

Newsletter

North & East Herts Branch

May 2013

A MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT 2013

Looking back over the year and after a recent appraisal meeting with Susanne Curtis I am pleased to report that we can feel satisfied with what has been achieved and we have had another successful year with fund-raising and awareness- raising. Several members of recently bereaved families have engaged in a range of adventure and social activities to support the Branch in recognition of the support they have received in the past. These have included a Tandem Sky Dive by Geoff's daughter, A Drive around the Coastline on A and B roads, A Dance Night, A Quiz Evening, A cake stall at Letchworth Lions Fun day, A Christmas Concert in W G. City given by 'Singing for Pleasure, and two concerts in local churches. Matt Anderson (Dorothy's grandson) has successfully completed this year's Marathon Run and we shall be having another cake-stall at The Lions Fun Day this year. The usual street collections have been organised and we should appreciate more offers of help for these. Members of the committee have applied to Asda and Waitrose branches for their Charity Appeals and will be approaching other supermarkets in the future. We have already had generous donations in the past from Waitrose who will now consider us again. Please let us know if you know of any organisations we could approach.

Supporting local MND sufferers and their Carers and awareness raising continue to be the main purpose of the branch and we rely on the support and interest of members to do this., Money continues to come in steadily through bequests, collections and donations from families, relatives and friends in appreciation of the support they have received from the Branch and our association visitors, volunteers who do an invaluable job in seeing that those, they visit, get the support and help they need as quickly as possible.

Attendance at meetings has varied and we have found that having some, during the day, has involved members who are not able to come in the evening although we do need some evening meetings for members who are working. We have also been concerned about the lack of support for some of the evening meetings where a speaker have given up their time and made a long journey to Stevenage often for a very small audience. This is something the committee will consider when planning the programme for the coming year.

There have not been any nominations, so far, for the committee and we would welcome some new faces with enthusiasm and new ideas. It is not too late to volunteer. I must thank the outgoing committee and the association visitors for the time and work they have put in during the year to ensure the success of the Branch and give a special 'thank you' to our secretary Marilyn who has done so much for the Branch for many many years. Thanks also to Geoff our treasurer who has kept meticulous accounts for the association. Our good wishes must also go to Dennis, who gave up the treasure-ship last year and is still unwell in hospital. The present committee has agreed to stand again for the coming year and will report back to you after their committee meeting in May. And finally, on behalf the committee, thank you all for coming along this evening and for your support throughout the year.

Gloria

* * * * *

FORTHCOMING MEETINGS
at the Bedwell Community Centre, Stevenage
The last Wednesday of the Month

May 29th: *Diana and Peter Holt will be giving an illustrated talk about their recent visit to Tanzania. She and her family sponsor children in a remote village which is supported by the 'Grass Roots Trust' This is a small charity founded by a Methodist minister, and his wife, which takes care of the young children living there and pays for them to go to school. All the money raised, by the charity, goes directly to the village and Diana and her daughter spent a month as volunteers there working with the Trust and seeing how the money is spent and photographing their experiences. So do come along to what promises to be an interesting and enjoyable evening.*

June 26th: **This will be our Afternoon Tea at a change of venue:**

Pearce's Farm Shop and Cafe, Hamels Mead, Buntingford, SG9 9ND (Hamels Mead is located on the A10 near the roundabout linking the B1368 to the A10) at 3pm. If you would like to join us please contact Maria who is kindly organising this event for us either on her mobile number: 078009 78281 or e-mail her on maria.watson11@ntlworld.com

July: We will organise a Social and Games Evening at Bedwell
August: No meeting

* * * * *

Forthcoming Fundraising events

On **Sunday 23rd June from 11.00 am** Gloria will be holding a Lazy Midsummer Breakfast morning at her home, 23 Wildwood Lane, Stevenage SG1 1TB. Donations will be in aid of the branch and there will be a raffle. If you would like to support her and bring a friend, please give her a ring on 01438 210014 or e-mail her on g.lenderyou@ntlworld.com - she would be very pleased to hear from you.

On Friday, 6th September 2013 at 8 pm Maggie Greenfield has arranged another Quiz Evening to be held at Wodson Park, Ware. Admission is by ticket at a cost of £10 including a Fish & Chip Supper. Maggie is suggesting making up tables of 8, so maybe you would like to bring your own party along, or link up with others on the day. Payment is by cheque (made out to Maggie). Her address is 1 Brewhouse Lane, Hertford, SG14 1TZ. Maggie is changing her telephone number and will inform us of this for our next newsletter. Do please come along to this event and give her your support with your friends.

