

North and East Herts Branch March Newsletter



Sue Plummer our new Association Visitor

The MND association website is: www.mndassociation.org

The National Office helpline is: 08457 626262

Motor Neurone Disease Association – Registered charity No. 294354

Branch Patron: Dr Viv Lucas

Message from the Chair

By the time our monthly meeting arrives, Spring will be with us and the lighter nights here again and I hope this will encourage members to come along to the first branch meeting of 2015. This will be at Bedwell, as usual, on Wednesday 25th March at 7.30pm when we shall be having an informal evening with a 'bring and buy' sale - a chance to chat to other members and contribute to Branch funds.

It will then be time for our AGM in April and we would welcome some new people on the committee and suggestions for the coming year. Please get in touch with Marilyn if you would like your name to go forward or wish to propose someone else. Sarah Wright will be speaking to us, after the AGM business is completed, about the work she does as our co-ordinator for neurological conditions.

Twenty members enjoyed another lunch at the 'Three Horseshoes' in February and we were pleased to welcome a past member, Carol Hardy, who presented the Branch with a cheque for money she had raised from selling a variety of knitted goods. Thank you Carol.

We are also hoping that a big fund-raising concert will take place this year, organised by the family of new members Iain and Keryle Rutherford, who have contacts in the entertainment world. So watch out for more news about this as it will be up to us all, to support this with friends and family, to make it a financial success and an 'awareness-raising' event, as well as enjoying a good evening out.

So turn out your unwanted Christmas gifts, books etc. and come along to the meeting on the 25th.

We look forward to seeing you all.

Gloria

AGM Notice

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN!!!

Our Annual General Meeting will be held on the last Wednesday in April which is the 29th at Bedwell Community Centre. This is an important date in our curriculum and we do hope that as many of you as possible will be able to attend. This is your chance to have your say, when the members of our present committee will stand down and you will have your chance to be voted on our committee and help to run our branch.

Box office hit puts spotlight on MND

The film *The Theory of Everything* was released on New Year's Day, it is a biographical romantic drama based on 'Travelling to Infinity: My life with Stephen' written by Jane Wilde.

Eddie Redmayne and Felicity Jones spent time with people living with the disease and their carers thanks to the support of North London and North West London branches and the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery.

Eddie gives such a wonderful portrayal of Stephen that he has scooped a Golden Globe, BAFTA and an Oscar. On receiving the Oscar he said that this belongs to all of those people around the world battling MND/ALS, it belongs to one exceptional family, Stephen, Jonathan, Jane and the Hawking children. He would be travelling to Cambridge to show them the Oscar and thanked them for their amazing support.

Ice Bucket spend unveiled

On February 12th our chief executive Sally Light revealed how our Ice Bucket Challenge windfall would be spent. £1.5 million on our care and support services.

The 19 multi-disciplinary care centres and networks we currently fund provide exceptional personalised patient care and support to people with MND.

The Association are already committed to opening a 20th this year, the extra funding will allow us to establish a further two new centres over the next three years.

More support will be provided for children and young people.

In each of our four new regions covering the north, south, east and west incorporating England, Wales and Northern Ireland, we are able to fund specialist MND nurses who help identify and then pull together as quickly as possible the appropriate support required from a range of health care professionals.

£4 million will be committed to new and exciting research projects over the next five years and we will set out to raise a further £1.1 million for these projects.

Increased participation in a major international study to fully understand the genetic basis of MND.

Our world-renowned DNA bank of blood samples will be used to create stem cells which can grow into human motor neurones in the laboratory that are primed to develop MND.

Also important new drug-testing projects and build on our work to develop a population-based MND register.

The extra funds will enable us to recruit more volunteers. There are currently 3,000, half of whom are involved with branch or group activities, we aim to recruit 500 more over the next three years.

Past Events

It was with regret that we had to cancel our January meeting due to the committee being unwell. We are very sorry if this caused any inconvenience to any of you.

Many thanks to Gloria for organising our February meeting, lunch at the Three Horseshoes, Hooks Cross. 20 members and friends enjoyed a very varied and enjoyable meal, followed by a variety of sweets and coffee.



Carol Hardy and her fiancée Steve, joined us and Carol presented a cheque to the branch for £350.00, from sales of her beautiful knitted items, some of which will be on sale at the bring and buy in March. Thank you Carol, well done.



Association Visitors

We are very sorry to say farewell to Jane Morrith one of our Association Visitors. Jane has been a valued member of the branch and we wish her well for the future.

