



LINK-UP

AUTUMN 2005

Extracts from the Chairman's Foreword in the 2004-05 Annual Report

"...First of all, I would like to express my sincere thanks to the sterling work put in over the past 12 months by the members of the Executive Committee. Without that commitment we could not provide the professional service to our members, in particular, the tremendous effort that has been put into fundraising by our committee and members. This has enabled the committee to address the level and range of support we give to our members. These changes will be monitored over the months to ensure that the changes are sustainable.



The support given by ASBAH's Area Advisers has been first class, and we are truly grateful for the professional service provided.

Last year we took the opportunity, presented by our secretary leaving, to re-organize the office and the secretarial arrangements. We are now working much closer with the Regional Office in Bangor which is providing our secretarial support. We believe this arrangement will be our mutual benefit, and also cement the working partnership of both parties. We will keep members informed through Link-Up. I welcome our new contact Maria Morris who is now dealing with our secretarial requirements from our Bangor Office. We are still keeping our office at Canolfan yr Orsedd in Llandudno.

Fundraising is still a priority. We thank all those members and friends for their generous support over the past twelve months. I would draw your attention to our 100 Club which is run by David Hallows. It provides us with a steady income, whilst giving members an opportunity to win one of three prizes in the monthly draw. Please join us, and encourage your friends to join. It's all done by a Standing Order. Forms are available for our Bangor Office. We have also continued with our store collections; please help if you can..."

HISTORY

The Association for Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus (ASBAH) is a national charity to which North Wales ASBAH is affiliated. It provides a network of trained Advisers who are aware of the particular problems relating to spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus, and who can offer advice and support. They, in turn, work closely with a team of Specialist Advisers in education, medical care, occupational therapy, mobility and continence management. In 1999, a Regional Office was established in Wales.

ASBAH Area Advisers: North East Wales Mr. Peter Bennett  01978 852254
 North West Wales Mrs. Jill Bartlett  01248 671838

LINK-UP is published and edited by North Wales ASBAH. Articles and/or photographs are welcome and should be sent to Maria Morris at the Bangor Office. Opinions are not necessarily those of North Wales ASBAH and no liability can be accepted for any errors or omissions.

GUIDELINES FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO MEMBERS

1. Grants will depend on the current resources of the Association regardless of the agreed criteria.
2. These criteria are independently agreed and work in conjunction with National ASBAH and other possible sources.
3. All claims are to be made through an ASBAH Area Adviser.

CRITERIA ON WHICH THE AREA ADVISER WILL BASE A REQUEST

1. The financial assistance will have the aim of supporting a person who has spina bifida and/or hydrocephalus.
2. Any statutory authority financial responsibility should be determined by the Area Adviser prior to submission to NWASBAH.
3. Area Advisers will reasonably investigate the availability of other possible sources of financial assistance.
4. The request should be relevant to the agreed guidelines for grants.

GUIDELINES FOR GRANTS

The Executive Committee will give consideration to requests for:

1. **Independence Training:** Courses and/or activities to enhance independent living, educational and employment skills and opportunities.
2. **Mobility:** We will consider requests for assistance to enable members to acquire driving skills and there after to support their mobility needs. There is a presumption that the majority of members will apply for a vehicle and adaptations through the Motability scheme. Financial support will also be considered towards the purchase of wheelchairs. We will also consider financial assistance for taxis, community and public transport.
3. **Health and Wellbeing of the Member:**
 - a. **Household Items:** To meet the specific need and/or disability
 - b. **Holidays:** Assist, subject to individual needs, towards transport costs where necessary
 - c. **Hospitalization:** To ensure that contact and support is made possible during a period of hospitalization.
 - d. **Social Activities:** To ensure that social networks are established and maintained in the best interests of members and their families/carers.
4. **Funeral Expenses:** Based upon the Area Advisers recommendation the Executive Committee is pleased to offer financial assistance to families in need in these circumstances.

Other needs will be considered by the Committee and will be dealt with on its merits.

