



ALTA NEWS

October 2003

ALTA CELEBRATION

Sir Roy Calne, ALTA's President, opened the 2003 celebration which was held, once again, in the Frank Lee Centre at Addenbrooke's Hospital. He paid tribute to the outgoing Chairman, Bob Hayzen and referred to ALTA's significant contribution, to the work done with liver transplant patients and their families. He also referred to a book of poems by Pramila Ahuja, which was helping people and raising funds for ALTA. He also talked about the gradual improvements in transplantation, which was leading to significantly lengthened life expectancy.

The Chairman then welcomed the large audience which included a number of Addenbrooke's staff.

NEW CHAIRMAN

John Williams, the current Treasurer was proposed and elected as the new ALTA Chairman. A lot of you will have met John in his role as a front line helper, either in Clinic 5 or on the wards.

ROY & ANNE PITMAN RETIRE FROM COMMITTEE

After over ten years service to ALTA, Roy and Anne have retired from the committee. However Roy will still be attending Clinic 5 on a Thursday morning. Roy was Chairman of ALTA for many years and has made an enormous contribution and has been ably supported by Anne during that time. They received a retiring gift and the thanks of everyone for their sterling work. Jenny Aspland also retired from the committee and was thanked for her significant contribution to ALTA's work.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Paul & Bridgette Eggo and Derek Davies were elected to the committee.

ALTA WEB-SITE

The new ALTA web-site, which can be found at alta.org.uk is being used by more and more people every day. If you haven't yet had a look, please do. If you haven't got a computer, then why not ask a family member or a friend to show you. The web-site has been designed by one of our transplant recipients sons, Jonathan Tierney. You will be seeing photographs of the 2003 meeting on the site and stories submitted by ALTA members. If you have anything of interest to other members, why not e-mail it to: jtierney@another.com

ALTA FUNDS

Alta's annual income has now exceeded the amount that triggers an automatic requirement to register as a charity. A small group is working on this and expect to have completed the task within the next six months.

9 DAY ROOM REFURBISHMENT

During the last year, significant donations were made to ALTA in memory of loved ones by, the Ogden family, the Hayzen family and Mary Moule's family. £2000 is now being used to completely refurbish and redecorate the C9 Day room.

BRITISH LIVER TRUST GRANT

You will remember that we received a £2500 grant from the British Liver Trust. The grant is being used to fund the development of our new web-site and support the patient research programme.

STAFF TEAM BUILDING EVENT

ALTA donated £1500 toward the staff Team Building event run by Luc Delriviere one of the transplant surgeons. Luc told everyone about the event which was held in the South of France. It enabled nurses, doctors, liver coordinators, theatre staff etc to get together and build even better relationships. This can only mean an even more effective Addenbrooke's team.

UK TRANSPLANT GAMES

Each year, transplant patients are able to enter the UK Transplant Games. You don't have to be particularly athletic, just enthusiastic ! Events include bowls, archery, golf, darts and a myriad of other things.

Watch out for more information, particularly as the games are in Norwich next year.

FINALLY.....

This is the last Newsletter that I will produce for ALTA. Olive Tierney will be taking over this role.

May I take this opportunity of thanking you for the support that you have given to me during my term of office. I know that you will continue to support my successor John Williams and the committee, as they seek to develop ALTA into an even more effective support group.

LAST JOKE – Thank God I hear you cry !

A prayer - "Dear God, so far today I'm doing alright. I haven't gossiped, lost my temper, been greedy, grumpy, selfish or over indulgent. However, I'll be getting out of bed soon and I will need your help a lot more after that !"

EVERY GOOD WISH TO YOU ALL – BOB HAYZEN