

# Warrington Branch

# MIScellany

December 2015

Well here we are again newsletter late, yearbook not received from printers, will it be completed before Christmas, I hope so. Jordan is not able to contribute at this time so it will be a little trimmed down.

We've already had our two main Christmas events the Everyman pantomime on 28th of November and the branch Christmas party on Saturday, 5th December. The Everyman as always was excellent and enjoyed I think by 27 of us. It being the first night of this year's pantomime there were the odd couple of mishaps stage props not arriving forgot-ten lines but it all adds to the experience of the Everyman. Branch transport went awry a bit but it didn't spoil the night.

Christmas party at Statham Lodge was attended by 70

members unlike last year we had roundtables and sole use of the room what a difference it makes. The food and the service was I think without fault. The change to Saturday didn't really make a difference to numbers but if it didn't suit you then let me know.

I'm completing this on Sunday, 20th December so the likelihood of it getting delivered before Christmas is nil so I will give you belated Christmas greetings and hope that we all have a happy and stressfree New Year.

Chris Janovitz

## Donations In Lieu Of Christmas Cards



Chris & Helen Janovitz  
Peter Travers  
Mary & John Burke  
Dougy Burke  
Rita & Keith Daly  
Margo Davies  
Kath McQuillan  
Karen, Viv & Brodie  
Zena & Peter Mowbray  
Wendy Harmer  
Betty Taylor  
Charles Dooley  
Jayne Dolphin  
Pat & Peter Ordish  
David & Christine Howie  
Pam & George Lilford

£120 was donated to branch funds.

### Statham Lodge

All sat down and about to start. More photographs available on the branch Website to do them justice.



### Coffee Morning Gemini

Starts again on 3rd Weds of month at 10.30 Starbucks.  
If you work Weds or it isn't suitable & you'd like to join us on another day & time PLEASE let us know Louise 265239

## Fundraising

The distance between Lands End and John O'Groats as the crow flies is 603 miles (970 km). The distance by roads accessible by cycle is an minimum of 866 miles (1294 km) but realistically using the quieter roads the distance is between 900 and 950 miles. I'm not sure what number of miles Tom completed but I think we are safe in saying it was over 900.



Tom is the son of our president Zena Mowbray raised £620 via the JustGiving site which is going to MS Society National Centre and his father Peter matched this amount as a donation to our branch.

On his JustGiving page Tom said "I love running and cycling. I have challenged my body over various distances and disciplines simply for the physical accomplishment. However, this new adventure deserves more respect and as extra

motivation I'll be riding for and thinking of MS."

The event started on 5 July 2015 at Lands End and completed on 14 July 2015 in John O'Groats. Well done Tom.

Also new member Susan Palmer-Tarburton on 28 November walked from Warrington to Manchester raising £284. From memory it was a terrible day raining and windy for most of it. Congratulations Susan it must have been hard to carry on.

Where would we be without these people.

## 100+Club



There are 117 members if you're not one of them please consider joining contact Chris Janovitz on 723564. Remember the more people join the higher the prizes go don't delay.

13th October 2015  
Members 117

Prize	Num	Name
1st	062	Lynn Hutchinson
2nd	044	J Wolowicz
3rd	101	Les Bayliss
4th	014	John McQuillan
	003	J Wolowicz
	028	Catherine Tate
	076	John Paice
	005	Margaret Wilmot

The amounts were £117.00, £64.00, £39.00 and 5 at £10 respectively

10th November 2015  
Members 116

Prize	Num	Name
1st	103	B Speakman
2nd	115	Sharon Gallagher
3rd	091	Meredith Holtby
4th	033	Amanda Wilton
	019	Liz Spensley
	053	Dougy Burke
	085	M Richards
	044	J Wolowicz

The amounts were £116.00, £63.00, £38.00 and 5 at £10 respectively

### Forthcoming Events

20th January Starbucks Gemini 10:30 AM coffee morning

9th February Social St Josephs Club Penketh 7:30 pm OT

8th March Social St Joseph's 7:30 AM Councillor

16th March Tenpin bowling contact Louise 265239

Requests for transport - Jeff Richards 07738609018

## Comprehensive Spending Review

George Osborne announced the comprehensive spending review today, with the expected £12 billion in welfare cuts going ahead as planned.

Key points from his speech:

- The Chancellor said he wanted to increase employment levels amongst people with disabilities and health conditions. In the last year the number of disabled people in full employment has risen by 70,000 to over 3.2 million. He also said the benefits system continues to deliver poor outcomes for people with disabilities and health conditions.
- There will be a new Work and Health Programme after current Work Programme and Work Choice contracts end, to provide specialist support for claimants with health conditions or disabilities and those unemployed for over two years
- The Government will publish a white paper in 2016, which will set out reforms to improve support for people with health conditions and disabilities. It will explore the role of employers, to further reduce the disability employment gap.

