

Warrington Branch

MIScellany

December 2017

Wishing you all
A Merry Christmas
& A Happy New Year



*Let's hope all our stockings are
full Of Christmas cheer*

and that

*2018 will be a better year
for everyone.*

Membership News

There's not a lot going on in the MS world at the moment it must be because it's Christmas. We do have one new member Sarah Brady welcome to the branch Sarah.

For the second time in 25 years I've missed the Christmas party at Statham Lodge and it was the same reason as last time bodily functions refusing to work efficiently. I did however get to Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) where we hold an afternoon gathering twice a month, it was held on 13 December which is my birthday. Apart from the fact that it was pouring down the afternoon went quite well. There are no more afternoon sessions at WDP until March 2018, the dates are 14th and 28th.

We are still looking for some of our members to help with the content of the newsletter you never know what interests you might also be interesting to other members. It certainly doesn't get easier filling these pages hence why we're down to 8 rather than the usual 12.

Do try to help Jane Stephanie Atherton's daughter in her 1st 10k run details of which are on page 7 it's volunteers like this that we need to help the branch survive, funds are getting harder to raise.

Chris Janovitz

Branch member Carol Hill has started a petition on change.org regarding housing for people with disabilities. She is asking for our help in obtaining signatures to support this. The link is

<http://chn.ge/2g9nhkX>



Our congratulations to:-

Mary BURKE 18-Dec
David HOWIE 18-Dec



Jill SHERRATT 19-Dec
Margaret HUGHES 17-Jan
James WILDE 21-Jan
Betty TAYLOR 22-Jan
Karen DANIELS 06-Feb
Jennifer CAIN 06-Feb
Lorraine MORRIS 17-Feb
Nicola BROSTER 25-Feb
Paul GRAYSON 04-Mar
Jayne DOLPHIN 09-Mar
Adelaide HOUGH 25-Mar
Sandra CURLEY 26-Mar

————— Physiotherapy Service —————

For many years now the Warrington MS Society Branch has offered a free physiotherapy assessment and treatment with the Stroke and Head Injury Clinic to our members. This year we have had to reduce our budget for this service. We hope to continue offering specialist neuro physiotherapy to members for the years to come but our finances are limited and each individual session costs £56.

To try and make this service sustainable we are asking if members would be willing to make occasional donations or perhaps fundraise specifically for the physiotherapy budget. This is a personal choice but would mean more members could have access to the Physio-therapist as and when they need it.

Branch Committee

 <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; transform: rotate(-45deg);">MS Nurse Clinic</p> <p>0151 529 5645 Orford Hub Jubilee Way Orford WA2 8HE</p>	<p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Support Your Branch</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; transform: rotate(-45deg);">Join the hundred+club</p>  <p style="text-align: right; font-weight: bold;">Attend Socials</p> <p style="text-align: center; font-weight: bold;">Outings</p>
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Problems with PIP

Nearly one in three people with MS who apply for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) for the first time are refused the benefit.

The Department for Work and Pensions told us that in the four years since PIP started, 31% (4,100) of new claims from people with MS were found to be not eligible. A further 6% (1,100) qualified for PIP initially, but were turned down after a reassessment.

These figures look at new claims for PIP since 2013. They don't include people being reassessed from Disability Living Allowance (DLA). When people turned down for PIP appeal against the decision, 65% of the time independent tribunals decide they should be awarded the benefit.

Earlier this year, we highlighted that at least £6 million a year has been taken from people with MS who have been reassessed from DLA. All these figures show how the PIP assessment process is fundamentally flawed.

Michelle Mitchell, our Chief Executive, said: "It's insulting that so many people who are diagnosed with a long-term condition are being told they don't qualify for support.

"These latest figures show PIP isn't just hurting those who've been moved across from the old system, but also new people who are trying to get support for the first time.

"PIP is meant to help manage the extra costs of living with a disability and assist people to be more independent. But it's a tougher system than DLA, with much stricter rules. In too many cases, assessments fail to reflect the barriers people with MS face."
Review urgently needed

We're calling on the government to review PIP to make sure assessments accurately reflect the reality of living with MS.

Changes we want to see include:

1. Assessments for people with MS being done by assessors who have professional experience of neurological and fluctuating conditions and adequate training.
2. An evaluation of how PIP rules take into account hidden symptoms like pain, fatigue and cognitive problems.
3. Improvements in processes around providing medical evidence.

Help us campaign on PIP

Have you been refused PIP? Was it when you first applied, at reassessment, or when transferring from DLA? Or have you experienced any other problems with PIP?

Email us at campaigns@mssociety.org.uk to share your story.

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Forthcoming Events	
17th January	Coffee morning M & S Gemini 10:30 AM
4th March	High Legh 10k run
14th March	WDP Beaufort Street afternoon social 2 PM
28th March	WDP Beaufort Street afternoon social 2 PM
Requests for transport - Jeff Richards 07738609018	

MS Helpline Freephone
0800 800 8000

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<http://warringtonms.org.uk>
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100+Club



There are 115 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.

8th November 2017
Members 115

Prize	Num	Name
1st	075	Colin Donaldson
2nd	045	Julie Richards
3rd	082	Rita Harrison
4th	035	J Charnley
	083	J Wood
	115	S Gallagher
	109	Nicola Hopkins
	063	F Dooley

The amounts were £116.00, £62.00, £37.00 and 5 at £10 respectively

26th November 2017
Members 115

Prize	Num	Name
1st	103	B Speakman
2nd	050	John Henthorn
3rd	055	Chris Janovitz
4th	004	M A Price
	045	Julie Richards
	116	M McNamara
	125	S Wilkinson
	127	Peter Eckersley

The amounts were £116.00, £62.00, £37.00 and 5 at £10 respectively

Christmas bonus prize £116 014 John McQuillan

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

———— Donations in lieu of Christmas cards ————

John & Mary Burke
Peter Travers
Karen Daniels
Margo Davies
Kath McQuillan
Zena & Peter Mowbray

Raised £51 for branch funds

———— Donations & Fundraising ————

Chris Ball	£330
Mary Burke (St James Church)	£35
Cash4Clothes	£18
Sainsbury Chapelford	£326
Ryfields	£300
Subs	£65
Donations with subs	£47
C Janovitz (re Chris Ball)	£50
With subs	£5
Subs	£10
Social raffles	£29
E Bay sales	£60
Cash4Clothes	£6
November hundred+club	£310

———— High Legh 10k run 4th March 2018 ————

Stephanie Atherton's daughter Jane Kraska is taking part to raise funds for our branch. This is the first time that Jane has attempted to undertake an event like this, but she is promising to complete the course. Let's give her some support either on the day or by sponsoring her on her justgiving page. For those that don't do Internet please telephone Stephanie on 755477.

Executive Committee October 2017

Branch Officers

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

Committee Members

Lead Support	Mr Peter Travers	492970
Fundraising	Mrs Julie Richards.....	573980
Joint Equipment/ Transport	Mr Jim O'Connor.....	451472
Web/DTP	Mr Jeff Richards.....	07738609018
Support	Mr Chris Janovitz.....	723564
Activities	Mrs Rita Harrison.....	01606 892151
Subscriptions	Mrs Margaret Wilmot.....	755017
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:

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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