

# Warrington Branch

# MIScellany

July 2015

Firstly I would like to apologise for the lateness of the newsletter however a sudden change in jobs and my mother's medical condition has seen me unable to complete this as quickly as I would of liked.

It was quite a humbling moment to be asked to join the committee for the MS Society in Warrington at our AM in May. From my perspective the worst part about it was I couldn't be there due to illness!

I am pleased to inform everyone that at the last minute my mum and I managed to organise an event for the MS Cake Bake day on May 15th and that we have raised £175.00 which will be donated to the MS Society here in Warrington. It was a very busy and hectic few days which we

are very proud to be a part of. My own personal thanks goes to friends and family but also Scottish Power, Warrington NHS Hospital and Touchline UK for their kind donations. As well as the MS Society in Warrington, part of our work went to GiftUK, a new charity specialising in the awareness of Gastroparesis and Intestinal Failure, a condition my mum has suffered from now for around five years.

Recently, the branch joined other leading local businesses and charaties in promoting Disability

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<http://warringtonms.org.uk>  
.....

Awareness day and I believe all branch members would welcome the opportunity to thank all who have taken part in DAD and we look forward to attending again no doubt in 2016.

I believe many of the Society will join me in congratulating and commending the work of Mike Homer on his fundraising campaign and his attempts to travel to as many of the MS Societies with in the UK as he can using the rail network. The branch were on hand to greet Mike and congratulate him on his fantastic work. We are all very proud of our very own Mary Burke who was a big part of the clinical trials day based at the Walton Centre

I am also using this piece this month to extend my appeal to anyone who has gone above and beyond for the MS Society in Warrington, has enjoyed a day out or holiday in a place we haven't previously mentioned, or is in need of some promotion of an event they are planning to get in touch with me via email. Please do not be offended if your piece doesn't make the editorial and I will do my level best to make sure everyone gets a go in the newsletter merry-go-round. If you have any stories or things you need promoting please email me on [jknight012@outlook.com](mailto:jknight012@outlook.com)

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## Early Warning

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I know it's a fair way off but at the October social Sharon and Jenny neuro- physiotherapists are having a question and answer session and if time allows a demonstration on the approach they use to treat people with multiple sclerosis and the benefits of it. If you haven't had a one-to-one situation with a neuro-physiotherapist you can't afford to miss this social.



*MS Nurse Clinic*  
**Carolyn Cairns**  
**0151 529 5645**  
Woolston Clinic  
2nd Monday of the month  
2 PM

Support Your Branch



Attend Socials  
Outings

*Join the hundred+ club*



**Monday  
Pub Lunch Club  
1st Monday  
of the month**

**Currently using  
Chapelford Farm  
Warrington**

**Alternative  
suggestions welcome**

**Contact Peter Travers  
(01925) 492970**



*Our Congratulations to:-*

|                  |        |
|------------------|--------|
| Keith MADDOCKS   | 11-Jul |
| Christine ASKEW  | 17-Jul |
| Tina DUTTON      | 25-Jul |
| Pamela LILFORD   | 03-Aug |
| Wendy HARMER     | 07-Aug |
| Judith WALSH     | 08-Aug |
| Charles E DOOLEY | 14-Aug |
| Lorna FLAHERTY   | 30-Aug |
| Rita DALY        | 24-Sep |
| Glenis ENRIGHT   | 25-Sep |
| Les BAYLISS      | 29-Sep |

**MS Helpline Freephone  
0808 800 8000**

**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**

## — Huge variation in local support for carers —

**A** new report to mark the start of Carers' Week has shown a huge variation in the support received by those looking after an older, disabled or seriously ill family members or friends.

A study of nearly 5,000 carers and former carers found that 65% would characterise one or more of their local services as not being carer-friendly, as it fails to recognise and support them in their caring role. As a consequence, six in ten (61%) carers say this lack of support is having a negative impact on their health. Two-thirds (65%) of carers say the experience of local services that fail to consider or support them has made it more difficult to look after the person they are caring for.