We are very happy to welcome our new Association Visitor, Sue Plummer. Sue has been a nurse for many years and has worked in the community, hospital and hospice settings. Sue lives in Kimpton in North Herts and has 3 children and 2 grandchildren. Sue has experienced first hand how MND effects families as a close member of her family suffered from the disease a few years ago.

Sue currently works at Peace Hospice in Watford but will shortly be moving to Garden House Hospice in Letchworth.

Fundraising

Cheque presentation from East Herts Golf

Fundraising for our branch started well in 2015 when we were informed by the outgoing Captain of East Herts Golf Club that he had chosen MNDA as their charity of the year and they had a cheque for £4408.87 which they wished to present to us.



Marilyn and I were delighted to be able to attend the presentation in January where we were made most welcome. The photo shows Marilyn, myself and John Tass (Captain) receiving the cheque.

Maria.

Street collections

Geoff has booked the following dates for 2015 street collections:

Royston	Saturday 25th April
Letchworth G C	Saturday 13th June
Hitchin	Saturday 1st August

Many thanks to Geoff for arranging the street collections once again.

If anyone is available on any of these dates to help Geoff, please contact him on 01462 637101

Running for the branch

My lovely daughter-in-law Sara Cardall, running her first half Marathon, The Baldock Beast on Sunday 15th March raising £150.00 for the branch, in an amazing time of 1hr 59mins, very well done.

Thank you Sara.

Chris



Disability Living Allowance Claimants Aged 65 Years or Over Transfer to Pensions Directorate

From 25th February 2015 Disability Living Allowance claimants whose date of birth is on or before 8th April 1948 will transfer to the Attendance Allowance Unit. This change is because claimants in receipt of DLA who are aged 65 or over are not assessed for PIP. As a consequence all pensioners in receipt of disability benefit will be dealt with by the Pension Service.

Claimants whose date of birth is on or before 8th April 1948 and are in receipt of DLA should contact the Attendance Allowance Service Centre 0345 (0845) 605 6055 Text phone 0845 604 5312.

Claimants in receipt of DLA whose date of birth is on or after the 9th April 1948 should continue to contact the DLA Helpline 0345 (0845) 7123456 Text phone 0845 722 4433.

FUTURE MEETINGS AND EVENTS FOR YOUR DIARY

March

Wednesday 25th Meeting at Bedwell
Bring and Buy Sale

April

Wednesday 29th Meeting at Bedwell
AGM – Speaker Sarah Wright

May

Wednesday 27th Meeting at Herts Action on Disability
Welwyn Garden City
Details in next newsletter

June

Wednesday 24th Cream Tea – At a local Garden Centre
Details in next newsletter

July

Wednesday 29th Meeting at Bedwell
Annette Ward will be testing our memory!

August

No meeting

Bedwell Community Centre
Bedwell Crescent
Stevenage
SG1 1NA

Bedwell meetings are the last Wednesday of the month at 7.30pm

BRANCH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

OFFICERS

CHAIRMAN

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

TREASURER

Geoff Foster
8 Bell Acre
Letchworth Garden City
Herts SG6 2BS
Tel: 01462 637101
geoffhfoster@gmail.com

SECRETARY

Marilyn Dodson
9 Barclay Close
Hertford Heath
Hertford SG13 7RW
Tel: 01992 420180
Marilyn.dodson@ntlworld.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Annette Ward	annette.p.ward@o2.co.uk	Tel: 01462 436928
Christine Carter	christineacarter@tiscali.co.uk	Tel: 01438 717169
Maria Watson	maria.watson11@ntlworld.com	Tel: 07800978281

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
Christine Carter	christineacarter@tiscali.co.uk	Tel: 01438 717169
Lesley Beaven	lesleyjsbeaven@googlemail.com	Tel: 01920 469067
Sue Plummer	splummer@peacehospicecare.org.uk	Tel: 01923 330330

REGIONAL CARE DEVELOPMENT ADVISER (RCDA)

Liz Pybus	Liz.pybus@mndassociation.org	Tel: 08453 751840
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THE MND NORTH HERTS WEBSITE

www.mnd.n-herts.freeuk.com

THE MND HELPLINE

Tel: 08457 626262

All calls are charged at local rates. The hours of opening are:-
Monday - Friday 9.00 a.m. - 5.30 p.m. and 7.00 p.m. - 10.30 p.m.
Saturday, Sunday & Bank Holidays: 10.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.