



**A WORD FROM THE Æ EDITOR**

Welcome to the 18<sup>th</sup> edition of the Contaxia newsletter, it's the AUK AGM time of the year, I won't be attending this year, due to personal reasons.

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**Æ NEWS**

**Keen All Round at Deacon's School**

When Les Keen, a groundsman at the Deacon's School, Peterborough, decided to run for Ataxia UK in the Flora London Marathon, students were keen to get involved, too.

The school had chosen to support Ataxia UK by raising funds to help research into ataxia.

While Les followed a rigorous training programme, pupils with staff support, were busy throughout the year with their own projects.

A sponsored haircut by Mostafa Pirpashteh gathered more than £200 and Mohsin Shabir collected about £50 for his sponsored "silence." A group of musician students, calling themselves "The Band", donated their prize money of £300 for winning a "Battle of the Bands" contest.

Les himself raised close to £1,000 from his marathon run and with cash raised by other school activities, he presented a cheque for £1,871 to Dave Stublely,



chairman of Ataxia East, the regional branch of Ataxia UK.

Accepting the cheque on behalf of Ataxia UK, Mr Stublely (a sufferer of ataxia) told the assembled students and staff: "We are very grateful to the school for supporting Ataxia UK. Funds are desperately needed to finance research into ataxia. The money

donated through the school's fund-raising efforts will help medical teams discover the causes of the various forms of ataxia. With the encouraging advances in medical science, the day that a cure is discovered is not far off. When that happens, you know you will have helped with this cheque for £1,871."

Money is still being donated and the final figure is expected to be in excess of £2,000.

**Ataxia Awareness**

To try and promote ataxia awareness in our area Dave Stublely put himself forward to take part in a radio item on LincsFM. The reporter came down to Dave's house and interviewed him all about ataxia and the effects it has on you and your lifestyle.

The report went out as part of a news item on Tue 29<sup>th</sup> August, it started on the 10'clock news and went on in various edited articles, every hour, until the 9 o'clock news at night, so giving ataxia good coverage throughout the day.

To follow on from this, he then did a newspaper interview for the Boston Standard, which came out on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, in time for awareness day, 5 days later. The reporter Jack Blanchard did a good job in putting over the ataxia information.

**Boston Charity Showcase Event**

As a lead up to the Ataxia Awareness Day,



Sue behind the stall with our new Ataxia Banner hanging in the front.

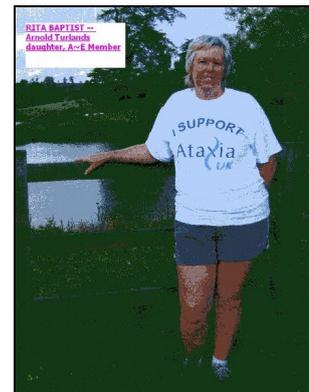
Æ took part in the Boston event to raise ataxia awareness. Held on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> September in Central Park, Boston, the event was well attended by many local charities and 'help' organisations. Last years event

was held at the Princess Royal Spots arena especially built for disabled events, which Æ attended, but as this is a little out of the centre of Boston and so the event was moved to Central park. This proved to be a good move as the attendance was better on a lovely sunny day.

Sue had set up a small Tombola to raise a few funds for the group and we managed to raise about £60, not a bad days work with a lot of the usual questions being asked "What is Ataxia"?

**Rita Baptist – Great North Run**

Daughter of Arnold Turland, an Æ member from Northampton, Rita Baptist decided she wanted to support AUK as well as her father in the fight to find a cure for Ataxia.



She therefore applied to be able to take part in the Great North Run, the northern equivalent to the London Marathon, which is run around Newcastle. Rita was successful and on the 1<sup>st</sup> October, she lined up with several thousand others at the start. Anticipating to be able to run the first 9 mile and then complete the rest at a walking pace, she was surprised that with the support of the magnificent crowd it lifted her spirits and strength and she was able to run the full 13.1 miles. Rita said it was a fabulous experience and was proud to complete the run in 2hr 49min and 14sec. The amount raised has not yet been totalised, so if you feel like supporting her, please send in your donation to the H/O, Well Done Rita.

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**MEETING NOTES, 28-10-06**

