

Cheshire Branch

Newsletter

ROUND UP

Welcome to our Summer issue in which we bring you the latest fundraising news (pages 2 –4), along with reports from our Branch AGM and the recent regional conference.

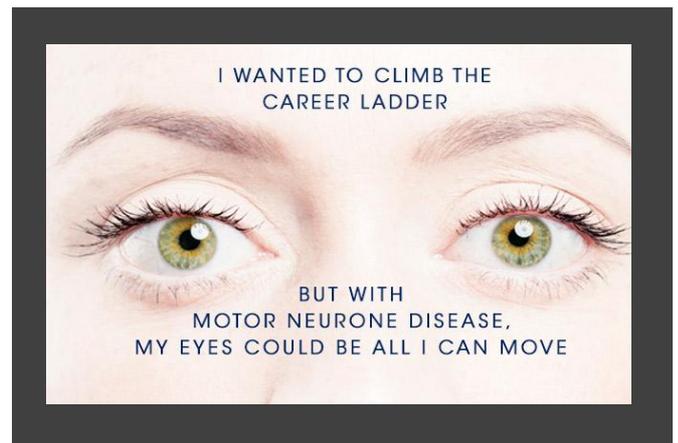
As many of you will know, June is a key month in the MNDa calendar as it is not only Awareness Month but also Global MND Awareness Day on the 21st.

This year, the UK national campaign is focusing on the importance of the eyes for plwMND which, for some, is their only means of communication. Activity asks the question – with only your eyes, what would you say to the outside world?

Using the hashtag #MyEyesSay, you can get involved by taking a photo of your eyes and posting it on social media platforms Twitter and Facebook. To make even more impact, a special 'selfie frame' can be downloaded at www.mndeyes.org and used to write your own message.

And don't worry if you don't have a social media account, you can still take part – just email your picture to mndeyes@mndassociation.org and it will be posted on your behalf.

We hope you'll also support local events throughout the month of June and beyond – so keep an eye out for details!



FUNDRAISING NEWS

Arley Hall celebration

by Sarah Walker

An evening of fine dining and music held in the magnificent surroundings of Arley Hall in March has raised more than £17,500.

Viscount Michael Ashbrook, patron of the Cheshire Branch, hosted the event which welcomed more than 50 supporters and volunteers. Money was raised through ticket sales and a raffle on the night, as well as an appeal led by Lord Ashbrook who wrote to several friends and acquaintances highlighting the important work of the charity.



Members of the committee with Lord and Lady Ashbrook

Speaking at the event, our chairman, Joel Millett, thanked Lord and Lady Ashbrook for opening up their home along with everyone who had attended or made a donation. He continued:

“The evening was a real celebration of the work of the MND Association in Cheshire and the difference it makes to the lives of people affected by this cruel disease. Not only was it a memorable night for all our guests, it has raised an incredible amount of money which will help us to continue our important work for those facing life with MND, now and in the future.”

Choir hits top note

By Leonie Steventon

We have been overwhelmed by the generosity of audiences attending concerts performed by the Chester Musical Society choir at Chester Cathedral. Collections and donations during the 2016/17 season have raised over £2,000.

The CMS choir recently decided to support a different charity each season and MND Cheshire branch is extremely proud to be the first. One of the choir recently lost a family member to MND and – as part of their fundraising efforts – nominated our branch.

We would like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to the choir for their invaluable support.



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Golfers swing into action

by Sarah Walker

The captain of Mere Golf Club, Chris Clempner, has raised more than £20,000 during his year in office.

This impressive total was raised through a variety of events organised by Chris throughout 2016. It will be used to fund respite care for local people living with MND in memory of his wife Rosalind's first husband Terry Brown, who died from MND in 2010 aged 61.

Rosalind was Terry's carer and looked after him in their home throughout his five year battle. She struggled to find respite care which met Terry's needs and this was the inspiration for Chris' fundraising feat.



Joel Millett accepts the fundraising cheque from Chris and Rosalind Clempner

He explains: *"I knew nothing of MND until I met my wife Rosalind. Through her I learnt how devastating and final this disease is. I specifically wanted to raise money to enable the carers of those with MND to be able to take a break and get some respite."*

A large proportion of the funds were raised through Chris' Captains Challenges – where he and a partner took on another pair at golf. The challengers donated money to the charity, which increased if they lost.

He also organised a Venetian masked ball on his Captain's Day in September, when he raffled a five star weekend break to Venice which raised an incredible £2,500 through ticket sales. A 'Beat the Pro' competition on the day generated another £1,200.

A sportsman's dinner in October brought in a further £6,000 and he worked with The Mere to create a 'Captain's Wine List' which saw £1 donated for each bottle sold – raising a further £1,790.

Chris adds: *"Throughout my year as captain, I received encouragement and support from all the members, management, staff and owners of The Mere and I would like to thank them all sincerely for helping me raise such a magnificent sum for my charity."*

"I feel very proud of what we managed to achieve and I am delighted that 'The Terry Brown Fund' has got off to such a good start. I hope that it is able to grow and continue to help all the sufferers and carers of MND throughout Cheshire for many years to come."



