

Warrington Branch

MIScellany

October 2017

Where has the year gone. The Christmas menu and reply slip for Statham Lodge is included in this newsletter (page 4 & 5), by the time you receive it the function will be only 8 weeks away. Following on from this on Saturday 2nd of December at the Everyman Theatre Rock & roll pantomime for a change we have booked tickets for a matinee performance. They are limited so please telephone Paul (see back page) to reserve your place.

Chris Ball's endurance event took place on 13th of August and the weather although not good did manage to remain dry for the most of it. (See picture on page 2) Peter and myself did manage the last 2 laps with Chris.

He has raised at the moment £850 for the branch and a massive £15,000 for the Mayors charity. Together with 3 other charities we will benefit from this. Have you hung up your boots Chris you did look tired on that last lap. I was disappointed that none of our members volunteered to do a lap and apart from a few nobody came to wish him well. Long gone are the days when our sponsored walk raised £15,000.

Continued over

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



There is a collection day at Sainsbury's Chapelford on 6 and 7 of October help is needed if you can do a couple of hours either day please contact Peter on 492970.

The afternoon sessions that have replaced evening socials have been quite well attended and the next 2 sessions are the 11th & 25th of October at 2 PM at Warrington Disability Partnership if you would like to attend but can't manage that day please get in touch with your preference.

————— Forthcoming Events —————	
2nd October	Pub lunch Chapelford 12 noon
6 & 7th October	Collection Sainsbury's Chapelford
11th October	Afternoon chat 2 PM WDP Beaufort Street
25th October	Afternoon chat 2 PM WDP Beaufort Street
26th November	Christmas party Statham Lodge
2nd December	Pantomime Everyman afternoon
Requests for transport - Jeff Richards 07738609018	



**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
0800 800 8000



Our congratulations to:-

Jane AVERY	01-Oct
Jon WRIGHT	14-Oct
Stephen ROBINSON	16-Oct
Janet BRAMALL	25-Oct
Philip JONES	26-Oct
John McQUILLAN	28-Oct
Lee GORMAN	23-Nov
Graham BANKS	05-Dec
Liz SPENSLEY	08-Dec
Chris JANOVITZ	13-Dec
StephanieATHERTON	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

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

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.

16th August 2017
Members 115

Prize	Num	Name
1st	033	Amanda Wiltonl
2nd	004	M Price
3rd	046	J Paice
4th	114	M McNamara
	082	Rita Harrison
	103	B Speakman
	060	Linda Atkinson
	068	B Burke

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

11th September 2017
Members 115

Prize	Num	Name
1st	114	Mary McNamara
2nd	035	James Charnley
3rd	091	Meri Williamson
4th	048	Pat Ordish
	093	Pat Yuile
	121	Kathryn Hassett
	016	Barry Daniels
	127	Peter Eckersley

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



.....
Statham Lodge 12:30 PM for 1 PM
Sunday 26 November 2017

Your name.....

Your postcode.....

The cost of the meal is £21 cheques should be made payable to Warrington branch MS society. We have to confirm numbers by 7th November SO DON'T DELAY in returning this slip.

Warrington Branch Christmas party Sunday 26th of November 2017

Menu choices will be made at the table

Sweet potato, Carrot & Coriander soup (V GF VG)

or

Honeydew Melon (V VG)

St Clement's granita

or

Black Pudding Muffin

English breakfast muffin topped with Bury Black pudding,
soft-boiled egg & a wholegrain mustard cream sauce

Garnished with a crispy pancetta

Traditional Roast Turkey

sage & onion stuffing (n), chipolata sausage, roast gravy(N)

or

Roast Loin of Cheshire Pork

Bramley apple sauce, sage & onion stuffing (n), roast gravy

or

Roast Fillet of Salmon

winter greens, Honey, chilli & soy dressing

(Vegetarian)

Cheshire Cheese Tartlet

Vine tomato, Asparagus & Cheshire cheese tartlet Pea shoot &
rocket salad, cider vinaigrette

Homemade Christmas Pudding & rum sauce (N)

or

Lemon & Strawberry Posset (GF)

Essential old English dessert of fresh lemons & cream

Topped with macerated strawberries

or

Cheese and Biscuits

a selection of British & Continental cheeses served with biscuits, celery & grapes

Filter coffee & mince pies

————— **Social Workers Speak Out** —————

Social workers have spoken out about the devastating impact cuts are having on people who rely on care and support.