This lottery of local support has driven the six charities behind Carers Week 2015 to call on individuals, organisations and services to build more carer-friendly communities to improve the lives of local carers.

Sue Allison, the MS Society's Programme Lead – Carers, comments:

"The support provided by the UK's 6.5 million unpaid carers saves the country £119bn a year and this contribution deserves respect and recognition. Carers need to be able to rely on local services and communities for the support they need."

Carers' Week is supported by the MS Society along with Age UK, Carers Trust, Independent Age, Macmillan Cancer Support and Carers UK. It is an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring, highlight the challenges carers face and recognise the contribution they make throughout the UK.

Published date: 08 Jun 2015

### Earlier Hundred+club Winners

March winners 1st 048 Pat Ordish £119, 2nd 102 J Moston £66, 3rd 113 G Lilford £39 and 5 at £10 J Pace 046, Christine Bowers 081, Carol Little 079, Linda Atkinson 060 & Doris Burgess 061.

April winners 1st 011 Carol Hill £119, 2nd 030 John Burke £66, 3rd 042 Jim Wilde £39 and 5 at £10 E Martin 071, John McQuillan 014, Angela McEwan 073, C Wareing 078 & J Moston 102.

## — Government Rush Ahead to roll out Benefit —

The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) has quietly announced a new earlier start date for reassessment of disability living allowance (DLA) claimants as they continue to roll out the troubled personal independence payment (PIP).

More DLA claimants will start being assessed for PIP from 13 July 2015, instead of from October. This is despite repeated calls from charities, including the MS Society, to halt the roll out until the system is fit for purpose.

The current system has been beset by backlogs and delays which left many disabled people waiting in excess of six months, and in some cases over a year, for their claim to be processed.

Current figures show that 140,000 people with disabilities are still waiting for their PIP decision. As of March of this year, nearly a third of outstanding claimants had waited over 20 weeks for a decision on their claim.

The DWP state that they have reduced the time it takes for a claim to be dealt with, but we are concerned that this is not the whole story.

Our chief executive Michelle Mitchell says "We are surprised and concerned at the Government's decision to introduce yet more people to this troubled process ahead of time. The Government must stop the roll out until it can demonstrate that the system is fit for purpose for all claimants. This decision will be a surprise to thousands of people who were not expecting to be reassessed until October."

What does this mean for people with MS?

Some people currently receiving DLA will now be invited for reassessment for PIP earlier than expected. This will start with 3,000 claimants chosen at random from a handful of postcodes in the North-West and Midlands as follows: Blackburn (BB), Bolton (BL), Derby (DE), Leicester (LE), Manchester (M), Oldham (OL), Preston (PR), Stoke on Trent (ST), **Warrington** (WA) and Wigan (WN).

Published date: 26 Jun 2015

## ————— New Guidelines for MS Released —————

**T**oday the Association of British Neurologists (ABN) has published a new prescribing guideline that advises how Disease Modifying Therapies (DMTs) for relapsing remitting MS should be prescribed and monitored in UK practice.

There are ten DMTs currently available on the NHS and 11 in Scotland. Taking a DMT has a significant impact on the course of MS, preventing relapses and slowing the worsening of disability. They enable people with MS to take greater control of their condition and their lives.

What do they say?

The new guidelines advise that:

- Treatment should begin as close to diagnosis as possible.
- MRI scanning should be used routinely to support diagnosis, determine prognosis and inform treatment decisions.
- Decisions on treatment options should be made jointly between the person with MS and their neurologist

Appropriate and timely treatment

Nick Rijke, Executive Director of Policy and Research, MS Society says:

“We are very pleased the ABN recommends treatment with DMTs and recognises the importance of shared decision-making between neurologist and patient when deciding which route to take. We also welcome the emphasis on MRI scanning to support diagnosis and make better treatment decisions. The combination of these recommendations should help ensure fast diagnosis and appropriate, timely treatment for people with MS.

