

North and East Herts Branch Newsletter

JULY 2018



Hotel Maison des Landes - Jersey

The MNDASSOCIATION website is www.mndassociation.org
The National Office helpline is: 0808 8026262
Motor Neurone Disease Association – Registered charity No. 294354
Branch Patron: Dr Viv Lucas

Message from the Chair

Summer has certainly arrived with a vengeance and I hope members have been able to enjoy the fine weather despite the humidity and that all those who went on the canal trip on Friday 13th July had an enjoyable afternoon.

There will be a coffee morning, as usual, at the Three Horseshoes on **Wednesday 25th July at 11 o'clock**, but no meeting in August and we shall meet, after that, on Wednesday morning **September 26th** again at the Three Horseshoes, **for lunch at 12 o'clock**. Full details are always listed at the end of the newsletter so please make a note of the dates in your diaries as a reminder.

This is a fairly short 'message' as I have just returned from Italy and discovered the 'deadline' for this newsletter is today! I am sure there will be plenty of information from other committee members in the rest of this newsletter. I look forward to seeing you on Wednesday 25th.

Gloria

Finance Report – May and June 2018

It's difficult to think of anything different to write as things have continued to be quiet. We have received a further £946 from the Letchworth Walks to D'feat MND, £110 from Baldock Town Bowls Club and £75 per month from Belvoir Estate Agents.

This has enabled us to pay 2 Young People Grants so that a father with MND could take his daughters to Peppa Pig World. We have also helped with transportation costs and gym membership at Hale Physiotherapy in Ware.

Our bank balance as at the end of June 2018 was £15,642.68.

Unfortunately due to various circumstances we have been unable to arrange street collections this year. I would like to thank everyone who would have volunteered to help, especially the wonderful Bourke family, and assure them we will restart collections next year.

Heather

Past Events

Branch Meeting 30th May 2018

The meeting at the Letchworth Par 3 Family Golf Centre was a quiet but enjoyable meeting. Our thanks go to Alan, Colin, Phoebe, Jan, Keryle, George and Grandson Alex for joining Heather and I. It was a dull afternoon but we did manage to sit outside and watch several golfers on the course.



Summer Concert in aid of our Branch - 7th July 2018.

On Saturday 7th July, a Summer Concert was given by the 'Singing for Pleasure Choir' of Welwyn Garden City. It was held at St John the Evangelist Church in Monks Rise in Welwyn Garden City. The programme contained a wide selection of songs and musical pieces, both classical and more modern.

Marilyn Dodson, who is a member of the choir and also member of our Branch, nominated us as the Charity for the evening and all proceeds were given to our North and East Herts Branch of the MND Association.

During the interval, all the audience were offered a refreshing glass of Pimms and nibbles, which was very welcome, as it had been over 30 degrees hot earlier in the day!

I gave a short speech on behalf of the Branch to thank the choir and explain about the work that the Branch does to help people with MND and their families.

The concert was organised extremely well, with a compère for the evening, excellent pianist and two musical directors - Glynis and Andrew Rogers.

Several members of the Branch attended and I would like to specifically thank Marilyn, Bruce and his brother and his wife, plus Jon, my husband for helping with the refreshments and the raffle. We do not know the final amount that was collected for the Branch yet, but we will be invited to a presentation to receive a cheque in the Autumn. Many thanks to the choir for putting on such a wonderful concert and choosing our Branch to be the beneficiary of the evenings' proceeds.

Annette Ward - Committee Member

Branch News

Gloria, our Chairman, thanked Marilyn for all her support and hard work over nearly 20 years of service to the branch and presented her with a beautiful Orchid. Marilyn will still be sending out the branch Newsletter and supporting us as she always has.

Taking on the role of Secretary would entail attending committee meetings 4 -5 times a year, in the evening at the Chairmans house, taking the minutes and passing on any relevant information that is received from the Association.

If anyone feels that they would like to join the Branch and take on the role of Secretary, please contact one of the committee members.



Not only is the branch committed to help people affected by MND, including families and carers, we also welcome new volunteers and fundraisers to join us. We provide information, advice and support in a number of ways. As well as regular branch meetings we fund specialist equipment and services to meet your needs. We can also help fund courses for Professionals, holidays, days out, spa days, afternoon teas, anything that takes your fancy!

Accessible Holidays

Several of our members have been to the lovely Maison des Landes Hotel, Jersey.

Maison des Landes has been providing accessible accommodation for guests who have all manner of disabilities for more than forty years. Nestled in its own beautiful gardens the hotel is situated on a spectacular gorse and heather covered headland offering stunning panoramic views over Jersey's sweeping west coast and the Atlantic ocean.

The hotel is a charitable trust set-up by the Lions Club of Jersey to provide holidays specifically for people with a disability along with their family, friends and carers. There is accommodation for 49 guests in 29 bedrooms, 18 of which are located on the Ground Floor. Most rooms have a fitted electric hoist (other rooms may use a mobile hoist), emergency call buttons, a walk-in/wheel-in shower, as well as a TV and tea/coffee-making facilities. Nine of the ground floor rooms are also fitted with electric beds (low pressure mattresses are available on request). The hotel holds a wide range of equipment that it is happy to loan free of charge during your stay and if they don't have an item in stock they will do their very best to obtain it for you, simply let them know what you need during the booking process.

The dining room is easily accessible and they are happy to cater for just about any dietary requirement you may have. There is a wide range of evening entertainment including bingo evenings, karaoke sessions, pub quizzes, ten-pin bowling, boules / petanque and visiting entertainers.

