agreed to contact Mary and we hope to have a good turn out for this event.

Pete asked again for more commitment from other members to support the branch so that plans can be made for its future well being.