

Warrington Branch

MIScellany

February 2015

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

Well here we are in March it doesn't seem five minutes since the Christmas party at Statham Lodge. Sorry about the seating arrangements at Statham hope it didn't cause too many problems. We were only informed about the changing layout from roundtables three days before the party. If we return to Statham Lodge again roundtables could be a deal breaker.

I was intending to leave this front page blank as at the moment we are still short of someone to as-

sist with the newsletter so any literary artists out there that feel they could write an article for the newsletter somewhere between 650 - 950 words please get in touch.

There's a few dates coming up to make a note of MS Week is 27 April until 3 May our Annual Meeting is on 12th of May and Cake Break Day is on 15 May. Cake break information found at cakebreak@mssociety.org.uk or telephone (0845) 481 1577 for your fundraising pack. Please

remember if you wish your fundraising efforts to return to the branch please make MS National Centre aware of this.

Another event on May 10 is Warrington Disability Partnership (WDP) "Walk in the Park" if you're interested in this short walk the minimum is only 3 miles (but you can walk further if you wish). Any sponsorship can go to the branch but there is a £5 donation to WDP to enter. The walk starts from Beaufort Street into Sankey Valley Park and return. Stalls and refreshments will be available at Beaufort Street. Any interest please get in touch with me and we may be able to get a bit of the group going. Alternatively you can register on the WDPs diary of events page <http://www.disabilitypartnership.org.uk/diary/index.shtml>

Included with this newsletter are some of the events for 2015 please get in touch with Margaret if you have any other suggestions for any outings. For the branch to survive we do need your support, other branches in the North West have ceased to be active. We don't want this happening to Warrington.

Chris Janovitz

Donations in lieu of Christmas Cards



Peter Travers
Helen & Chris Janovitz
Julie & Jeff Richards
Margo & Kath
Wendy & Betty
Rita & Keith Daly
Pam & George Lilford
Mary & John Burke
Bessy & Dougy
Elaine & Ken
Viv & Karen Daniels

Donations totalling £112.60 received



**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:-

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

**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

Membership News

Since the last newsletter we have two new members welcome to the branch to both. Unfortunately there has also been two deaths Derek Ball died on 22 December 2014 and his funeral was held on 13 January 2015 at St Elphins Church and was attended by Dorothy Lewis and Elaine Magill on behalf of the branch and Kay M Addison died on 20 December 2014 a funeral on 7 January 2015 and Dorothy attended on behalf of the branch.

On a recent short break in Llandudno Dorothy found the Esplanade Hotel which has undergone extensive restoration to become suitable for disabled holidays, easy access bathrooms and most rooms equipped with a ceiling hoist. The group safe hands holidays also has the new Mayfair Hotel South promenade Blackpool take a look at their website www.safehandsholidays.co.uk

A problem has arisen recently over the transport that the branch provides for members. Transport is provided for all events organised by the branch and the monthly socials. Organised events transport is charged at £5 per person and the monthly social the branch pays the cost. Transport will normally be organised by whoever is organising the event and socials by contacting Jeff Richards on (07738) 609018. If you're having a problem with transport you can always contact Jeff or Dorothy who should be able to help.

The Annual Meeting takes place on 12 May at St Joseph's when your committee needs to be re-elected any member can also offer themselves to be elected details are on the enclosed letter. Do try and attend, there will be a guest speaker but unfortunately this time we are unable to confirm who it will be.

Dave Hinde Travel Services	
	D.H.T.S.
14 Seater Mini buses	Disabled Travel Service
Mobile 07887 615040	
Parcel delivery service. Accounts	

Fundraising

On Wednesday 12 November Dorothy Lewis and Elaine Magill were asked to attend a presentation at Liverpool Waste Water Treatment Works (LWWT) in Liverpool to collect a cheque for £1,000.

The background behind the donation is that GCA, working on behalf of United Utilities, are constructing a new sewage treatment works in Liverpool. On such a large project, as an incentive for safe working, a charitable donation is made every 100,000 hours they have accident free. Employees are asked to nominate a



charity, and a ballot is held. Liam Connor nominated the MS Society Warrington branch, because of the assistance given to his aunty, Frances Mulcahy (a former member of Warrington branch), and her husband John. Two other local charities also received cheques for the same amount.

