

Warrington Branch

MIScellany

February 2016

Well here we are beginning of March whatever happened to January & February. Slightly different format this time as included are donations and fundraising received in the last month. This will be included in all future issues so if you're involved in fundraising or are making a donation if you don't wish it to be publicised just let us know and it will go as anonymous.

The social on 8 March at St Joseph's club is going to be a *****SHOPPING EXTRAVAGANZA*****. Louise has been working hard and the following will be attending Body Shop, Phoenix Cards, Viv Homeware, Homescents, SilverPrints and DVD & books sale.

If you don't usually attend socials this one might be the one to visit as well as helping to raise funds for the branch you might be able to grab some bargains.

Things are changing within the MS Society at National Centre and the part that branches play is possibly going to change. The invitation to our AM for this year is on page 2 of this issue, do put the date in your diary without the support of members branches are going to fail. The guest speaker hasn't been confirmed yet but the next newsletter just prior to the meeting will let you know who it is. Let's have a good turnout.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING

Dear Member

This year's Branch Annual Meeting will be held at St Joseph's Catholic Club, Meeting Lane, Penketh on Tuesday the 10th of May 2016, 7.30 pm for 8 pm start All members are invited to attend. This is an ideal opportunity for you to have your say on how the Branch is being run and to make suggestions on what we should be doing in the future.

Please note the following important information:-

- a. **Proxy votes.** Proxy forms are available from the details below for members unable to attend but who still wish to have a vote at the AM.
- b. **Nominations for Committee posts.** Nominations are invited for any of the Committee posts. Please contact me for details. All branch officers and committee members are offering themselves for re-election. There is a vacancy for Vice Chairman.
- c. **Branch membership.** To vote at the AM or stand for any Committee post, individuals must be Branch members and have paid their annual subscription before the start of the AM.
- d. **Deadline.** All Proxy forms and nominations for Committee posts must be returned to me by **Wednesday 30th April 2016.**

I hope this is all pretty self-explanatory. However please contact me if you have any queries.

Chris Janovitz email address cj@warringtonms.org.uk
or alternatively telephone 723564

Please do try and attend. The way branches function is in the process of undergoing a complete overhaul from MS National Centre get to know what is going on.



**Monday
Pub Lunch Club**

**1st Monday
of the month**

At 12 noon
Currently using
**Chapelford Farm
Warrington**

Alternative
suggestions welcome

Contact Peter Travers
(01925) 492970

Birthday Greetings



Congratulations to:-

Jennifer CAIN	06-Feb
Karen DANIELS	06-Feb
Lorraine MORRIS	17-Feb
Nicola BROSTER	25-Feb
Jayne DOLPHIN	09-Mar
Adelaide HOUGH	25-Mar
Sandra CURLEY	26-Mar
Stephen J BERRY	03-Apr
Margaret PRICE	18-Apr
Patricia DAWBARN	19-Apr
John PAICE	26-Apr

Hundred+club December 5th draw

Christmas prize 112 £114, 1st prize 080 £114, 2nd prize 076 £62,
3rd prize 068 £37, 4th prize 5 at £10 037, 058, 075, 090, 100

**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

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.

25th January 2016

Members 117

Prize	Num	Name
1st	106	M Maddox
2nd	029	J Sherratt
3rd	100	J Wrenshall
4th	058	M Atkinson
	004	M Price
	079	C Little
	123	S Bird
	127	P Eckersley

The amounts were £114.00, £62.00, £37.00 and 5 at £10 respectively

9th February 2016

Members 117

Prize	Num	Name
1st	017	Karen Daniels
2nd	040	Christine Howie
3rd	114	Mary McNamara
4th	080	Michelle Senior
	097	Mary Barbour
	070	C T Hull
	087	John Curley
	115	Sharon Gallagher

The amounts were £114.00, £62.00, £37.00 and 5 at £10 respectively

Forthcoming Events

8th March	Social St Josephs Club Penketh 7:30 pm
16th March	L A Bowl tenpin bowling 11 AM
17th March	Skymaster Gemini 12 noon for 12:30 pm lunch
28th April	National cake break

Requests for transport - Jeff Richards 07738609018

Ocrelizumab Granted Special Status

American drug regulators have granted ocrelizumab a special status that could speed up approval following positive phase three trial results.