EXCLUSIONS

We will not provide loans or financial assistance that is appropriately covered by the responsibilities of the statutory authorities.

IMPLEMENTATION

Area Adviser to give completed application forms to the Treasurer for consideration by the Executive Committee that meets monthly. Payments are made following authorization by two Officers as signatories.

Revised October 2004



NEWS

LINK

It was agreed that National ASBAH would send out a free copy of their 'Link' magazine to all NWASBAH's members. If, for any reason, you haven't received your free copy, please contact:

Maria Morris on 01248 671345
or e-mail mariam@asbah.org

ASBAH'S NEW WEBSITE

ASBAH now has a new look website, and a page dedicated to North Wales ASBAH is currently under construction. Please visit ASBAH's website which includes a vast amount of information on spina bifida and hydrocephalus.

www.asbah.org

THE HARVEST TRUST

The Harvest Trust is a charity that provides free holidays to groups of disadvantaged children who are between 8 and 11 years old. All of the week long holidays takes place between April and September at the Trust's own holiday home in Cardigan Bay, West Wales.

The Harvest Trust provides all the accommodation, transport and admissions free of charge. The only expense incurred by families/groups is food.

Application forms for 2006 are now available. Closing date for applications is 31st January 2006.

For more information, a brochure and an application form please telephone 01559 371190, visit their website www.harvesttrust.com or contact your area adviser.

COUNCIL TAX

Council Tax Benefit is designed to help people who do not have enough money to pay their Council Tax bills.

There are also a number of schemes to help specific groups of people reduce their Council Tax bills. These include the Disability Reduction Scheme which reduces your Council Tax bill if someone in your household is disabled and you have a second bathroom or kitchen needed by that person. You also qualify for a reduction if you have a room in your house other than a bathroom, kitchen or toilet needed by a disabled person, or have enough space in your house for a wheelchair user who lives there.

THE ABOLITION OF THE MEANS TEST FOR PARENTS OF DISABLED CHILDREN

Back in April 2005 the Welsh Assembly Government decided to abolish the parental means test on housing adaptations for disabled children. Edwina Hart AM, Minister for Social Justice and Regeneration, announced on 30th September 2005 that the necessary legal regulations had now been introduced.



100 CLUB WINNERS



FINANCE



Oct:	1st	Mrs. Jill Bartlett
	2nd	Mrs. Dawn McHugh
	3rd	Mr. Emrys Davies
Sept:	1st	Mr. & Mrs. Millington
	2nd	Mrs. Jill Bartlett
	3rd	Mrs. C. Manuel
Aug:	1st	Mrs. Pauline Wood
	2nd	Mrs. A. Williams
	3rd	Mrs. Sylvia Evans

Accounts for April 2004 – March 2005

INCOME

Donations Received	£4,872
Other Grants Received	£4,570
Fundraising Events	£4,077
Interest from Investments	£1,213
TOTAL	£14,732

EXPENDITURE

Services to Members	£6,933
Administrator Salary & Expenses	£1,923
Office & Administrative Expenses	£1,763
Depreciation	£123
Fundraising Expenses	£97
TOTAL	£10,839

STRUCTURE

The Association is managed by an Executive Committee of 12 Trustees representing all parts of the membership.

NWASBAH EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

CHAIR:	Arthur Todd	01492 870054
VICE-CHAIR:	Mike Mason	01745 825738
SECRETARY:	Val Conway	01492 878225
TREASURER:	Jennifer Hayes	01978 661054

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:	Marie Edwards	Trefor Edwards
	Huw Griffith	Maggie Griffith
	Pam Hall	David Hallows
	Barbara Leech	Diane Salisbury

ASBAH AREA ADVISERS:

North West Wales	Jill Bartlett	01248 671838
North East Wales	Peter Bennett	01978 852254

ADMINISTRATOR: Maria Morris, NWASBAH, 4 Lllys y Fedwen, Parc Menai, Bangor, Gwynedd. LL57 4BL

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