FUND-RAISING TRIUMPHS!

Northern Soul Charity Night

When Fireman Tony Gallagher became ill with a rare liver disease and had to take early retirement before having a transplant at Addenbrooke’s, his many friends rallied round to say “thank you” for his restored health by organising a charity night in Nottingham Park Squash Club. So many people contributed enthusiastically to this event, from gifting the use of the venue to giving unstintingly of their time and energy. Tony’s daughter is only 16 years old but is becoming one of the most sought-after Northern Soul and Motown DJs all over England, so she was playing the music with other DJs who all gave their time for charity. Organiser Lisa Poullet tells us: “Adkins Bakery cakes were donated by the owner, Steve - Mrs Emery Cakes ...delicious!!!! Lots of friends helped on the night doing a number of jobs that kept cropping up but there was always somebody saying can I help and we said yes please. That’s what charity is all about. We would like to thank Sam Moore and Ashley Fellows: they both came and played their sets for Charity and the music was so tempting you just couldn’t sit down - thank you both. Wherever I walked on Saturday night people were dancing, smiling, laughing and enjoying all the different parts of the night. We are probably the smallest soul night but you all have the biggest hearts!!” And the bottom line? They raised a magnificent £3,087 for ALTA! We couldn’t be more grateful – thank you all.
Birthday Donations

Denise Lockwood was a practising Occupational Therapist for 36 years until her retirement through ill health due to NASH in 2014. She was given a liver transplant at Addenbrooke’s in June 2015. Unfortunately, the first transplant failed immediately, but then 32 hours later she went on to have a successful transplant. Due to further complications, she sadly had a couple of strokes in the following weeks, although she remembers none of this and was not conscious again until early September! Her family and friends were backwards and forwards from Chelmsford to Cambridge all the time she was in Addenbrooke’s and she says she owes a great debt to all those who came to see her at that time as her memory of events is zilch! Denise says: “I had wonderful care in Addenbrooke’s and daily visits by friends and family all the time I was there. I received physio in an attempt to get me even to sit up as I was giddy all the time - very weak and recovering from neurosurgery as well as the transplant. Since I returned home in December 2015 I have continued to get better and life is good. I distinctly remember the volunteer who came from ALTA when I was having my assessment - I think he was a fireman and subsequently a volunteer driver. He gave me hope. When I celebrated reaching my 60th birthday last October I wanted to give something back to them, so hopefully my friends’ and families’ donations (amounting to nearly £700!) will be put to excellent use. Love to husband Kelvin, daughter Holly and son Alex and now I can celebrate being a grandparent to two beautiful girls.”

(Picture above: Elyia, 4 and Amaya 10 months).

FAREWELL TO JOYCE (1934-2018)

Whilst we are thinking of ALTA volunteers, members will be greatly saddened to know that Joyce Newby – known to pretty well all of us – died last December. A former teacher, she moved to this area from Leeds and was much loved by all her pupils. She had two sons and two grandchildren. Following her retirement and transplant, Joyce devoted her time to supporting others going through the daunting procedure and was unstinting in her work for over 20 years. She will be greatly missed by so many of us. ALTA was represented at her funeral by nearly all the trustees.
R.I.P. DAVID GIFFORD, B.E.M (1942-2019)

Many members will remember David Gifford as the lovely man who ran the Celebration Day raffle so successfully for quite a number of years. It is with great regret that we have to report his death on 27th January this year. David had just celebrated his 53rd wedding anniversary with his wife, Jo, whom he met whilst at Birmingham University and she was training to be a nurse. He received a liver transplant in 2007 and was a valued Trustee of ALTA for quite a number of years. As well as being very active in London Road Methodist Church, he chaired the 21st King’s Lynn Scouts for over 15 years and was awarded the Scout Association Award of Merit. He worked on King’s Lynn Talking Newspaper in many roles and had been President of King’s Lynn Lions and Probus clubs. David’s charitable work received official recognition in 2015 when he was honoured with the British Empire Medal. As well as his wife Jo, he leaves a son and a daughter, to whom we offer our sincere condolences.

CHRISTMAS CARD SUCCESS

For some years now, ALTA has sold cards to the general public through “Cards for Good Causes” in Huntingdon. One of the limitations has been the requirement to provide at least one volunteer who will give occasional help in the shop for a couple of hours a week during the selling season. This year, after the publicity surrounding the 50th anniversary of the first liver transplant, we were permitted to sell cards in the Cambridge outlet and also in Peterborough. Both outlets were very successful and we have high hopes of being invited again next year. However, finding volunteers who might give up a few hours to serve in the shops has been more difficult!

If any member lives near central Cambridge or the centre of Peterborough and might enjoy a couple of hours helping out in one of these shops next Christmas, please let Jenny Hyde know at the address at the foot of this newsletter.

UPDATES FROM National institute for Health Research

The National Institute for Health Research Blood and Transplant Research Unit (NIHR BTRU) in Organ Donation and Transplantation (ODT) is a partnership between the University of Cambridge and Newcastle University, and their transplant units, and NHS Blood and Transplant (NHSBT). Our work at the NIHR ODT BTRU is to support research and practice to increase the availability and quality of donor organs for transplantation, and support even better long-term patient outcomes.
In January 2019, NIHR ODT BTRU colleague Dr Vasilis Kosmoliaptsis, Surgeon and NIHR Intermediate Fellow based at Addenbrooke’s Hospital, Cambridge University Trust has submitted a research funding application with fellow researchers to develop our understanding of the treatment of donor livers as they are prepared for transplantation to support excellent patient outcomes. A decision is awaited later this year and we would be happy to update the ALTA members later in the year. If you would like to know more, please contact Jenny Hasenfuss, Involvement and Engagement Manager, ODT BTRU. Email: jenny.hasenfuss@ncl.ac.uk.

“AWESOME ORGANS” EVENT
This is a “Hands-on Day” which is part of the Cambridge Science Festival. It will take place from 11:00 am - 4:00 pm on Sunday 24 March 2019 at the Cambridge Academy for Science and Technology, Robinson Way, Cambridge. It is a free event and no booking is needed – please drop in! We are pleased to be part of the Cambridge Biomedical Campus Day at this year’s Cambridge Science Festival. Researchers from the NIHR Organ Donation and Transplantation BTRU will explain how their work can improve the quality and quantity of organs available for transplantation in the future. Come and join us to find out more, and get your brain cells buzzing with our awesome organs quiz. There will be many other stands at the event which together will give you a real insight into how life-changing research is developing new treatments and medicines to benefit society. In particular, we are delighted this year to be exhibiting alongside the BTRU in Donor Health and Genomics, also based in Cambridge. Visit the website for more info: http://odt.btru.nihr.ac.uk/

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY
1) Please note that the biennial East of England Service of Remembrance and Thanksgiving will take place this year on Sunday 19th May in Ely Cathedral at 2.00 p.m. No further notification will be given.

2) Celebration Day this year will take place on Sunday, 6th October, again at the Hallmark Hotel. Invitations should be going out around mid-July.

ALTA is an independent charity reg. no. 1115971 and receives no funds from ACT.