



Annual Report & Statement of Income & Expenditure

for the year ended

31 March 2008

Our Vision and Mission



Our vision is that:

All people with albinism have the opportunity to realise their full potential.

Our mission is to:

- Provide information about albinism.
- Raise positive awareness of the condition.
- Arrange opportunities for people to meet and for support.
- Encourage the sharing of experiences.

The services we offer include:

- Twice yearly magazine, Albinism Life.
- Website resource.
- Local support and events through Contact Persons.
- Telephone or email support on 01282 771900 or at info@albinism.org.uk
- Conference every two years or so.

Introduction



Welcome to the 2008 annual report and statement of income & expenditure of the Albinism Fellowship. Like many small charities our trustees have to run the organisation whilst having very busy personal and professional lives. Despite this ongoing challenge I think we achieve a great deal often with minimal resources. Our online forum continues to be popular, but there are also growing albinism communities on other parts of the web such as on facebook. Great though these communication channels are I don't think they will ever replace meeting together, to share information and experiences, and support one another. This was always intended as the real meaning of the fellowship. Our growing number of events, organised by local contact persons, prove this time and time again. We also still continue to receive a small number of telephone calls and emails.

After a break from our biannual cycle I am pleased that we are able to announce our next family weekend conference in Chester from 20th - 22nd November 2009. Our magazine and advocacy work are going from strength to strength and despite the amount of work involved in dealing with them, approaches from the media continue to offer us positive opportunities to raise awareness of albinism.

Thank you everyone for your support, but especially our contact persons, members, donors, fund-raisers and trustees.

Best wishes to you all.

Mark Sanderson
President

Achievements & Challenges



Dealing with enquiries

Thank you to Martin and Karen Lang and Hilary Hill who lead on responding to calls to our helpline and to emails respectively and also to Daniel Hill our webmaster and our volunteer online forum moderators.

We receive 1-2 emails a week that need some kind of answer, advice or support and 1 or 2 a month asking for access to our web forum. Also several emails informing us of events suitable for our members or from the albinism community across the world. These are often asking us for support or some type of contact.

During the year nine people used our helpline to get details about joining the fellowship, twenty sought advice specific to albinism for themselves or on behalf of others, and twenty calls were admin related and twelve were inappropriate requests. The busiest time was February and March.

Although the usage of our helpline is relatively small we still consider this facility to be a useful part of our service. Some people do not use the internet.

Contact Persons network and volunteers

Some of our contact persons were again able to hold local events, and we continue to have two strong developing groups in Ireland. We are spending time developing the established network now before recruiting more members and evaluating how the contact person role is working. Thank you to Lorna Stacey and all our contact persons. We are also grateful to our active volunteers who regularly give talks about albinism, which often result in donations to the fellowship.

Albinism Life magazine

Our 16 page full-colour twice yearly magazine, Albinism Life, is continuously well received thanks to Martin Lang and Hilary Hill. With useful information relevant to people affected by albinism, news of upcoming events, articles about people's experiences of meeting new challenges and opportunities head on and from professionals in the field on the latest research etc., and news about fund-raising successes, it is now a must read for all members. We published it twice during the year.

Advocacy and media work

We continue to have a high level of interest from the media about albinism and our work and we are beginning to develop our advocacy network.

During the year we handled twenty three approaches from journalists, film makers and other media contacts interested in albinism issues. We also worked with Yulia Marhr on the development of her Butterfly documentary with Gemma Sherry, a fellowship member, which has helped to support our work in raising positive awareness of albinism through real portrayals.

Robin Spinks spoke at VIEW 2008 in March promoting AF and our work with families and also our Real Lives advocacy work and book. In November 2007 Robin also delivered our Learning and Living with Albinism training programme for RNIB in Leeds.

Trustees

During the year Lorna Stacey and Hilary Levett formally joined us as new trustees and took on the roles of Contact Person Co-ordinator and Treasurer respectively.

We co opted Rosaleen Dempsey as a trustee. Rosie has already been making a valuable contribution as our contact person in Northern Ireland and a member of our advocacy network and we are looking forward to developing her role as a trustee.

Summary and looking forward

All in all I think this was a good year for us, in which we continued to deliver our core services - despite our trustee's busy lives - and saw developments in our advocacy work and our online albinism presence.

The future is bright too. Our fundraising is set to pick up with a sponsored family bike ride and a musical evening planned for 08-09. Other events will include family days in Belfast, Dublin, London and Reading. We will also begin the exciting plans for our 2009 conference.

FINANCES



We are very grateful to Hilary Levett, Treasurer, for compiling our statement of income & expenditure as follows.

Income & Expenditure Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2008

	2008
INCOME	£
Subscriptions	2,570
Donations	2,306
Fundraising	4,644
Bank refund of incorrect direct debits	5,724
Bank interest	50
Sale of literature and merchandise inc. Real Lives book	781
Training income	498
	<u>16,573</u>
EXPENDITURE	
Secretarial and stationery costs	351
Magazine expenses	266
Regional events expenses	135
Attendance at conferences & events	220
Computer expenses	696
Meeting expenses	405
Purchase of literature & merchandise	1,917
Telephone inc. incorrectly charged DD's	3,247
Travel expenses	508
Bank interest and charges	504
	<u>8,249</u>
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	<u><u>8,324</u></u>

Report and Statement of income & expenditure prepared by:
Mark Sanderson, President and Hilary Levett, Treasurer

Date:
30th November 2008