

Number 17 Summer 2006

diagnosed people and is contacting volunteer bureaux to 'advertise' Ataxia. It has been noted that many groups need able-bodied people to help in the work of the group and this problem will be pursued.

Treasures Report

Lesley informed us that we have a healthy **£1903.41** in the account, but this was to be depleted by the presentation of a cheque for £1000 to Tina for AUK. [see photo]



The **street collection** in Boston raised £184 which has been sent on to AUK and should be reported in #156 of the Ataxian. I was suggested by those present that we should apply again for next year to do the collection.

Fundraisers Report

Les Keen had raised about £1,940 from his London Marathon Run and there is to be a cheque presentation at Deacons School on 5th Sept.

Lesley completed the Three Peaks Challenge in 24 hours on the 21st July. This involved climbing the three highest mountain peaks in the UK and raised approx £400 though more is to be collected. Please send your sponsorship forms and money into Lesley asap. Well Done!

The 25th Sept is **Ataxia Awareness Day**, though **Æ** may not be able to do anything on the day, we will be supporting it on 10th Sept with a stall at the Boston Community Showcase in the Central Park, Boston. It is yet to be finalised but help would be appreciated. A new AUK banner is to be provided for the group.

Asda in Peterborough will also be supporting us during the Awareness Day week, this is being organised by Sheila and Kirstie. Volunteers will be needed should a 'bag pack' be arranged.

15th December [Friday Night] a stall

at **Swineshead Christmas Fayre** has been booked, contributions for tombola prizes would be greatly appreciated.

Funding could be available from 'Awards for All' to fund our newsletter and social events. This will be investigated.

AOB

Carers Rights Day, 8th Dec 2006. The aim is to increase the take up of benefits available to carers and their families.

Ensure that carers access their rights under relevant legislation

Raise awareness of the needs of carers

Help individuals recognise themselves as carers

Increase older carers take-up of Pension Credit
Registration forms are available from Chairman.

Also circulated by email, was the **Cinema Exhibitor's Association Card** information, where the card holder is entitled to one free ticket for a person accompanying them to the cinema. Application forms from the chairman.

The Red Cross open day at Scott House in Boston was a small but very informative event, I was able to try out and then purchase some crutches that suited my needs perfectly.

The picnic was well attended with several members bringing family and friends. The weather was good, as we hoped, and people had the chance to socialise. [see photo]



It was mentioned that **Rail User Cards** were available to disabled people and quite a saving could be made on a journey. Trains are much more disable friendly these days and assistance can be arranged at each part of your journey. Contact your

local railway station.

The meeting was informed that members could ask the **Citizens Advice Bureau [CAB]** to do a 'home service' for those unable to get to them. They can advise you on all sorts of matters being financial or benefits from the government. Please contact your local CAB office if required. **Age Concern** do a similar thing

Another point raised was the benefits to be had if you fill in **Energy Saving Forms** that often come with your electric/gas bill. One member had the insulation in his loft increased, at little cost to him, and this would save money and keep the house warmer through the winter. Dave had received several 'low energy' light bulbs at no cost and he knew of a friend that had had his cavity walls insulated for just £85, usually £300+. So the opinion was that these forms must not be 'binned' without serious thought to savings!

A page is available on the South Lincolnshire Community and Voluntary Service website to promote **Æ** and AUK, Dave will try and arrange something to go on the page.

A print off of our web page was available at the meeting so that people without internet access could see what was on it.

The **Raffle** collection at the meeting amounted to £28.50

There are now **48** members on the **Æ** mailing list.

Next meeting:- 28th October at Stanground Community Centre, 2pm. AUK AGM 11th Nov at Birmingham, financial assistance to go could be available from the Head Office. Contact them 020 7582 1444

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## CONTACT

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