

## Tony and Deanna Kaye Win National Charity Award



*Tony (left) and Deanna Kaye receive Ataxia UK's 2013 Ernie Heath Shield from trustee, Andrew Downie*

Tony Kaye (formerly of Harrow R&D) and his wife Deanna have been awarded the 2013 Ernie Heath Shield by national charity Ataxia UK, in recognition and honour of their outstanding contribution to people affected by ataxia.

Ataxia means 'lack of order' and is the term given to a group of neurological conditions that affect balance, coordination and speech. In some cases, people get the symptoms of ataxia for short periods of time and then recover. In many cases ataxia is permanent, progressive (i.e. the symptoms get worse over time) and life-limiting.

Deanna, who has cerebellar ataxia, and Tony have a long association with Ataxia UK, running its North West London Branch, raising funds and awareness, and volunteering at the London Specialist Ataxia Clinic at the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery in Queen Square. The couple have raised over £6,000 for the charity, and Tony has also volunteered his professional photography skills to record several events.

"I couldn't believe it was us that won!" said Tony, who was poised to photograph the award winner when it was announced at the charity's recent annual conference. "I have to say thank you to my lady, who is amazing."

The couple are delighted to have received the Shield, which was created to commemorate the work of Ernie Heath, who was chairman of Ataxia UK for many years.

"We do what we can, and it's great to know that something is working", said Deanna. "I couldn't have done anything without the support of my husband, and it's really important to me to be able to give support to other people with ataxia."

Well done Tony and Deanna!

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