“There are ten DMTs available on the NHS in the UK (11 in Scotland). However our evidence from 2012 showed six in ten people with a relapsing remitting MS are not taking DMTs. We call on government bodies like NICE and NHS England to ensure that everyone with MS has access to the right treatment at the right time no matter where they live.”

Campaign for the right treatment at the right time. Our Treat Me Right campaign calls for everyone with MS to have access to the right treatment at the right time. Find out more about the campaign and how you can support it [www.treatmerightms.org.uk](http://www.treatmerightms.org.uk)

Published date: 22 Jun 2015

## 100+Club



There are 119 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.

12th May 2015

Members 119

| Prize | Num | Name             |
|-------|-----|------------------|
| 1st   | 003 | J Wolowicz       |
| 2nd   | 067 | Jayne Dolphin    |
| 3rd   | 073 | Angela McKeown   |
| 4th   | 023 | Christina Secker |
|       | 042 | Jim Wilde        |
|       | 052 | Lorraine Morris  |
|       | 105 | Roger Williams   |
|       | 110 | Roger Williams   |

The amounts were £119.00, £66.00, £40.00 and 5 at £10 respectively

9th June 2015

Members 119

| Prize | Num | Name            |
|-------|-----|-----------------|
| 1st   | 052 | Lorraine Morris |
| 2nd   | 004 | M A Price       |
| 3rd   | 024 | Dorothy Lewis   |
| 4th   | 113 | George Lilford  |
|       | 123 | S Bird          |
|       | 060 | Linda Atkinson  |
|       | 036 | J Sexton        |
|       | 049 | Julia Wilton    |

The amounts were £119.00, £66.00, £40.00 and 5 at £10 respectively

## — MS Society Responds to High Court Ruling —

In a landmark case today, a high court judge declared that the delays experienced by two disabled people waiting for Personal Independence Payment (PIP) were "not only unacceptable... but...unlawful".

Both disabled people claimed that the delays they had experienced waiting for payments breached their human rights. Although the Department of Works and Pensions agreed the delays were unacceptable, they had tried to argue they were not unlawful.

The court ruled the pair's human rights were not breached, however the declaration is still important as it recognises the distress caused by these delays.

Anne-Marie Irwin, the public lawyer leading the cases, said it was a "significant legal judgement".

Our chief executive, Michelle Mitchell says:

"We welcome the High Court's recognition of the level of distress and turmoil the delays to accessing PIP have caused disabled people. The delays have left people with multiple sclerosis (MS) in financial dire straits. Since PIP was introduced, people with MS have reported waiting more than six months, and in some cases over a year, for a decision to be made on their claim.

"The Government is reporting improvements to waiting times, and these are welcome. But the level of reported improvement is still not the case for all claimants.

"The roll out of PIP has been done in stages until now, but significant numbers of people who are being switched over from Disability Living Allowance will be added to the system in October. The Department for Work and Pensions must halt this course of action until the system is fit for purpose."

Help make a difference. We're campaigning to help people with MS get a fair deal. If you want to hear more about what we do and how you can help, please sign up to our campaigns newsletter.

Published date: 05 Jun 2015

## —Frontiers 2015: the Latest in MS Research—

**T**oday our biennial research conference, MS Frontiers, kicks off, bringing together experts from across the globe to discuss the latest in MS research.

At the MS Society we place great value on research. We've seen the impact the £150 million we've already invested in research has made on the lives of people with MS. There have been a number of exciting breakthroughs in recent years. We want to see this progress continue and translate to effective treatments as soon as possible.

MS Frontiers brings together experts from across the world to speak about MS research, which spans many different disciplines and involves a wide range of dedicated health professionals. This is a key opportunity for researchers, neurologists, clinicians and allied health professionals to present their latest work, share ideas and discuss the challenges they face.

