

MIDLANDS ASTHMA & ALLERGY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

NEWS LETTER NO. 1

SEPTEMBER, 1970

Dear Member,

This is the first of our newsletters. Through the generosity of Derby Inner Wheel we have been able to buy a duplicator and, as a result, are now able to keep members informed of activities of the Association, together with the money raising efforts of our members.

Research

Since the formation of M.A.A.R.A. in 1968, some 5,000 patients have benefitted directly or indirectly from research done in the laboratories in Derby. For example, the efficiency of hayfever injections has been increased from 42% to 93% during the last year by the use of new research methods. As a part of our research programme it has been essential to know the daily pollen and spore count in the Midlands and in 1970 these counts were broadcast by B.B.C. Nottingham and published in newspapers throughout the area. At the same time, spore traps have been set up on lighthouses at Point Lynas and Cromer in order to find the distribution of spores in the East and West of Great Britain. During the Winter, the results of spore trapping will be analysed and correlated with data supplied by volunteer patients. We hope this work will provide some of the answers to our questions.

News of Fund Raising Efforts by Members.

The response to our appeal for funds in order to continue and expand the research programme of the Association has been most encouraging and we are most grateful for the time and energy expended by our members and friends. The total of money raised during the first year of the Association was approximately £5,000 and by June, 1970 a grand total of £10,000 had been achieved. This money was raised by local voluntary contribution and by donation from Drug Companies of £3,500.

The first anniversary of the Association was marked by a Concert of Chamber Music held at the Art School Theatre, Derby, organised by Mr. Nicholas Brown. An exhibition of Floral Art entitled "The Spirit of Christmas" was also organised by the Derby Floral Art groups, which raised £204. The Spondon and Chaddesden branch of the Association has raised over £200 in the past year and members have a full programme of fund raising events arranged for the year. They have had particular success with "house to house" street collections in the Spondon - Chaddesden area.

The wives of the College teaching staff Association donated £41, the proceeds of a most enjoyable fashion show. A Charity Shop in Derby Market Place raised £200 in 2½ days. We are most grateful for the goods which were donated and the help given to us by Mrs. White in lending us display fixtures. Thanks also to those ladies who helped in the "selling". The new Chesterfield Branch of the Association raised £31 at a Coffee Morning held at Dronfield, organised by Mrs. Yates. The new Solihull Branch raised a total of £60 under the Chairmanship of Mrs. Dear.

Grateful thanks also for donations from :-

House of Cards, Derby.
Derby Ladies' Circle.
Pharmaceutical Society, Sherwood Region.
Derbyshire Federation of Townswomens Guilds,
Belper Round Table.
Ripley Business and Professional Women's Club.

Inner Wheel Club of Ripley.
Inner Wheel Club of Heanor.
Inner Wheel Club of Derby,
Derby & Derbyshire Junior Chamber of Commerce.

together with many other local organisations. We thank the children who worked hard on our behalf with Jumble Sales and Book Sales and Garden Parties, amongst them - Joy Aspley and friends and Michelle Collins and friends. These are only some of the members and organisations who have held events in aid of M.A.A.R.A. We regret we are unable to mention everyone who has worked so hard on our behalf, owing to the limitation of space.

News of Future Fund Raising Events

1. A Christmas Prize Draw. Tickets 2s 6d. for 5. Winning tickets will be drawn at a Sherry Evening at Smalley Hall on the 4th December, by kind permission of Mr. and Mrs. Edwards. Tickets for the Sherry Evening are 12s 6d. Anyone able to sell raffle tickets or requiring tickets for the Sherry Evening is invited to contact Mrs. Pat Cox, c/o Chest Clinic, 93 Green Lane, Derby. Tel: Derby 40366.

I am enclosing herewith 2 books of tickets in respect of the above raffle which I hope that you will be able to sell to help our funds. You will see that the price for a book of tickets is 2s 6d. and individual tickets are 6d. each.

You will see that the raffle is to be drawn on Friday, 4th December, 1970 and I should, therefore, be obliged if you would kindly return books of counterfoils and any unsold tickets with your remittance to cover cover the tickets which you have been able to sell not later than Friday, 27th November, 1970.

We much appreciate your continued help and support of the Association.

2. It is hoped to run a Christmas shop or stall in Derby during December 1970 selling Christmas gifts and novelties etc. We should be grateful for goods to sell and offers of help to 'man' the stall during the selling period. Please contact Mrs. Pat Cox.

Membership Drive

We are anxious to increase our membership and enclose a membership form in the hope that each existing member will enrol at least one other person on our behalf. Please help us to help you.

Organisers of local fund raising groups are urgently needed. Anyone willing to run social functions or public collections etc., please contact Mrs. Pat Cox at the Derby Chest Clinic.

STOP PRESS

We are holding a Sherry and Cheese evening combined with an EXHIBITION OF ORIGINAL OIL PAINTINGS at 7.30 on Thursday, 26th November at The Derbyshire Yeoman.

The paintings will be exhibited by the Princess Art Studio and will all be beautifully framed original works by professional European artists. This promises to be an unusual and interesting evening, and should you wish to purchase a painting you will be helping the Association still further, as a percentage of each sale will be paid to M.A.A.R.A. Tickets are 10/6d. each, available in about 10 days from Pat Cox at The Chest Clinic, Green Lane, Derby.

THE MIDLANDS ASTHMA AND ALLERGY RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

The Midlands Asthma and Allergy Research Association, under the Chairmanship of Mr. H. R. Edwards, Smalley Hall, near Derby, was formed in 1968 with a view to stimulating public interest in modern methods of treatment of all diseases of the chest, but with particular emphasis on Allergic Asthma and its causes. DERBY has become the headquarters of this new venture, because of the intense programme of Allergy research which has been undertaken in the local Department of Chest Medicine.

There is little doubt that asthma is among the most common of all ailments, with a steadily rising death rate, particularly amongst young people. In the Derby area alone there are about 10,000 known asthmatics, and at least 35,000 people with hay fever. Although much has already been achieved towards alleviation of these conditions, in some cases complete cure, there is a great deal yet to be done, and a shortage of trained staff to cope with these problems.

The Derby team of doctors, nurses and technicians working on this project are not supported by Government help. To supply the modern equipment and skilled medical and technical assistants required to keep ahead of the superbly-equipped departments in Europe and the United States who are following the leads established in Derby, will require a preliminary target of at least £25,000, with an assured annual income of £7,500 over the next ten years.

The only hope of achieving this sum will be by public subscription and donations. Memberships of the Association will cost a minimum of 5/- per annum, with a 5-year membership costing £1.

Helpers are urgently needed to organise social functions and public collections. Further details and Membership Cards may be obtained from:-

The Hon. Treasurer:
Mr. H. Statham,
89 Morley Road,
Chaddesden,
Derby.

The Organising Secretary:
Mrs. Pat Cox,
The Chest Clinic,
Green Lane,
Derby DE1 1RX.

Tel: Derby 61191

Tel Derby 40366

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I wish to apply for membership of 'MAARA'

Name

Address