



“ Because I know what it's like having someone close to you with Spina Bifida, I am supporting ASBAH in their 30th Anniversary year.


ASBAH provides practical support to thousands of parents on how to help their children overcome Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus.

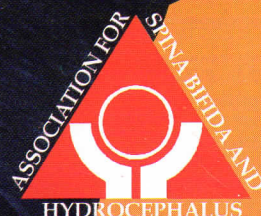
Life can be good for those able to use their individual talents and skills. With ASBAH's help, it can get so much better for people with these severe disabilities.

I've got time for ASBAH. Please can you too help them with their work? ”

Anthea Turner

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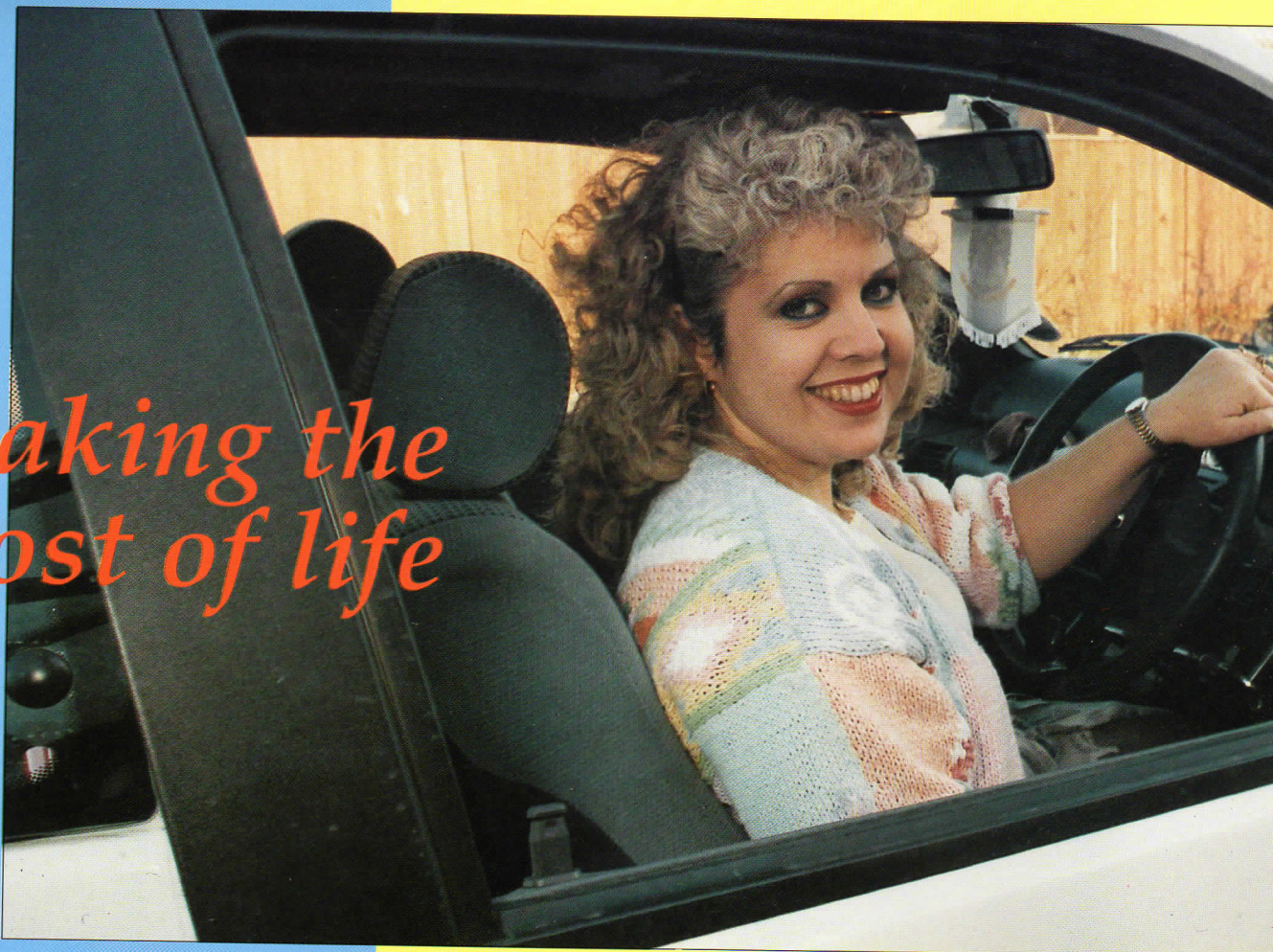
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Making the most of life

Patron: HRH The Duchess of Gloucester GCV O President: Dr Jeffrey Tate CBE

Making the most of life



ASBAH helps people pass the driving test

With ASBAH's help, parents can come to terms with having a baby with Spina Bifida and can find hope and reassurance.