It's the job of social workers to assess what support someone needs to keep them safe and able to live independently. Community Care magazine and the Care and Support Alliance, which we are part of, surveyed social workers about the challenges they face trying to get people the care they need.

Vulnerable people at risk

Almost 500 social workers took part in the survey. Their comments reveal the incredibly difficult position they're often in, as they increasingly have to restrict or remove care entirely due to lack of resources.

For example: "There is strong pressure from my line manager and commissioners to reduce costs as a main priority."

"Colleagues constantly battle to keep packages at an adequate level to support clients...."

Their descriptions of what cuts can mean in practice to people who need care were appalling:

"A person with hoarding issues and a tendency to eat rotten food had their shopping and housework call cut, resulting in an admission to hospital with food poisoning."

"The person requires support with walking to the bathroom, but due to the cost he is now required to contribute towards it so he has decided he would rather have the risk of falling than an evening call."

No more time to waste

Our Chief Executive, Michelle Mitchell, responded: "This report lays bare the harrowing realities social workers face thanks to a system that hasn't been properly funded for decades. Our own research shows that too many people with MS are bearing the brunt of cuts, with one in three not getting support with essential everyday tasks.

“The Government has promised to improve the social care system and additional funding and reform has to come quickly. People who desperately rely on care shouldn’t be forced to keep paying the price for their inaction.”

6 weeks of action for MS

Over the next few weeks, we're calling on everyone to speak up for the rights of people with MS. We'll be asking you to take action on social care at the end of this month.

Published 20 September 2017

— Early treatment with aggressive DMT’s —

New study will investigate whether early treatment with aggressive disease modifying therapies (DMTs) could benefit people with MS.

The project has received £10 million for clinical trials in the UK and the US. It will last five years and involve 800 people with relapsing MS from the UK.

Dr Nikos Evangelou from the University of Nottingham, who is running the trial in the UK, said: “As we diagnose MS, we still don’t know how best to treat it. Some doctors advocate hitting the disease hard to avoid the damage and disability that can develop early, and some suggest going more slowly to avoid potential side effects of the medicine.”

Our James Lind Alliance Priority Setting Partnership asked people with MS what research questions were most important to them. Answering this question is one of the top 10 priorities.

We gave £100,000 seed funding to develop the initiative through the UK MS Clinical Trials Network (CTN). The trial is now being funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute in the US.

Dr Susan Kohlhaas, Interim Director of Research at the MS Society said: “MS is an unpredictable condition that is different for everyone, making it difficult for people to know how to balance the risks and benefits of intensive treatments.

Continued page 8

Continued from page 7

“We’re proud to have supported the development of this programme through our Clinical Trial Network and look forward to these important questions being answered.”

What’s next?

We’ll share details of how people can participate in the study when they become available. This may not be for a few months.

Published 21 September 2017

PIP Is Not Working

A report out today shows that PIP (Personal Independence Payment) isn’t working for people with long-term conditions and disabilities.

Earlier this year, lots of you took the Big Benefits Survey and shared your experiences of claiming PIP. Your answers helped form today’s report and its recommendations. You told us PIP isn’t working for people with MS. Today’s report shows that PIP isn’t working for lots of other people with long-term conditions and disabilities either.

We need action on PIP

This report is part of the work we do as a member of the Disability Benefits Consortium (DBC). The results are worrying.

- Over half the people who took the survey felt the assessor didn’t understand their condition.
- More than three quarters agreed the stress and anxiety associated with their PIP assessment made their condition worse.

Take action to make PIP work for everyone

We need MPs to write to the Minister for Disabled People, Health and Work – Penny Mordaunt MP – to urgently reform PIP. You can help. Write to your MP today to tell them that PIP isn’t working, and ask them to take action.

Continued on page 9

People with MS have lost out on at least £6 million a year in benefits since Personal Independence Payment (PIP) was introduced.