Our Chief Executive, Michelle Mitchell said:

“People with progressive, incurable conditions like multiple sclerosis have been left with more uncertainty following today’s comprehensive spending review announcement from the Chancellor.

“While we welcome the Government’s aim of getting more disabled people into work it must recognise that people with conditions like MS face significant additional barriers to employment. Some are simply unable to work.

“We are concerned further savings to the welfare bill will be needed to meet the Chancellor’s £12 billion target. The last set of reforms to disability benefits meant people with MS had to cut down on essential food, heating and hospital appointments – we don’t want to see this happening again.

“Having MS is enough; the Government must not make it harder.”

Published date: 25 Nov 2015

## — Positive results for Primary Progressive MS —

Pharmaceutical company Roche has today announced top-line results from the first positive phase three trial for people with primary progressive MS.

Roche announced the results from three trials testing ocrelizumab in people with both relapsing MS and primary progressive MS at the European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis (ECTRIMS) annual meeting.

### Primary progressive MS

ORATORIO is a phase three trial that compared ocrelizumab to a placebo in over 700 people with primary progressive MS.

Top-line results announced by Roche show treatment with ocrelizumab led to a reduction in the progression of clinical disability by 24% compared to placebo. This reduction was sustained for at least 12 weeks and was measured by the Expanded Disability Status Scale (EDSS).

Ocrelizumab is the first treatment that has shown positive results in a phase three clinical trial for people with primary progressive MS.

### Relapsing MS

Roche also reported on data from OPERA I and OPERA II - phase three trials, which compared ocrelizumab to interferon-beta (Rebif) in over 1,600 people with relapsing MS.

The results from these trials show that ocrelizumab reduced the number of relapses, by 46% in OPERA I and 47% in OPERA II, compared to Rebif.

Ocrelizumab also significantly delayed the onset of clinical disability by 43% in OPERA I and 37% in OPERA II, compared to Rebif.

### How does ocrelizumab work?

Ocrelizumab is an antibody that targets specific cells thought to play a key role in the damage to myelin and nerve fibres that occurs in MS.

It is taken via intravenous infusion (a drip) every six months.

*Hope for primary progressive MS* - Nick Rijke Executive Director for Policy and Research at the MS Society said:

“These phase three trial results will provide a great deal of hope for people with primary progressive MS, who currently don’t have any treatments available that can slow down the worsening of their condition. Finding effective treatments for multiple sclerosis is our number one priority at the MS Society and this is a big moment.

“So far only the top line results from this trial have been announced, so we look forward to seeing the full details with great anticipation. We hope such an encouraging outcome will stimulate further progress in beating this disease.”

*Next steps* - We look forward to seeing the full results of these studies published in a scientific journal.

Roche have reported that they will be submitting the data from OPERA I, OPERA II and ORATORIO in early 2016 to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and European Medicines Agency, so that the licencing process can begin.

Published date: 08 Oct 2015

## ———— Consultation on descriptors for PIP ————

**T**he DWP is at it again! Consultation published about changing the criteria for PIP so that people who use aids to fulfil day-to-day living tasks may not qualify for PIP because the cost of such aids "is small".

DWP appear concerned that people who have lots of varied problems are racking up lots of points in the assessment because they need multiple aids during the day - eg someone might need a sock-puller when they are dressing and an adapted bed to raise them up and a kettle lifter to make tea safely and a magnifier to allow them to read letters etc etc. As a lot of people with MS have multiple problems affecting their activities over an entire day but are able to function to a certain level without having full-time carers these changes might affect people with MS a lot.

Reading between the lines in the explanation for why they are doing the consultation, it appears that the government is a little bit miffed by recent legal decisions regarding descriptor scores being given for use of things such as adaptable beds etc. The whole consultation does appear to be based on the idea that people who can use such aids "aren't THAT disabled" and their disability "is not affecting their life THAT much"

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/484217/pip-consultation-on-aids-and-appliances.pdf](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/484217/pip-consultation-on-aids-and-appliances.pdf)

They are inviting responses not just from organisations representing disabled groups but also from individual people with disabilities. Responses are requested by 29/01/16 - Happy Christmas everybody!

Either type into your browser the above link or visit the branch website address below find this edition in the newsletter section and you will be able to click on the link.

MS Society Forums PPMS

### **Examining the impact - The MS Society's view**

Claire Nurden, Policy Manager at the MS Society: "We were surprised to hear of plans to make changes to a benefit that is just over two years old. What the Government is suggesting will be deeply concerning for many people with disabilities.

"We will be closely examining the impact of these proposed changes on people with MS. We know many people have already been hit hard by the changes to PIP.