### Our research priorities

In 2013 we established the top 10 research questions important to people with MS, to ensure that people living with the disease are at the centre of our research strategy. The MS Frontiers programme reflects these research priorities with presentations and discussions covering topics including:

- |                          |                                   |
|--------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Neuroprotection          | Mechanisms of disease progression |
| Personalised treatment   | Rehabilitation                    |
| MS risk factors          | Stem cell treatment               |
| Imaging techniques       | Biomarkers                        |
| Fatigue                  | Health and social care            |
| Cognitive rehabilitation |                                   |

### Recognising commitment to MS research

As well as a platform for discussion and sharing of knowledge, MS Frontiers also provides an opportunity for us to recognise the commitment individual researchers have made to MS research throughout their careers.

This year, Professor David Miller will deliver the prestigious Ian McDonald Memorial Lecture, sharing insights from the 30 years he has dedicated to imaging research in MS.

This is an incredibly exciting time for MS research, we're looking forward to hearing the latest from the field. Check back on our research blog later this week for a report and round up of the conference.

Published date: 29 Jun 2015

## Bessy's Blog

Dear readers

Over the years I've tried to teach you some of the things you need to know about us dogs. There is one more thing I must share with you i.e. chronic canine amnesia or CCA. I'll use Dougy as an example. First thing in the morning, he wants to go outside. The staff let him out but 10 minutes later he wants to go out again. You see he's forgotten that he's been out. That's CCA. He gets fed at 9.00 o'clock but 5 minutes later, he's hungry again; yes CCA. You may have noticed it in your dogs because we all suffer from it. So next time your well fed dog is peckish, give him some food because you see it's not his fault. Next month, I'll tell you all about chronic canine amnesia

PS If you think I'm sometimes hard on Dougy, see the photo below showing what happened when Mary bought us **each** a new bed.

### Truffles Tales

I've just been told there's not enough room to tell you about my traumatic month it's not fair something to do with the editorial being late. It'll keep till next time. By the way Bessy the beds look smart.



## Socials

Socials the next few months are as follows August staff from Livewire who are providers of leisure services in Warrington will be giving a talk on what they provide, September will be Sue Hogan from Warrington Borough Council telling us about the free courses that the council provide, October Sharon and Jenny neurological physiotherapists will do question and answer session and in November a hot pot supper, get the dates in your diary it is always the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Already earmarked for next year are occupational therapist, making IT (information technology) accessible to all, body shop & talk by the CAB.

I am trying to organise trips bowling & on the canal - Wizard. If interested in either please let me know which & whether an eve midweek/weekend/daytime weekday is best for you. Wizard maybe next year so fingers crossed good weather !

Coffee mornings at Harvester 3rd Wednesday in Month at 10.30. Mostly we met at Ashley Sandler's MS gym at Warrington Hospital. All mobile & enjoying life to the full. We meet on Weds to fit in with someone's work pattern.

Lunch at Skymaster. Alternative months. 4th Thursday 12.30. August 27th is next lunch !

Louise Jones Email [milobead@gmail.com](mailto:milobead@gmail.com)

| Forthcoming Events                                 |  |
|--|--|
| 3rd August   | Pub lunch Chapelford 12 noon             |
| 11th August  | Social St Josephs Club Penketh 7:30 pm   |
| 19th August  | Coffee morning Harvester Gemini 10:30 AM |
| 8th September                                      | Social St Joseph's club Penketh 7:30 PM  |
| Requests for transport - Jeff Richards 07738609018 |  |

# Executive Committee May 2015

## Branch Officers

|           |                        |              |
|-----------|------------------------|--------------|
| Chair     | Mr Paul Harrison.....  | 01606 892151 |
| Secretary | Mrs Elaine Magill..... | 637120       |
| Treasurer | Mr John Burke .....    | 824041       |

## Committee Members

|                               |                             |              |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------|
| Lead Support                  | Mrs Dorothy Lewis           | 268820       |
| Fundraising                   | Mrs Julie Richards.....     | 573980       |
| Joint Equipment/<br>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              | Ms Amanda Wilton.....       | 726758       |
| Everybody's Help              | Mrs Julia Wilton.....       | 726758       |
| 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.

Charity number 1139257