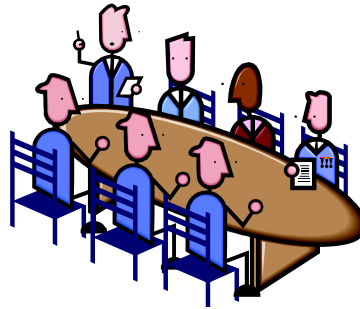


# CONTAXIA

ATAXIA~EAST Newsletter 'Æ'

# 39

WINTER 2012



Simon has decided to stand down from the editorial position of Contaxia, so we wish him well and thank him for the many years of producing such a good newsletter.

You will see that there is a slight alteration to the heading, the simple reason is that I do not have the programme on my pc that Simon has. If you have and are willing to help with the production of Contaxia, please make yourself known! Alan Beckley is at the moment preparing himself for the job!

It was sad to hear that Alison Crosby suffered a stroke whilst undergoing her knee operation in early November, we wish her well and have a speedy recovery, Alison as ever always has a positive outlook and a Christmas card from to all at Æ she said she hoped to be back soon.

**Dave** [Temporary Editor]

## Meeting Notes 05-11-11

Introduction.

Dave introduce new members Trudy and Andy Jackson and also explained that Alison Crosby had had her knee operation but he had no other information but was waiting to hear from Nigel Davis for an update when he gets back from holiday in Tanzania.

**Present:-** Alan Beckley, Margaret & Ken Fieldsend, Lesley Gordon[Treasurer], Trudy & Andy Jackson, Sheila Jones[Fundraising], Terry Mckenna [Vice Chair], Bob & Jan Robson, Dave Stublely [Chair], Sue Stublely [Secretary], Mona & Keith Taylor, Barbara & Steve Trafford

**Apologies:-** Alison Crosby, Ann & John Chapman, Nigel Davis, Kirstie Jones [Fundraising], Jean Pearson, Simon Thornton.

### Æ Treasurers Report

Lesley reported that we had £ 2868.71 in our account, There are proposed changes to the way we run our account by Ataxia UK, The addition of two signatores from head office to be included on our cheques for over £500 issued, this may cause 'logistical'

problems. Penalties will be incurred like the account frozen if we do not get our accounts in on time. [This does not affect us as our treasurer is efficient.] The only thing that causes us problems is that at the end of the financial year all monies raised over £1000 have to be sent. The Northants MG Owners Car Club have raised a substantial amount for Æ to spend on its own social events. This problem has to be negotiated, and talks are ongoing and this situation also effects several other branches. We will keep you updated at the next meeting in January.

### Æ Secretary's Report

We have had a couple of people to the Branch, Mrs Marie Bull & her son Patrick of Cottenham, Cambridge and Mrs Trudy Jackson of Langtoft, Peterborough Mrs Bull has yet to reply or join us.

### Æ Fundraising Report

As usual we will be attending Swineshead Christmas Fayre on 16<sup>th</sup> December, any prizes would be appreciated for a Tombola.

FOOTNOTE: This raised £98.30 on the night.

### Up-Dates

Christmas Meal 3<sup>rd</sup> December at The Fitzwilliam Arms, Marholm, Peterborough. It's about a mile past the crematorium. We hope you have let us know you are



signed by the customer, nominated drivers and motor dealer.

- No longer accepting nominated drivers under the age of 21 unless they reside with the disabled customer.
- Drivers under 25 will be restricted to cars in ABI Insurance Group 16 or lower which also have a power output of 115 BHP or less.

I am certain this will cause a lot of anguish and complaints from those that are affected, I have put my complaint in, but this may affect yourself so be aware of the situation.

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### St Botolph's Rotary Club, Boston.

Earlier this autumn Sue noticed a small advert in our local paper asking if small local groups wanted any funding up to £500 to help them in any project.

I soon apply for £100 to support the printing and circulation of Contaxia. To our surprise we were invited to attend a presentation evening in Boston, Thinking I may have to give a small presentation about ataxia and the newsletter, from which many members benefit.

To my surprise and relief I found several other local charities there and all we had to do was go up and receive the cheque.