"The MS Society will be responding to the consultation, and working in partnership with other charities for people with disabilities to make our voice heard on this important issue.

"We urge the Government to fully consider responses to the consultation. Reductions to this benefit could seriously impact the daily lives of people affected by MS."

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<http://warringtonms.org.uk>  
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**Monday  
Pub Lunch Club  
1st Monday  
of the month**

Currently using  
**Chapelford Farm  
Warrington**

Alternative  
suggestions welcome

Contact Peter Travers  
(01925) 492970

**MS Helpline Freephone  
0808 800 8000**



*Our congratulations to:-*

Graham BANKS	05-Dec
Liz SPENSLEY	08-Dec
Chris JANOVITZ	13-Dec
Stephanie ATHERTON	16-Dec
David HOWIE	18-Dec
Mary BURKE	18-Dec
Jill SHERRATT	19-Dec
Margaret HUGHES	17-Jan
James WILDE	21-Jan
Betty TAYLOR	22-Jan
Jennifer CAIN	06-Feb
Karen DANIELS	06-Feb
Lorraine MORRIS	17-Feb
Nicola BROSTER	25-Feb

**Unwanted Clothes and Shoes  
Bags and Belts**

As a branch we are now recycling and can turn your  
unwanted items into branch funds

Must be clean and dry

Contact Peter Travers tel. 492970

**Listening Ear - Margaret Hughes -(01925) 723917**

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## Bessy's Blog

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It is a great sadness that I have to report that whilst on holiday in the Lake District Bessy passed away (pictured above several years younger). This will be her last blog although it is possible that Dougy and Truffle may take over and look at things from a different angle. As shown below Dougy hasn't been told of Bessy's demise they were so close it will be left until after Christmas, we don't want to upset him at the moment.

Truffle has been told but is a bit young to understand the gravity of the event, she doesn't feel able to comment at this time but is looking forward to 2016 when she hopes to play a bigger role in your lives.

### *Dougy's thoughts.*

Hi Folks, I was recently at the MS Social hot pot night ( not that I got any ) and rumours were flying about the disappearance of Bessy. Well, I can tell you that she's gone to live in a home in Cumbria. I was there when we dropped her off and there was a big sign outside. Now I can't spell but it began "VET". So I asked my friend Poppy who said that it probably said "Veterans Home" which is quite a common place for old dogs to go to. So there. I wonder if she'll write? Dougy

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<http://warringtonms.org.uk>  
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## Court of Protection Ruling

A judge at the Court of Protection has ruled that a woman with AMS, considered by medical experts to be in a 'minimally conscious state', should be allowed to die. Her family asked the court allow doctors to stop providing life sustaining treatment.

The woman, who cannot be identified, lives in a specialist facility in the North West of England.

The case took into account arguments presented by her daughter and other relatives, as well as her doctors, carers, independent medical experts and lawyers appointed to represent her.

Confidential helpline.

We know people affected by MS may be distressed to hear about this case and we would encourage those who feel they would like to talk to someone to call our confidential helpline on 0808 800 8000.

The service is free to anyone who needs it, including friends, family and carers of people with MS.

Published date: 19 Nov 2015

## Raffle & Tombola

Prizes are urgently needed for upcoming functions as stocks are sadly depleted. Please contact any committee member or bring along to any social.

 <p><b>MS Nurse Clinic</b> Carolyn Cairns 0151 529 5645 Woolston Clinic 2nd Monday of the month 2 PM</p>	<p>Support Your Branch</p> <p>Join the hundred+ club</p>  <p>Attend Socials Outings</p>
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# Executive Committee September 2015

## Branch Officers

Chair Mr Paul Harrison.....01606 892151  
 Treasurer Mr John Burke .....824041  
 Secretary Susan Bird.....659439

## Committee Members

Lead Support	Mrs Dorothy Lewis	268820
Fundraising	Mrs Julie Richards.....	573980
Joint Equipment/ Transport	Mr Jim O'Connor.....	451472
Web/DTP	Mr Jeff Richards.....	07738609018
Newsletter	Mr Chris Janovitz.....	723564
Support	Jordan Knight	
Activities	Mrs Rita Harrison.....	01606 892151
Social	Mrs Margaret Wilmot.....	755017
Subscriptions	Mrs Louise Jones.....	265239
Everybody's Help	Mr Peter Travers.....	492970
Everybody's Help	Mrs Mary Burke.....	824041
Everybody's Help	Mr Charles Dooley.....	860112
Everybody's Help	Ms Anita Dubique-Ashton...	828282

This newsletter is published by The Warrington and District branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society. We give regular updates about MS and what is happening locally in the MS community.

Editor: Jordan Knight  
 Layout & printing Chris Janovitz

All views expressed in the publication are individual and not necessarily the view or policy of the charity and its supporters.

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