

{4th August 2016}

Dear Friend,

THE ARTHROGRYPOSIS GROUP (TAG) NEEDS YOU!

We are writing to you with news about TAG.

TAG desperately needs more Trustees, and is danger of folding again.

Current situation

Sadly, out of the original group that volunteered at the 2014 AGM in Hendon, only three are left (over time, the others have stepped down one-by-one due to other commitments and personal circumstances). The Committee managed to co-opt two people to join us in the last year, but this is not enough. Another is due to leave for university in the autumn, which leaves us barely quorate.

There is no longer a National Contact Officer, and the day-to-day administrative workload is shared between the Committee. When there was a healthy number of personnel, this was manageable alongside other Trustee work eg organising social events. However, as the number of Trustees decreased, this became very difficult: the current Committee simply do not have the requisite capacity (time or energy) to do everything, and had to concentrate on simply running TAG. Unfortunately this has meant there have been very few 'get togethers' and lack of website or Facebook updates, therefore less contact with our members than we would have liked.

Plea for Trustees

TAG urgently needs more Trustees to spread the workload in order to function and thrive. Our constitution states the maximum number is seven, but ideally we really need about NINE people. If you can help, or know someone else who could, then please step forward!

We appreciate this may not be the news you want to hear, but TAG has been struggling along for many years now. We feel the situation cannot be allowed to continue.

Family Weekend & AGM

Under the circumstances the Trustees have decided to have a 'Family Weekend' for the first time for many years to gather together as many members as possible, both old and new. This will include an AGM, at which we will be asking for more new Trustees to volunteer their services, and help TAG survive!

- Date: Saturday 1st & Sunday 2nd October 2016
- Venue: Jurys Inn Hinckley Island, near Hinckley, Leicestershire
- Location: A5/M69 junction 2

(See all the information on our website <http://arthrogryposis.co.uk> under 'Stop Press'.)

Costs

To encourage as many members to attend this make or break 'Family Weekend' the Trustees have agreed to heavily subsidise it. This means the cost to you will be **£100 PER ROOM** – not per person - for the whole time. For this you/your family will get overnight accommodation for the Saturday night, plus the following meals etc:

Saturday 1st October:

- Morning refreshments on arrival
- Lunch
- Afternoon refreshments
- Dinner (3 courses)

Sunday 2nd October:

- Buffet breakfast
- Mid-morning refreshments

If you do not wish to stay overnight, we do have a day delegate rate for Saturday up to 2 adults £20 and for up to 2 children £10.

This represents great value for attendees; however, if this is still difficult, please contact us.

Contact for more info

If you think you can help TAG, and want to know what is involved in being a Trustee, then please ring either of the following:

- *Charlie:* 01784 456381 or 07748 902660
- *Peter:* 01530 810744 or 07989 582249

They will be happy to talk to you and answer any queries you might have.

Proxy voting

A quorum will be needed, so if you cannot come then please complete a Proxy Form* nominating someone who is attending the AGM to vote on your behalf. You can make the Chair of the meeting as your proxy.

(*See our website <http://arthrogryposis.co.uk> under 'Stop Press'.)

If we do not get enough Trustees to take this charity forward, then under Charity Commission rules, we will have to wind up TAG.

We hope that you will get to this vital weekend at Hinckley. Please fill out the registration form attached as soon as possible. We do not have long!

The Trustees look forward to seeing you at the Family Weekend & AGM.

Yours sincerely

The Trustees of TAG