

NEWSLETTER No. 76 - September, 2011

Dear Friends,

The weeks and months pass along so quickly that I find it hard to believe that I should be sending you this letter enclosing tickets for our Autumn Draw and asking you for your support. I am greatly relieved that for some time I have not had letters from people who are worried that they cannot take part in the draw. By now most of you will know that we send you all tickets as this is the easiest and cheapest way of distribution. There is no question of "having to take part"! But we do hope that you will rally round if you can. There has been a marked fall in donations recently and our income has been from our collections and the draw.

Please send ticket stubs and money to me at Princethorpe Road and make cheques payable to The Digestive Disorders Foundation and not to me. We would be grateful for any prizes.

So far we have had three collections this year. I must apologise that in my last letter I placed the Felixstowe collection on a non-existent Friday. Fortunately people soon realised that I had failed to put a nought after the two. At Felixstowe we collected £211.22, at ASDA £401.77 and at Sainsbury's, Warren Heath £443.90. Comparison with relevant totals in last year's collections showed only a small drop in giving and I am sure we were all impressed by our reception by the public.

I mentioned in my last letter that we are promised a half share of the profits from a concert next March by the Leyland Brass Band. The concert will be held at the Ipswich Corn Exchange. The Leyland Brass Band is currently one of the top bands in the United Kingdom and we can expect it to be well supported. We are advised that we would do well to have some specific work or equipment to finance since a definite aim would be likely to attract more support. I hope indeed that a number of you will support the concert. Full details will be in my next letter.

We have received a donation of £324.44 from The Abbey School, Woodbridge for which we are very grateful. Thanks to David Lowe who liaised with the school.

Angela Underhill continues to support us by the sale of her decorated cards and has recently sent us another £100. Over the years Angela has contributed a lot of money, certainly well into four figures. Thank you Angela for your help.

We acknowledge with thanks some private donations.

As ever we are indebted to our collectors and to Humphry Adair who has not only made all the arrangements to cover each collection, but has had the task of contacting people where we would like to work and has dealt with all the work involving the Local Authorities concerned. I am afraid that the number of collectors we have is shrinking and I do urge those of you who can help to contact Humphry or me. Nowadays the collections in towns and big stores provide the bulk of our income and with more support we could cast our net more widely.

We had a call recently from Dr Maio asking if we could provide some £8,000

immediately so that the Endoscopy Unit could take advantage of a reduced price for an Argon Beam Coagulator. This purchase would make an important contribution to the work of the unit in "screening" to discover early symptoms of cancer. Buying this kind of "high tech" apparatus is one of the main ways in which we can help.

Please do help us to make the Autumn Draw successful.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Horsburgh