PIP started to replace Disability Living Allowance (DLA) in 2013.

The Department for Work and Pensions has told us that between October 2013 and October 2016:

- almost one in three people (2,600) with MS who received the highest rate mobility component of DLA had their payments cut after being reassessed for PIP.
- nearly a quarter (800) who received the highest rate for the care component of DLA had their payments cut after reassessment for PIP.

This discovery comes from a freedom of information request we made to understand the extent of benefit cuts.

The system doesn't make sense. Genevieve Edwards, our Director of External Affairs, said: "These staggering figures show how PIP is failing some people with MS who need the highest level of support. "It doesn't make sense that people are losing money they once qualified for, when they are living with a progressive condition."

PIP assessments must improve. We're concerned too many people aren't getting what they're entitled to. We know you're often not given the chance to properly explain what it's really like living with MS in your assessments. And assessors rarely understand how unpredictable it can be.

What's more, it's now harder to qualify for the highest rate of mobility support for PIP.

Before the changes, you wouldn't receive the higher level of support if you could walk more than 50m. Now you won't get the higher rate if you can walk more than 20m – including with sticks or walking aids.

We don't think this is fair.

Time to fix this broken system

We're calling on the Government to urgently fix this broken system and ensure PIP assessments reflect the realities of living with MS.

Having MS is hard enough. It shouldn't be made harder by a system that doesn't make sense.

Prescribing problem in Northern Ireland

The main prescribing centre in Northern Ireland, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust, has put forward plans to delay access to Disease Modifying Therapies for new patients with MS. Although we understand the financial pressure they must be under, delaying access to treatments is not a solution. These plans are not yet approved so could still be stopped. If we stand together we can make a difference.

Will I be affected?

This decision could affect people living with MS in Northern Ireland. It isn't currently happening across the UK, but we're concerned about any move to limit access to treatments for MS. Everyone with MS needs access to the right treatments at the right time to manage their condition, slow progression and improve quality of life.

What could this mean in practice?

We asked Siobhan, who lives in Northern Ireland and has relapsing MS. Recently she changed her MS treatment and had to wait to get access to her new one. She explains, "If I had received news like this proposal and faced another 6 months wait I would have been utterly devastated and fearful that I would keep relapsing during the wait for my treatment". "Six months down the line, more relapses could have worsened my condition. I could have faced greater mobility issues. That is the risk in delaying treatment. My wait for treatment was bad enough, to intentionally defer treatment and further push up waiting times is awful. Early treatment is so important when it comes to MS."



0151 529 5645
Orford Hub
Jubilee Way
Orford WA2 8HE

MS Nurse Clinic

Access to treatments should be fair and equal wherever you live in the UK. We need to come together across the UK to take action and make our voices heard.

Be a part of 6 weeks of action for MS – #SpeakUpForMS today

Published 19/09/2017
MS Society

Change to ESA Support Group

Last October the Government announced it would stop ESA reassessments for people with severe conditions who can't work. The Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) has confirmed this change will start from today. They've also provided more detail about who it will apply to.

Will the ESA assessment change apply to me? This change affects people in the Support Group for ESA across the whole UK. The rules will apply from your next reassessment. You will no longer have to be reassessed if the assessment finds you:

- Have a severe life long disability, illness or health condition.
- Are unlikely to ever be able to move into work.

We'll update you as soon as we have any more information about how this will work.

Will this affect my PIP assessments?

Unfortunately this change doesn't affect Personal Independence Payment (PIP). But we're calling on the Government to stop unnecessary PIP reassessments too. We're also continuing to push for further improvements across the benefits system to make sure people with MS get the support they need.

Responding to the news, our Chief Executive, Michelle Mitchell, said: "This is a long-awaited step towards making the welfare system make sense. We hope it will be good news for people with MS, but we still don't know how many people it will help. We'd also like to see transparency around how the new process is working.

"Now the Government has recognised the futility of re-testing people with chronic and severe conditions who are too unwell to work, the same move needs to be made for other disability benefits. People with MS should be able to rely on support without the constant fear of having it taken away."

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
Support	Mr Jeff Richards.....	07738609018
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.

Charity number 1139257