On the afternoon of Saturday, 6th July one of our members, Roger Spicer is organising a Hat Fest which is a musical event and is to be held at Blue Harts Hockey Club in Hitchin in memory of his mother. Roger and his family are kindly giving the proceeds to our Branch. If you can possibly help with supplying a Raffle Prize would you please contact Chris Carter on 01438 717169. Chris would be really pleased to hear from you.

Past Event

You will remember I put a piece in our last newsletter asking those of you who would like to, to support Matt Anderson, Dr Dorothy Anderson's Grandson who was running in the London Marathon. Mark completed this successfully and I was very pleased to receive the picture below of Mark as he arrived at the finishing point from Roger Widdecombe, Regional Fundraiser at National Office - thank you Roger. We are grateful to Mark for his effort and for so kindly supporting our cause.



Event held at Bucks Head Pub

On Sunday 28th April, several members of the committee and supporters of the branch were entertained at the Bucks Head pub in Little Wymondley by Dr Viv Lucas in aid of MND. Viv is the Medical Director at Garden House Hospice in Letchworth and has helped and supported many sufferers of the disease during his time there. His sister Lindy Jones has recently been diagnosed with MND and she was there to support Viv. Lindy has written a book "The voice in my head is perfect" which was on sale during the evening.

Viv entertained us with his guitar and mouth organ, singing some of his own songs as well as a selection from Neil Young and The Eagles. He was ably accompanied on some vocals by Michael Laing. His company, Tokio Marine Europe Ltd agreed to match the amount raised up to £500.

It was a very enjoyable evening, over £1100 was raised from the raffle, donations and book sales.

Many thanks to Viv, his family and supporters.

Thank you for kindly giving us this report, Chris.

Belated Report!

You may remember a piece was put in our November newsletter about a forthcoming Christmas Concert to be performed by the choir Singing for Pleasure of Welwyn

Garden City last December. Unfortunately I omitted to let you all know that the choir very kindly handed over a cheque to Tony Plummer (one of our previous Deputy Chairman and Association Visitor who kindly represented our branch) for the figure of £708.00 for which we are sincerely grateful and thank them for choosing our Branch of MND as their charity for 2012.

Forthcoming events

Collection Dates

Saturday, 22nd June in Letchworth

Saturday, 3rd August in Hitchin

Do put this dates in your diary please and get in touch with Geoff nearer the time.

Letchworth Lions Fun Day Saturday 20th July

A further reminder of our Cake Stall at this event – please if you can give us your support on that day we would be really grateful and of course your help with the provision of cakes to fill our stall would be very much appreciated.

If you can promise help on that day and even more especially if you can bake some cakes for us to sell, do please give me a ring on 01992 420180 or contact one of our Committee members – we would be really grateful to hear from you.

Last year this was a very successful day and we would love to be able to repeat this and make it well worth our while. Thank you.

* * * * *

Abbreviated Accounts - Year Ended 31 January 2013 from our Treasurer

	2012/13	2011/12
	£	£
INCOME		
Donations	6,432	11,993
Fundraising Income	11,130	3,413
Other	351	321
	<u>17,913</u>	<u>15,727</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Care Expenditure	4,334	8,982
Branch Administration	1,718	2,245
Transfers to National Office	5,892	5,146

Other	<u>291</u>	<u>263</u>
	12,235	16,636
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR YEAR	<u>5,678</u>	<u>-909</u>
50pc of Net Current Assets at year end to be transferred to National Office	<u>7,406</u>	<u>4,242</u>

Geoff Foster, Treasurer

Audited by Wagstaffs of Stevenage

**BRANCH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE – 2012/13
OFFICERS**

CHAIRMAN

Gloria Lenderyou
Tel: 01438 210014
g.lenderyou@ntlworld.com

TREASURER

Geoff Foster
Tel: 01462 637101
geoffhfoster@qmail.com

SECRETARY

Marilyn Dodson
Tel: 01992 420180
Marilyn.dodson@ntoworld.com

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Annette Ward, Tel: 01462 436028
Chris Carter, Tel: 01438 717169
Maria Watson, Tel: 01920 422980

BRANCH CONTACT

Christine Carter, Tel: 01438 717169 christineacarter@tiscali.co.uk

Association Visitors:

Lesley Beaven - lesleyjsbeaven@googlemail.com>
Maria Watson – maria.watson11@ntlworld.com
Delia Born - delia.born@talk21.com
Jane Morrill - Jane.s.morrill@g.mail.com

REGIONAL CARE DEVELOPMENT ADVISER

LIZ PYBUS

Tel: 08453 751840

For your information - our website address is:
www.mnd.n-herts.freeuk.com

HELPLINE To remind you the number is **08457 626262** and 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.**