Ocrelizumab has been given Breakthrough Therapy Designation by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This status exists to speed up the development and review of medicines intended to treat serious or life-threatening diseases. Fast tracking the approval process helps to ensure people have access through the US drug approval pathway as soon as possible.

The process

The timing of any final approval is not yet known but once the FDA grants ocrelizumab a license this means it will be available for doctors to prescribe in the US. Though the UK is part of a separate licensing process in Europe this is still a significant step forward in the development of ocrelizumab.

Strong evidence base

The Breakthrough Therapy Designation has been granted based on top line results presented in October 2015 by pharmaceutical company Roche.

Ocrelizumab is the first treatment that has shown positive results in a phase three clinical trial for people with primary progressive MS. 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). In relapsing remitting MS ocrelizumab reduced the number of relapses, by 46% in one trial and 47% in another, compared to Rebif.

MS Helpline Freephone
0808 800 8000

— MS Society Rejects ESA Welfare Reform —

This evening, MPs voted on the Welfare Reform and Work Bill. We are deeply disappointed to report they voted to reduce the Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) for people in the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) by £30 a week.

Of the MPs who voted, 306 were in favour of the reduction and 279 against.

Lords' intervention ignored. Our Chief Executive Michelle Mitchell, has responded to this evening's news:

“We are deeply disappointed and frustrated that the Government has ignored the Lords’ common sense intervention on this Bill.

“The Bill fails to recognise that disabled people with conditions like MS in the Work Related Activity Group are currently unable to work and face higher living costs and many more barriers to employment than non-disabled jobseekers.

Senseless risk. "It simply doesn't make sense to cut their income – this risks leaving them unable to pay for basic essentials and less able to prepare for future employment.

“It is hard to see how this move can possibly help achieve the Government’s commitment to halve the disability employment gap.”

Add your voice. Although today’s news is deeply disappointing, the voices of disability charities have not gone unheard. In response to our campaigning, parliamentarians across all parties have raised concerns about the proposed reduction.

We will be continuing to work with MPs and Lords, as well as other charities, to call on the Government to fully consider the impact of these welfare changes on people with MS

Published date: 23 Feb 2016

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<http://warringtonms.org.uk>
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MS Treatment Featured on Panorama

January 18th Panorama episode was scheduled to focus on a new stem cell treatment for MS, known as Autologous Haematopoietic Stem Cell Transplantation (AHSCT or HSCT).

This is a relatively new treatment, currently in trials and available on the NHS at a limited number of accredited centres in the UK.

We worked with producers and the research team at Sheffield to provide information, but we didn't have any say on the content or the final edit, nor do we feature in the programme.

Promising, but more research needed. Dr Emma Gray, our Head of Clinical Trials, said: "More than 100,000 people are living with MS in the UK and it's crucial they have a range of effective treatment options available to them.

"Ongoing research suggests stem cell treatments such as HSCT could offer hope and it's clear in the cases highlighted by Panorama they've had a life-changing impact. However, trials have found while HSCT may be able to stabilise or improve disability in some people with MS it may not be effective for all types of the condition.

High-risk treatment. "We want people to be aware HSCT is an aggressive treatment with significant risks. It needs to be carried out at an accredited centre or as part of a clinical trial.

"The MS Society has recently funded a study looking into the impact of HSCT on the immune system and we'd like to see larger trials in this area. They would help us learn more about the safety and long-term effectiveness of the treatment and who could benefit from it."

If you want to know more about this kind of treatment, talk to your neurologist. Only a health care professional will be able to refer you to an accredited centre.

