

Warrington Branch

MIScellany

May 2017

Thank You Party

13th June 2017 8PM

Spend the evening with friends and our benefactors who have helped the branch over last 12 months.

Buffet & wine.

St Josephs club, Meeting Lane, Penketh.

Tombola

Prizes are urgently needed for DAD as stocks are sadly depleted. Please contact any committee member.

It seems a long time since I last completed a newsletter but it is not that long really it was posted on 9 March. Previous years newsletter dates were tied to the fact that we had an annual meeting that information had to be passed to members at a fixed time before the meeting took place. Because of changes within the society there is no longer a necessity of being elected to a committee you just have to be a volunteer.

You will have noticed the advance warning of the Thank You Party on the front page please try and attend and help make the event successful. We also have the request for tombola items Disability Awareness Day is on Sunday 16 July so there is plenty time to collect a few items and contact any committee member who will arrange to have them collected. Last year as well as advertising ourselves to vast numbers of Warrington people the tombola raised £371. Let's try and beat it this year.

There's not been a lot going on within the branch over the last few months, and not any new news stories about MS in the media. Not having the socials in April and May and non-attendance in February and March hasn't helped me gather things to print here. Hope something comes of the survey that was sent out earlier in the year and we can move on to whatever the outcome is.

At the moment we are in the throes of a general election and the release of political parties manifestoes has given us something to think about our futures. We are a community of people some of whom will require care because of their present conditions let alone any future illnesses that may be contracted. On top of that there are already some members who are having care in the community and a few in nursing homes what will their status become. Will the couples that have Trust Wills have them honoured in all the calculations, what will be the split between personal care and NHS care. Apparently the House of Lords previously have tended not to oppose Bills that are in a particular parties manifesto. I suppose it will be just a matter of wait and see and hope for the best or alternatively release the equity and spend the money. The 2 main sides are offering vastly different solutions but remember none of them can be forced to happen.



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

**Currently using
Chapelford Farm
Warrington**

**Alternative
suggestions welcome**

**Contact Peter Travers
(01925) 492970**



Congratulations to:-

Maureen MORGAN	20-May
James WILMOT	27-May
Julie HOLIDAY-PLATT	31-May
Francis V HARRIS	05-Jun
Sue BURNS	12-Jun
Pat ORDISH	13-Jun
Barry TAYLOR	15-Jun
Louise JONES	18-Jun
Geoff SPEED	19-Jun
Karen CRITCHLEY	20-Jun
Susan BIRD	08-Jul
Keith MADDOCKS	11-Jul
Christine ASKEW	17-Jul
Tina DUTTON	25-Jul

**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 - Margret Hughes - 01925 723917

100+Club



There are 116 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.

14th March 2017
Members 116

Prize	Num	Name
1st	036	J Sexton
2nd	015	G L Short
3rd	021	J Wogan
4th	057	Keith Maddocks
	110	Roger Williams
	022	A G Speed
	003	J Wolowicz
	099	Janet Wrenshall

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

24th April 2017
Members 116

Prize	Num	Name
1st	060	Linda Atkinson
2nd	015	G L Short
3rd	127	Peter Eckersley
4th	093	Pat Yuile
	023	Christine Secker
	039	Colin Berry
	080	Michelle Senior
	044	J Wolowicz

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

Forthcoming Events

5th June	Pub lunch Chapelford 12 noon
13th June	Thank You Buffet St Josephs Club 7:30 pm
21st June	M&S Gemini 10:30 AM upstairs cafe coffee
3rd July	Pub lunch Chapelford 12 noon

Requests for transport - Jeff Richards 07738609018

Changes to Mobility Allowance

Some people with MS are eligible for a car, scooter or powered wheelchair. You qualify if you're on the higher rate mobility component of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) or the enhanced rate mobility component of Personal Independence Payment (PIP).

At present, people who lose the higher rate mobility component of DLA, or the enhanced rate mobility component of PIP, are no longer entitled to a vehicle.

Before the announcement, they had to give their vehicle back after three weeks, even if they disagreed with the decision, decided to ask for reconsideration, and then appealed it. Sometimes they went on to win their reconsideration or appeal, and got their vehicle back anyway.

Now they'll be able to keep their Motability vehicle for longer, depending when they joined the Scheme. If people take advantage of this option, their level of transitional support payment (a one-off payment for people who joined the Scheme before 2014) will be reduced.