Elaine made a presentation to the audience (which included Liam's mother Ann and his uncle John Mulcahy) giving information on what MS is and what we do as a branch. The morning was very enjoyable and our thanks were given to LWWT for their generous donation.

The Christmas raffle held at Statham Lodge raised £192 and many thanks to Mayor Peter Carey as we were one of the recipients of his charity and a donation of £4843 was received from this.

Thank you all the people that have made donations in the past year it all helps us to carry on providing the services that we make available for our members. Hope this can continue for the current year.

Julie Richards

Bessy's Blog

Well that's another Christmas over. We all went with the Branch to the Panto in Liverpool although we had to stay in the car as usual. Our staff had planned to have a pleasant meal before the show but all the restaurants were booked. They eventually found a table at Mr Chilli Chicken; it was situated next to the Jeremy Kyle memorial bench John said. As they left, the Maitre d' was standing in the bin compressing the rubbish. It was not a success although the Panto was as good as ever.

Dougy has just seen his first real snow. He always reacts to new things in the same way; he either chases it or eats it.

I recently had a sore eye and you know how it is, you can't stop rubbing it. Eventually, they purchased a trumpet of shame to go over my head to stop me scratching it. Oh the embarrassment.

Unfortunately, Mary put it on upside down; John said I looked like Charles I (whoever he is). They eventually got it on the right way but Bessy Houdini had it off again in record time. I'm an old dog and I do know some old tricks.



I heard Mary and John talking yesterday it looks like uncle Chris has been persuaded to allow his home to become another dog kingdom, probably because he's been impressed by my blog he has realised that dogs can be fun.

I just want to make it clear that although I am getting on in years I'm not ready to roll over yet and let some young upstart queer my pitch. Watch this space.



Carolyn Cairns
0151 529 5645

Woolston Clinic
2nd Monday of the month
2 PM

MS Nurse Clinic

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

Truffles Trials

Hello my name is Truffle and let me tell you I didn't pick it, it's something to do with being some sort of fungus and my ancestors looking for it.

I've not met Bessy yet but I have had some of her earlier blogs read to me. I want to make it clear though I haven't been to Cheshire dogs prison but believe me my early days were like being in jail. I've been what you humans call crate trained and that's no picnic. I mean how would you like to be locked in a small room with nowhere to go for you know what.

I'm not planning on trying to be top dog let's face it I'm not big enough for that and Bessy does look rather large to me and Dougy looks like a bit of a bruiser, I'm sure we'll get on.

I've just had my first trip to the doctors since arriving at my new home. I've been immunised and chipped and believe me I don't think you humans would be volunteering to being chipped it's a big needle and it hurts in fact I think there were tears in my eyes and those of my new Mum.



I believe Chris is going to include a photograph of me and I've seen it, aren't I cute. I think I'm also on a place called Facebook oh how easy it is to get friends.

Well that's it for now I'm a bit tired long walks on short legs are most exhausting. I've not got them trained yet.

Support Your Branch

Attend Socials

Outings

Join the hundred+club



Listening Ear - Margaret Hughes -(01925) 723917

MS-smart Clinical Trial

MS-SMART, a phase 2 clinical trial into progressive MS, has begun. It will investigate whether treatments that are already being used for other conditions could slow or halt disability progression in people with secondary progressive MS.

The three-year trial will test the safety and effectiveness of three different drugs against a dummy (placebo) drug:

- amiloride (licensed to treat heart disease)
- fluoxetine (licensed for depression)
- riluzole (licensed to treat MND)

All three drugs have shown the potential to protect nerves from damage, which could ultimately stop or slow disability progression.

Huge unmet need

MS-SMART is led by Dr Jeremy Chataway at UCL (University College London) and Professor Siddharthan Chandran at the University of Edinburgh.

Dr Chataway said: "While there are an increasing number of treatments for MS that can reduce the frequency or severity of MS relapses, there's nothing that can stop the accumulation of disability in people with secondary progressive MS - it's a huge unmet need in the treatment of the condition."

MS-SMART will cost £2.7m, and involve 440 people with secondary progressive MS. We are co-funding the trial, and also funded £500,000 worth of underpinning research to make it happen.

Up to 15 trial sites in cities and towns across Scotland and England will be involved, and participants will be monitored for two years using MRI scans and other clinical measures to test for signs of MS progression.

