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What's been going on in the Ataxia South Wales Branch?



Newsletter 2006
South Wales Branch – September to December

Getting started

Our first meeting was in September which was a real good turn out! Everyone was kind of nervous, so we all talked a little about ourselves and what we expected from the branch, which made everyone feel more comfortable!

Tina Thatcher, Branch Development Officer - came and explained how a branch functions and what aspects needed to be covered. Members asked questions about fundraising and ideas they had which could start us off.

Sam Merchant came down from a branch in the West Country and lent a hand with ideas for fundraising and roles within the branch, which got us started!

Tina Evans, the chair person asked members to volunteer for roles, so we ended up with Dawn Evans as the secretary, Betty Devereaux as the treasurer, Alan Thomas, Stephanie Lucas, Mike Evans, Gareth Davies and Charlotte Case (Myself) to design the newsletter.

After the meeting had finished, everyone had a chat and a drink where we organised the next meeting for October.

In between all of this, some members stood outside Asda supermarket Llansamlet, on Ataxia awareness day and raised £83! "Well done"

Also collection tins were left in CK supermarkets in the Llanelli area.

Every little helps!





Committee meeting

Our second meeting took place in October, where again Tina Thatcher attended and discussed the roles of the group in further detail, as everything was still new to us all!

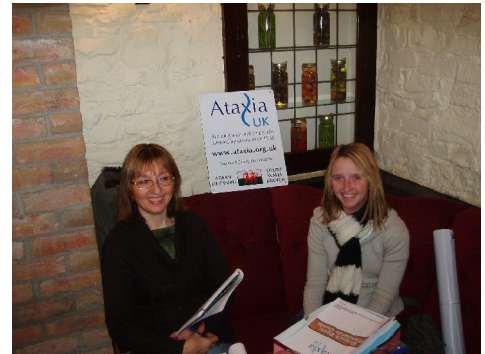
The roles of the branch were finalised (see above) and Stephanie volunteered to be in charge of fundraising.

Alan made an awesome poster with a logo for the branch with a welsh flag, woohoo!! This was the last meeting Tina Thatcher would attend, so we needed to arrange everything for future meetings.

Membership fees were also discussed

and it was decided members could make a donation at each meeting.

We also discussed future social events, for example, an evening out at a local Indian restaurant.



Christmas social event

For our first social event we organised a Christmas dinner! Firstly, we had a short meeting where we discussed fundraising for 2007:

- Indian meal where charity gets a donation
- Bowling
- A pop concert

We also gained two new members!

With the meeting out of the way, dinner was served! Everyone chatted and had a great time!

After the dinner there was a raffle,

where prizes included handmade chocolates donated by Dawn and various bottles of bubbly.

The raffle lasted longer than planned as everyone kept donating the prizes back.

We also played 'Spot the ball' which raised £47.

The evening was a huge success and everyone had a great time!!



The future

The future looks bright for The South Wales Ataxia branch, so check back soon!

We wish you all a happy new year!