

ATAXIA UK Ipswich Support Group NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2006 NEWSLETTER

What a lovely surprise to see so many at this meeting. We had a total of 16 people, including two young girls, and 12 of those were group members.

The two young girls, Rebecca and Kayleigh we have seen before - I **now** know how to spell Kayleigh as she showed me. Rebecca is our youngest member and a delight to see - such a happy little soul and a credit to her parents Pat and Mick.

Three of the Lawrence family were there for the first time and I was so impressed to see them manage their wheelchairs. They came from Lowestoft as did Diane who contributed some very helpful discussion. Diane is going to present a talk in the near future and eager to learn from the experience of others. Do give her a call if you can help.



Diane, Mark, Dave & Caroline

Joyce Green is a new member who was transported by the generosity of another member. Hopefully as the group get to know one another you can share transport.



Joyce and Mick

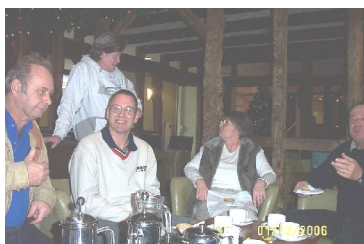
Ian Holt was also there for the first time making an admirable effort to overcome all the surgery he has undergone in recent months. We hope to visit Ian's garden in the Summer.



Sheila, Dave and Ian

Sheila is also making a remarkable recovery from her broken leg and with the gallant help of her lovely assistant [hubbie] Dave was able to leave her wheelchair behind. Bravo Sheila.

Barry was accompanied by his lovely wife Jo who was a fantastic help in pouring the tea and coffee. Unfortunately we are losing Barry and Jo to Yorkshire in the not too distant future - a big loss to us but we wish them happiness.



Mick, Barry, Jo and Sheila

The Holiday Inn set tables with tea, coffee and mince pies for an estimated 10 and were very accommodating in increasing this.

Although this hotel has facilities for wheelchairs, I was told that the disabled toilet facilities were inadequate [too small] and thought the wheelchair lift provided for the two steps into the bar was a bit scary. Just a thought.

However, I have put 2nd March in my new diary to meet here again as it does seem a fairly reasonable venue. I hope you will all mark it on your calendar and I will write again nearer the time to remind you all.

With such a large number of people present they were able to talk in groups so I cannot relate what we talked about - probably mostly mobility and where they live.

I was asked about Nigel and his wife's Hazel's new arrival and was happy to report that mother and baby are doing well - father too! They had a little girl on 22nd November and have named her Rachael Joanne. Our best wishes are sent to them all.



Mick, Sheila, Ian, Dave, Jo & Patsy

I have one spare collection box if anyone wants one and also car stickers.

I repeat that I am quite happy just to collect the cost of drinks after I have paid the bill. It is rewarding to hear from members that they really appreciate being able to meet with other people and discuss ataxia problems.

Again I would repeat, that this informal arrangement to meet without having to advise numbers suits very well - a light and airy lounge with comfortable chairs - drinks brought to the tables - ample parking plus disabled access could not be better. It was generally agreed that unstructured meetings would give a more positive mood so we will continue to meet just to chat.

I am going to relieve Nigel from his task of mailing to those members without e-mail facilities this month as I am sure he has more than enough to think about.

If anyone on my mailing list does have e-mail facilities in the future, do let me know as this is obviously a much more convenient way to contact you.



Tom is hiding at the back and promises to persuade his son Luke to join us next year.

Compliments of the Season and all good wishes for 2007, **Patsy Riggs**