Michelle Mitchell, Chief Executive of the MS Society, said:

"People with MS have lived for years in hope that one day we will find an effective treatment for secondary progressive MS; this trial

takes us one step closer to making that hope a reality. Our goal is to ensure people with MS have access to effective treatments including treatments which can slow, stop or reverse the accumulation of disability.”

If you would like more information about the trial, visit the MS-SMART website: www.ms-smart.org

Published date: 02 Feb 2015

— People with MS are Accused of Being Drunk —

A poll by the MS Society reveals that over half of people with MS surveyed (61 per cent) say they have been mistaken as ‘drunk’.

The survey found nearly three-quarters (73 per cent) of the 2,000 people asked had their condition questioned by strangers for ‘appearing to be well’; and almost everyone (90 per cent) said they were frustrated with people putting their fatigue down to ‘just being tired’.

Michelle Mitchell, Chief Executive of the MS Society said: “People with MS are presented with enough daily challenges to overcome; the last thing they need is society to judge them without compassion or understanding.”

A separate survey by the MS Society has shown that around 1 in 2 (49 per cent) members of the general public is unable to identify any symptom of MS.

The survey of over 2,200 members of the general public also found that 1 in 4 (25 per cent) people who don’t have MS say they would be reluctant to date someone with MS and 1 in 10 (10 per cent) don’t know if the condition is contagious.

The poll found more than 2 in 5 people with MS (43 per cent) don’t like telling people they have the condition because they don’t want to be treated differently.

This extends to the workplace too, with almost two-fifths (38 per cent) admitting that in the current economic climate, they would be more concerned about telling their employer they have MS.

Published date: 05 Jan 2015

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.

14th December 2014

Members 117

Prize	Num	Name
1st	120	C P Sergent
2nd	077	Cheryl Wareing
3rd	110	Roger Williams
4th	118	Wendy Welch
	089	Sheila Wareham
	036	J Sexton
	031	Judith Walsh
	028	Catherine Tate

The amounts were £118.00, £65.00, £39.00 and 5 at £10 respectively

10th January 2015

Members 118

Prize	Num	Name
1st	105	Roger Williams
2nd	035	James Charnley
3rd	017	Karen Daniels
4th	010	John Tate
	070	C Hull
	069	Sylvia Rowles
	007	Karen Critchley
	033	Amanda Wilton

The amounts were £119.00, £66.00, £39.00 and 5 at £10 respectively

Bonus Christmas 027 £118 Chris Askew

Forthcoming Events

14th April	Social St Josephs Club Penketh 7:30 pm
10 th May	Walk in the park Beaufort Street
12 th May	AM St Josephs Club Penketh 7:30 pm
9 th June	Thank you party at St Joseph's 7:30 PM

Requests for transport - Jeff Richards 07738609018

Social

Warrington Branch is pleased to welcome Louise Jones to our committee and she has also taken on the role of socials secretary as Julia Wilton is unable to continue due to health problems. Our thanks go to Julia for the sterling work she has done organizing socials over the last number of years and we are pleased she has agreed to stay on the committee in an advisory capacity with no specific role.

Louise was diagnosed with MS in Sept 2012 and has subsequently been told it is primary progressive. In Louise's words: "fatigue is my worst symptom and because you can't tell a class of children 'I'm going to sleep now' when you should be in charge, I gave up working as a Primary School Teacher." Louise is married with two boys aged 12 and 16.



Future plans for socials are Yoga in March – a talk and demonstration by Mary Burke, The Ambassador for Warrington Carers in April (so carers are welcome even though they do not see themselves as that!), May is the Annual Meeting, June Thank You party - everyone who has helped the branch by fundraising, donating, volunteering etc over the last 12 months are invited to attend - July will be a Quiz. Other possible social events yet to be arranged include a talk from a member of Livewire to discuss keep fit classes and other forms of exercise available, and in the pipeline is a counsellor, numerous bands, drumming group and choir on Christmas eve. We need to see more of our members attending the socials when they can to ensure a thriving branch with many new ideas for fundraising and social activities hopefully coming forward.

Contact details from November social Collective Legal Solutions telephone (0151) 722 0511 or email

Executive Committee January 2015

Branch Officers

Chair	Ms Amanda Wilton.....	726758
Deputy 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/ 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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