So, some people will now be able to keep their vehicle during the process of mandatory reconsideration and appeal.

Our Policy Manager Laura Wetherly, said:

“Extending the Motability Scheme is a welcome, if small, step towards making a welfare system that makes sense.

“Many people with MS who rely on their Motability cars will be relieved to know they can avoid the distress and expense of losing their cars after receiving the initial PIP decision.

“Right now, some people have them returned, but only after a lengthy and stressful appeal.

“There's still a lot to be done to make sure disability benefits assessments work for people with MS. Initial PIP decisions are often inaccurate, meaning people have to appeal to get what they deserve. PIP assessment criteria must be improved to accurately reflect the barriers people with MS face.”

Published 2nd May 2017

Letter to Party Leaders

Today, we're launching an open letter to Party Leaders, to urge them to protect disability benefits. We're calling for no more cuts in the next UK Government.

Add your voice, call for no more cuts to disability benefits

Joining up with other charities to send a strong message

We're launching the letter as members of the Disability Benefits Consortium. Together, we're a national coalition of more than 80 charities and organisations, so our message is all the stronger.

We're standing up for more than 13 million disabled people in the UK, who spend an average of £550 a month on costs related to their disability. That's 13million lives.

We recently asked our campaigns community what issues matter to you this election. Hundreds of you contacted us, but there was one issue that stood out – disability benefits.

Recent changes have led to stressful assessments and delays, and tighter eligibility criteria. These issues have made life more difficult for many people with MS.

Make welfare make sense

We launched the MS: Enough campaign to bring attention to welfare issues affecting people with MS. You told us many of you are having to make difficult choices. Choices like whether you can afford to buy basic essentials, attend hospital appointments or spend time with family and friends.

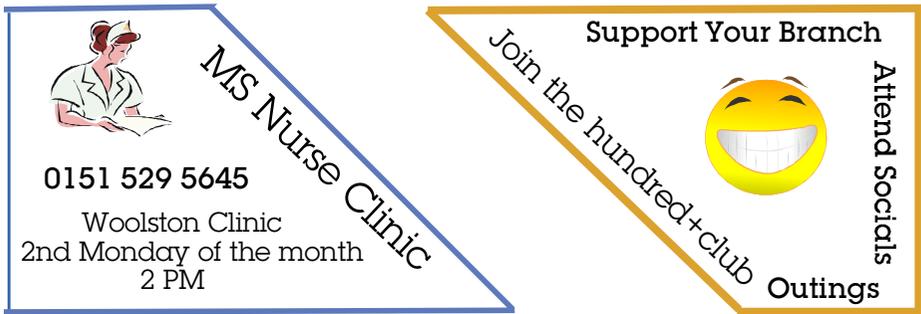
We must be able to rely on support when we need it, without constant fear of having it taken away.

Financial support is vital for people with MS

Our Chief Executive Michelle Mitchell says: "Financial support is vital for people with MS to live independent lives and participate fully in society.

"We have a crucial opportunity to make our voice heard before the election. We're urging Party Leaders to protect disability benefits from further cuts in the next Parliament."

Published 12th May 2017



U-turn on Proposed Changes

After the story on page 2 which was printed yesterday breaking news at this time 3 PM on 22nd of May there has been somewhat of a U-turn on future changes to for residential and home care.

Plans for social care reform will now include a cap on total contributions, the prime minister said after criticism of the policy mounted. Speaking in Wrexham, Mrs May accused Labour leader Jeremy Corbyn of resorting to "fake claims, fear and scaremongering" over the impact of her plans.

She said: "This manifesto says that we will come forward with a consultation paper, a government green paper. "And that consultation will include an absolute limit on the amount people have to pay for their care costs."

Labour has continued to close the gap on the Conservatives following the publication of Theresa May's manifesto.

Whether all this will make any difference to the final outcome we will have to wait until the election result and the size of any majority for either party..

Social Survey

Thanks to all who have responded,

We are at present in the process of fully analysing the information, So far, however, it appears that there is little support for an "ongoing monthly social meeting", of the traditional format, however, we have had a number of suggestions about less frequent meetings and just "semi - formal, unstructured gatherings etc to allow people just to talk.

We are exploring the various possibilities and will get back to you as soon as we can.