As their child grows up, ASBAH is there to give advice and support: making sure each child gets the best from its education; explaining medical treatments; running training courses and providing up to date information on living with the disabilities.

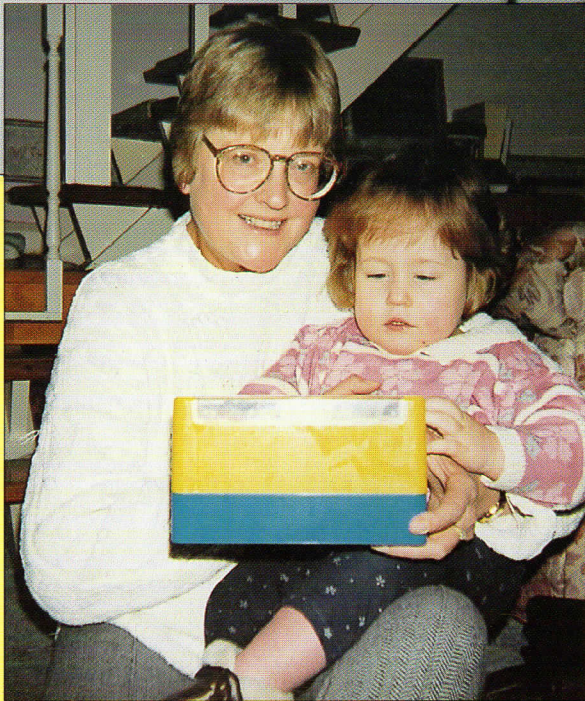
And, when they grow up, ASBAH is on call as they make homes of their own and enjoy the challenges and rewards of independence.

ASBAH's strength is our professional staff – drawn from teaching, social work, therapy, nursing, psychology and youth work. They form a nationwide network of fieldworkers, backed up by specialist advisers in education, mobility, assessment and medical matters.





In 1966, when ASBAH was formed, many children with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus died in infancy. But the past 30 years have seen major advances in medical care which have transformed the picture so that now – with ASBAH's help – children and young adults are using their talents and overcoming problems. Nowadays, many people with these disabilities are helping to run ASBAH. And we are pushing through a regional development programme to bring the management of our services closer to home and give close support to staff working in the field.



Support from an ASBAH fieldworker

ASBAH also raises money to boost research aimed at improving the medical, social and educational prospects of people with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus.

Our honorary consultant in hydrocephalus, Dr. Roger Bayston (pictured below), is a leading authority on the improvement of treatments for people with hydrocephalus.

Our efforts paved the way for the important discovery that the vitamin Folic Acid helps to prevent Spina Bifida in pregnancy. We are also helping in the search for an effective way to treat hydrocephalus without surgery, and in developing a screening test to identify mothers at risk of having a baby with Spina Bifida.





“ I believe that ASBAH has the ideals and dynamic management to take us well into the next century.

ASBAH has contributed to medical advances over the last 30 years which mean that many children with Spina Bifida and Hydrocephalus are becoming adults. They deserve the best chances in life.

Often, the odds are still stacked against them. We are determined to help people with these disabilities reduce their dependence on others, and we are vigorous in our approach to giving each individual the best chance in life.

Rather than looking for sympathy, I am asking you to consider how you can play a part in giving hope and independence to these children and young people, and their families. ”

Godfrey Bowles Chairman of ASBAH
Former chairman and chief executive of Pearl Assurance plc



Making the most of life

HOW YOU CAN HELP

We rely on donations from business and the general public to pay for our work.

We need your help, and would welcome it today. A straight-forward donation would help immensely. Please send it to the address below.

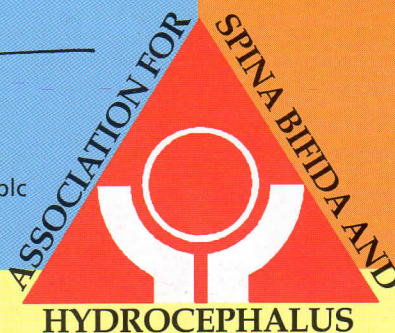
If you are a taxpayer, why not make your giving tax-efficient?

You can enter into a covenant to give money to ASBAH or use Gift Aid for large single gifts. Either way, you do not pay a penny extra.

We would be happy to tell you more.

A copy of our Annual Review and Accounts will be sent on request

This publication is supported by News International plc, whose staff have adopted ASBAH as their Charity of the Year 1996.



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