The hotel has a large indoor heated swimming pool specially designed with a wheelchair ramp and a hoist for ease of access and exit. Hotel staff are available to assist guests into and out of the pool and are on the poolside whenever it is in use. Transfers from the harbour or airport are included in the price of your stay and are accommodated in the hotel's own fleet of specially adapted mini-buses. The mini-buses are also put to good use transporting hotel guests out on daily sight-seeing tours. The tours visit major places of interest, including Jersey's Living Legend Village, Jersey War Tunnels, Eric Young Orchid Foundation, a Maizin! Adventure Park, The Gardens of Samares Manor, Durrell Wildlife Park, Shopping Centres and some of Jersey's magnificent beaches (including some that have the charity BeachAbility's specially designed manual, ballooned wheelchairs for loan).

Evening tours featuring visits to the theatre, bowling etc. are also available according to demand and availability.

Tel + 44 1534 481683 – contact@maisondeslandes.co.uk

The Grosvenor Hotel

The Grosvenor Hotel in Westcliff on Sea has also been recommended. It overlooks the seafront an ideal place to relax with specialist care on hand 24 hours a day. The hotel has single, double, twin or triple rooms, all of which are en-suite with some having walk in showers. Guest stay on a full board basis with all home cooked meals served in the dining room or outside in the hotels garden complete with aviary, weather permitting.

There is live entertainment most evenings. Wheelchairs, walking frames, hoists etc are available.

Tel 01702 345365 – Pathenstock@aol.com

Elwood Cottages

Located in the heart of beautiful rural Dorset in the peaceful hamlet of Woolland, Ellwood Cottages are outstanding conversions of three traditionally built barns, in a courtyard setting.

Named after Dorset writers Hardy, Barnes and Blyton, the wheelchair-accessible cottages have been lovingly restored to provide comfortable, tastefully furnished, year-round, single storey self-catering holiday accommodation for disabled people, their families, friends and carers.

Outdoors there are spacious landscaped gardens with tables and chairs for guests' use, providing stunning views across fields with farm animals and wildlife, to Bulbarrow Hill and Ibberton Hill. An heated indoor splash pool ha fully accessible changing rooms with showers and toilets, a pool hoist and a poolside seating area. A luxurious therapy room enables guests to be pampered by the visiting therapists. There is a recreation room with numerous books and games for all ages.

Tel 01258 818196 – admin@ellwoodcottages.co.uk

The following companies offer Holiday Insurance for disabled travellers:-

Free Spirit – 0800 17007704 – contact@freespirittravelinsurance.com

Access Travel – 07973 114365 – office@accesstravel.co.uk

Accessible Travel – 0161 8049898 - DisabledHolidays.com -

MNDconnect can be contacted for advise on Holiday Insurance – 0808 8026262

Letchworth Walks to D'Feet MND

The Letchworth Walks to D'Feet MND went on tour on the 23rd June with Margaret and John Gray who have moved up to Penrith, the total raised now has reached over £63,000 A truly wonderful achievement. Many thanks to Margaret and John for sending this report.

“On Saturday 23rd June over 200 people walked across the infamous Morecambe Bay in their blue Walk to d'feet MND shirts braving quicksand and tidal pools. A tricky walk across the rippled sand and water reaching mid calf. Margaret Gray joined this walk with John Gray being at the beginning and the end in support, as he did in the Letchworth Walks to d'feet MND. Other family members and friends joined them in the walk and continued fundraising adding another £1200 to the fund with more money to come. A fun and unusual walk raising money and awareness of MND. Let's keep walking!”

FUTURE MEETINGS FOR YOUR DIARY

July Meeting
Wednesday 25th July

The Three Horseshoes

6th August

The Association will be taking online orders from
the Christmas Catalogue
If you wish to place an order through the branch we
Will have more details in the September Newsletter

August

NO MEETING

September Meeting
Wednesday 26th September

The Three Horseshoes
Lunch 12.00

October Meeting
Wednesday 31st October

The Three Horseshoes

November Meeting
Christmas Lunch

To be arranged

Monthly meetings are the last Wednesday of each month at 11am

The Three Horseshoes
Hooks Cross
Watton-at-Stone
Hertfordshire
SG14 3RY
01920 830391

BRANCH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN

Gloria Lenderyou
43 Wildwood Lane
Stevenage
Herts SG1 1TB
Tel: 01438 488653
g.lenderyou@gmail.com

TREASURER

Heather Hurley
8 The Dale
Letchworth G C
Herts SG6 3SG
Tel: 01462 627025
heatherhurley@ntlworld.com

SECRETARY

VACANT

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Annette Ward	annette@annetex.co.uk	Tel: 01462 436928
Christine Carter	christineacarter@tiscali.co.uk	Tel: 01438 717169
Maria Watson	maria.watson11@ntlworld.com	Tel: 07800978281 01920 422980

BRANCH CONTACT

Christine Carter	2 Woodland Way, Welwyn, Herts AL6 0RZ christineacarter@tiscali.co.uk	Tel: 01438 717169
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ASSOCIATION VISITORS

Maria Watson	maria.watson11@ntlworld.com	Tel: 07800978281 01920 422980
Christine Carter	christineacarter@tiscali.co.uk	Tel: 01438 717169
Lesley Beaven	lesleyjsbeaven@googlemail.com	Tel: 01920 469067
Sue Plummer	sue.plummer@ghhospicecare.org.uk	Tel: 07958976040

REGIONAL CARE DEVELOPMENT ADVISER (RCDA)

Liz Pybus	Liz.pybus@mndassociation.org	Tel: 03453 751840
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THE MND NORTH HERTS WEBSITE

www.mnd.n-herts.freeuk.com

THE MND HELPLINE – NEW CONTACT NUMBER

Tel 0808 8026262

Our MND Connect helpline offers advice, practical and emotional support and directing to other services and agencies.

Monday - Friday 9.00 a.m. - 5.00pm. and 7.00 p.m. - 10.30 p.m.