**CHARITY CHEQUES:** Eleven local groups have shared £2,000 from the latest Rotary Club of Boston St Botolph community care grant awards. Receiving an average £180 were Ataxia -East, Boston 141 Squadron ATC, Boston Athletics Club, Boston Cruise Bereavement, Boston Orchestra, Boston Town Juniors FC, Caring Companions (Alzheimer's), Centrepont Outreach, Five Villages Day Care, Headway Lincolnshire and Pilgrim Hospital Radio.

This photograph appeared in the Boston Target. The £100 will

cover a lot of copies of Contaxia, and I wonder if I should have asked for more, but then you can be too greedy.

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### Blue Badge Regulations

Changes to the Blue Badge Regulations were laid before Parliament on Wednesday 9 November; these changes will only affect England and are still subject to the Parliamentary process.

The changes to the regulations include:

- From 1 December 2011 the grounds by which a local authority may refuse to issue, or withdraw, a badge will be amended.
- The new Blue Badge design will be introduced with new badges issued from 1 January onwards 2012.
- Local authorities will be able to charge a maximum fee of £10.00 for the issue of a badge starting from 1 January 2012.
- From 1 April 2012 if you are not 'eligible without further assessment' your eligibility will have to be confirmed by an independent mobility assessor.

For more information on the on the changes please visit the Department for Transport's website, [www.dft.gov.uk](http://www.dft.gov.uk).

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### Æ Christmas Meal

As reported in the last Contaxia the group has now had it's Christmas meal at the Fitzwilliam Arms, Marholm, Peterborough. And what a lovely meal it was, I

had my apprehensions from first booking the meal as I thought we may be 'spread about' the pub, but the management was able to get us all in one area, with a blazing log fire burning away next to us. Most of us were around one extended table, with only a few of us sitting on a table next to the rest. The meal was fantastic with I believe everyone enjoying it.

This year's attendance was slightly disappointing with only 17 people attending with only poor Alison Crosby having to drop out as she was recovering from a knee operation. Nigel Davis gave us an update on her condition and she is being quite positive and intends to get better as soon as possible and be back at the meetings.



We must give our heartfelt thanks to the MG Owners Club for paying for our meal.

### THANK YOU

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### Barn Dance Funding

To Sue's and my surprise, whilst attending a family get together to celebrate Sue's 'umpteenth' birthday, Sue's sister Lorraine and her husband, Steve presented Æ with £150 raised during last summer with a

regular Barn Dance that they do for local charity. This year we shared the proceeds with the Butterfly Trust, a local hospice.



Again, we thank them

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Some light relief for these dark cold winter days.

Children Are Quick

**TEACHER:** Maria, go to the map and find North America .

**MARIA:** Here it is.

**TEACHER:** Correct. Now class, who discovered America ?

**CLASS:** Maria..

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**TEACHER:** John, why are you doing your math multiplication on the floor?

**JOHN:** You told me to do it without using tables.

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**TEACHER:** Glenn, how do you spell 'crocodile?'

**GLENN:** K-R-O-K-O-D-I-A-L'

**TEACHER:** No, that's wrong

**GLENN:** Maybe it is wrong, but you asked me how I spell it.  
(I Love this child)

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**TEACHER:** Donald, what is the chemical formula for water?

**DONALD:** H I J K L M N O

**TEACHER:** What are you talking about?

**DONALD:** Yesterday you said it's H to O.

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**TEACHER:** Winnie, name one important thing we have today that we didn't have ten years ago.

**WINNIE:** Me!

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**TEACHER:** Glen, why do you always get so dirty?

**GLEN:** Well, I'm a lot closer to the ground than you are.

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**TEACHER:** Millie, give me a sentence starting with 'I.'

**MILLIE:** I is..

**TEACHER:** No, Millie..... Always say, 'I am.'

**MILLIE:** All right... 'I am the ninth letter of the alphabet.'

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Thanks must go to Æ members Roy & Norma Pilgrim of Hemel Hempsted for sending the branch £10 at Xmas for us to treat ourselves. Cream cakes at the next meeting!!

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**  
Next Æ Meeting  
18<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2012 at Stanground Community Centre at 2pm  
Æ AGM 14<sup>th</sup> APRIL at Stanground Community Centre starts 2pm, If all goes to plan there will be 'nibbles' available at the meeting. [More than normal]