Published date: 18 Jan 2016

There is a lot more information about this procedure on the MS Society webpages <https://www.mssociety.org.uk/>

Could This Help You

North West Assistive Technology is a regional service providing specialist assistive technology to patients with complex needs to maintain and improve their independence. It serves a population of over six million people in Cheshire and Merseyside, Greater Manchester, Lancashire and South Cumbria.

The majority of patients they support have a neurological condition for example Multiple Sclerosis.

The service is funded by NHS England and is not subject to means testing.

An example of a standard installation would be:

- Intercom and door release
- Hands free telephone
- Access to all entertainment equipment (TV, Sky, DVD, CD, radio)
- Alarm to alert carers
- Remote access to turn on a lamp or a fan

If you have a patient (in-patient or out-patient) who you feel would benefit from a specialist assessment for provision of assistive technology, or would like to know more about the team and the services they provide contact Tia Stone, Business Manager on 0151 529 2022 or speak to Dorothy Lewis



MS Nurse Clinic

0151 529 5645

Woolston Clinic
2nd Monday of the month
2 PM

Support Your Branch

Join the hundred+club



Attend Socials
Outings

———— Motability Scheme's Big Event ————

The Motability Scheme's 'Big Event' is returning to EventCity, Manchester on Friday 13 May and Saturday 14 May from 9am to 4pm. The event is held entirely indoors and offers visitors the chance to find out more about the range of cars, scooters and powered wheelchairs available to lease through the Motability scheme.

Entry is free with a free cup of tea or coffee and there is free parking. There will be over 100 cars to look at from 27 different manufacturers. There will also be over 40 scooters and powered wheelchairs.

It will be possible to test drive from a choice of over 45 cars, including 15 fitted with adaptations (full driving licence needed to book a test drive). Motability staff will be on hand to answer questions. For more information visit

www.motability.co.uk/thebigevent or call 0800 953 7000



Cake Break

Just a brief note to let you know that the Cake Break will be on

Thursday 28 April 2016

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.

Truffles Tales

Well here I am centre stage and don't I look cute although I do think it's getting round to having a slight trim especially around the eyes. Am I going to be able to step up to the plate and replace Bessy, it's going to be hard but I'm sure Dougy will throw in the odd paragraph to give me a hand.



The picture opposite was taken on holiday in mid Wales we were in a log cabin and Helen and 4 other people were with me, Chris must've stayed at home. I think the 4 others must be relatives 2 of them quite young and fun to play with I often go to their home for sleepovers at the weekend when they are not at school. Chris & Helen are getting on a bit and although I get taken out every day it's nice to go where everybody's not nodding off at 9 o'clock at night and think I should be doing the same.

I have just been told that I don't have unlimited space on here, it's something to do with the size of paper so I will have to call it a day now. See you next time.

Truffles

Hi Folks, Dougy here

Now it'll soon be the time when the staff take their holidays. Often, I'm taken into custody until they come back; now that Bessy has retired, I'll no doubt be banged up in solitary confinement. It's not much fun and the other inmates always bang their bowls against the bars whenever a warder enters the cell block. So I dropped a few hints and apparently, I'm going into care. This nice couple are going to look after just me, no other dogs, take me for walks and generally ensure that I get all the biscuits I deserve. I'll let you know how we all got on

Warrington Disability Partnership

A Walk in Park

Sunday 1st of May 2016

5K Walk around Sankey Valley

11am till 3pm

Registration fee £5
(deduct from sponsorship)

FAMILY FUN DAY

Barbecue, Tombola, Lucky dip, Glitter tattoo
Wheelchair basketball & Craft stalls

Although Warrington Disability Partnership are organising the event sponsorship you raise can be for our branch.

Contact Chris on 723564 or cj@warringtonms.org.uk



Donations & Fundraising

Donation Mrs & Mr C Jervis	£60
February social raffle.....	£52
Subs 2016.....	£40
Tesco Collection 2 days.....	£695
100+club.....	£322

Wheelchairworld.org

Take a look at wheelchairworld.org to check out where you're going or to log details about where you've been.

It may help you or others that use the site.

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:

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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