



## **ALKAPTONURIA INFORMATION CENTRE - A PLEA FROM THE HEART**

As you know, the AKU Society received funding from the Big Lottery to open an AKU Information Centre from January 2008, which has been hugely successful. The project had 3 main aims:

- **To raise awareness of Alkaptonuria among the medical profession**
- **To identify all patients with Alkaptonuria in the UK**
- **To reduce the sense of isolation which is commonly reported by AKU patients**

The project has been an overwhelming success. We've approached all GPs in the UK with information about AKU; we've personally helped many AKU patients and identified new ones; we've organised events for AKU patients to meet doctors; and brought AKU patients up to Liverpool University Hospital for medical tests.

In addition, we have identified a significant number of AKU patients worldwide and now have a comprehensive list of patients who we provide help, advice and assistance to.

Unfortunately, our lottery funding is coming to an end in July 2010. We don't have reserve funds to keep the Information Centre open, which is why we are appealing to you for your help and support.

Would you be prepared to make a donation to the AKU Society to keep the Information Centre open? Or can you organise an event to fundraise from friends and family? Are there any local celebrities in your local area you could approach for a donation?

We want to continue this valuable support to patients.

If you would like to make a donation by cheque, credit card via Just Giving <http://www.justgiving.com/alkaptonuria> or standing order please contact **Bev Hebden, Project Manager**, on **00 44 151 706 4387**, e-mail [bev@alkaptonuria.info](mailto:bev@alkaptonuria.info)

With grateful thanks.

**Nick Sireau, Chairman of the AKU Society**

**On behalf of the Trustees of the AKU Society**