Paul Harrison (Chairman)

Tonic Survey Neurological Conditions

TONiC (Trajectories of Outcomes in Neurological Conditions) is basically a very detailed lifestyle questionnaire for people with MS and MND. Over 11000 people with MS, from right across the UK are already taking part in the study. The questionnaire also has a section for partners/relatives/carers to take into account their views on how MS is affecting the person close to them and the information coming out of this study is already changing the way neurologists think and treat people.
<https://tonic.thewaltoncentre.nhs.uk/>

To make the best use of time, funds and human resources we are planning a day with 2 x2 hour sessions repeated 3 times each during the same day. Session 1 would be aimed at people signing up for TONiC for the first time and Session 2 would be for people who had already completed the first questionnaire but who have not signed up to continue on the study.

Most of you will be receiving an invitation from the Walton Centre to attend a session which will take place on 31 May 2017

— Benefits Assessors Introduce a New Tool —

Since we launched MS:Enough in 2015, what you've told us about your experiences has shaped our calls for a welfare system that makes sense. So we were delighted to hear this new tool to help assessors consider changing symptoms is being rolled out.

What does the new guide do to improve assessment?

Assessors for Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) will now all be given a guide and additional training on fluctuating conditions, like MS.

The guide will be in assessment rooms to prompt assessors to ask more questions about how your condition changes.

Much needed common-sense change.

Many of you have regularly told us that tests for disability benefits don't consider how MS changes over time and day to day.

45% of you who responded to our MS:Enough survey and had been through the Work Capability Assessment (WCA) disagreed that it took into account how your symptoms fluctuate.

How we helped make sure assessors consider fluctuating symptoms.

We have continuously called on the Government and assessment providers to improve.

We were involved in designing this guide and getting it introduced and have reviewed the new training materials.

We hope this will mean assessors think more about how MS changes and help make sure you can get the support you need.

Get involved to make welfare make sense.

We'll be keeping an eye on the effect the tool has and how it's used. But we know there's more to do.

More changes are needed to make welfare make sense for people with MS. We need to keep campaigning to get them.

Published 2nd May 2017

Hospital Admissions

More people with MS are being admitted to hospital for emergency care that could be avoided, according to new figures published last week.

Wilmington Healthcare is an organisation that provides health-care data and insight. They worked with the MS Trust to analyse hospital admission records of people in England over the past two years. They found that:

- There were 26,679 emergency hospital admissions for people with MS in 2015/16, compared to 23,665 in 2013/14. That's an increase of 12.7%

These admissions have cost the NHS a total of £46 million.

- A large proportion of this emergency care was for problems which could have been avoided, like urinary tract infections, respiratory issues, and bladder and bowel issues.
- One in five of all people living with MS in England were admitted to hospital as an emergency in 2015/16.

Prevention is key

Sue Thomas, from Wilmington Healthcare, says this latest report shows the problems highlighted in their original 2013/4 analysis have increased.

But if more was done earlier to prevent the need for emergency care, people with MS would benefit greatly. It would also reduce pressures on struggling A&E departments.

Time to improve access to the right support

We know how crucial it is for people with MS to have access to timely and personalised treatment, care and support. But the hallmarks of this are lacking. In our 2016 My MS My Needs survey, just 12% of people said they'd been offered a care plan or care plan review, and 17% said their health and care professionals don't work well together at all.

We must address problems before they reach crisis

Genevieve Edwards, our Director of External Affairs, said: "It's really important that people with MS are able to receive specialist support when they need it.

"Having access to health professionals providing a range of support, such as MS nurses, physiotherapists and continence specialists means that people can address problems before they get into crisis.

"We want to see more people with MS being offered annual reviews of treatment and care which draw on expertise from a range of health professionals. This would mean people were able to take greater control of their care, and could mean emergency admissions of people with MS are avoided."

Published 2nd May 2017

**MS Helpline Freephone
0808 800 8000**

———— Donations & Fundraising ————

March 2017 to April 2017

100+ club March	£355
Cash4Clothes	£24
Donations with subs	£82
Beehive Store collecting box	£18
J Wogan	£37
Green Jacket Society (Birchwood Golf Club)	£250
Donations with subs	£35
100+ club April	£360

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<http://warringtonms.org.uk>
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Executive Committee January 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
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:

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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