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Bridging the gap

An afternoon of bridge held at Withington Village Hall last month raised a fabulous £2,500.

Players enjoyed a superb homemade lunch with rose wine before settling down to an afternoon of bridge. The winner of this well attended event of 16 tables was June Neill – while runner up was Rosemary Griffiths and Inger Trevor-Barnston was awarded the Booby prize.



Everyone was then treated to a fantastic selection of made-on-the-spot sandwiches and delicious cakes. The perfect way to end the day – many even commented it was the best food ever!

Our heartfelt thanks to organisers, Lady Grey and Rhos Mahon, as well as all the players for their support.

A winning hand

We were delighted to be informed that the MND Cheshire Branch was one of three charities to benefit from a Casino Night held at Lymm Golf Club in March.

Music from the band Just For Kicks, casino entertainment, a raffle and an auction made for a great night out for all. We would like to thank Margaret Chapman, who is living with MND, and her sister Anne Scales for their kind nomination and support.



FYI

Speaking volumes

Listening Books is a national charity that provides a huge range of brilliant audiobooks – online or via post - to people who struggle to read in the usual way.



Membership fees range from £20-£45 per year but the charity also offers a number of FREE memberships for people who would find fees a barrier to joining.

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from free membership please get in touch. Apply by contacting Jo Cord on 020 7407 9417 or email jcord@listening-books.org.uk. Or visit www.listening-books.org.uk/join-us.aspx and tick the box to apply for a free place.



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COMMITTEE NEWS

AGM

by Joel Millett

The Annual General Meeting for the MNDA Cheshire Branch took place last month in combination with a cheese and wine support meeting.

Our Chair, Joel Millett, opened the meeting with a report of activity over the last year and highlighted the many successful fundraising events, along with the well attended regular carers lunches and support meetings.

He said: *"I would like to thank all of those individuals who have gone out of their way to raise funds, attend functions and make donations to the Branch and the Association. Without your effort and generosity we could not provide the support for our members living with MND, their carers, family and friends."*

John Kinder then presented his Treasurer's report outlining the Branch's financial position for the year just ending and summarised: *"We are particularly fortunate at the Cheshire Branch that we have so many supporters, fundraisers and contributors. Consequently, we have had another exceptional year."*

New faces

In addition to the recently filled committee vacancies, we are also delighted to welcome new Association Visitors to our team.

After caring for her husband for three years without a diagnosis of MND until the final few weeks, Peggy Roberts has very personal reasons for becoming an AV: *"I strongly care that plwMND and their carers get the support and help early, with a friendly face in the home as well as in the Branch Group."*

Mike Coleman completed his training earlier this year: *"I became involved eight years ago when my wife was diagnosed with this terrible disease. I became an AV in January 2017 for the Cheshire branch."*

Contact details for our Association Visitors and Committee members can be found on the back page of the newsletter.



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ASSOCIATION NEWS

Regional conference

by Margaret Bailey

This year's regional conference was held on 6 May in Liverpool and attended by over 100 delegates including MND Association staff, health care professionals, AVs, members and exhibitors. Representing the Cheshire Branch were John, Dianne, Peggy and myself, plus 8 friends and members of the branch.



The day was chaired by Alun Owen, Chair of the Board of Trustees and included presentations from a number of speakers on three main topics; care and support, research and campaigning. Highlights from the highly informative day include:

- The new Education Strategy 2016-2020 is now underway and so far there is a Professional Forum, Professional Study Days which are well attended and a dedicated newsletter. New education resources are being developed and the first annual conference has been held which was well supported. Additionally, the Association is transforming MND care to be measured against the NICE guidelines. Local Action Plans are being discussed with a new plan for Merseyside and Cheshire.
- Seven integrated neurology nurse specialists (INNs) have been employed across Merseyside and Cheshire with local nurse led clinics, home visits and telephone visits.
- The importance of the role of an Association Visitor was outlined – an AV provides information, a confidential listening ear and support, helps to reduce the feeling of isolation and also liaises with healthcare professionals.



Hot off the press - research breakthrough. A new drug has been licensed in the USA for use in the treatment of MND. This drug Edaravone - to be marketed as Radicava – has been shown to slow the progression of MND in clinical trials. Obviously, it will be some time before it becomes available in the UK but nevertheless is exciting news. You can read more about this news in an article on the MND research blog by visiting www.mndresearch.wordpress.com

This was the second North West Regional Conference where once again local issues were highlighted and everyone was informed of the important ongoing work in the area.



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FINANCIAL STUFF

Summarised Accounts as at 30 th April 2017			
Income		Expenditure	
Item	Year to Date	Item	Year to Date
General Donations	65	Financial Support	2055
Restricted Donation	4719	National Office	2456
In Memoriam Donations	805	Info & Education	337
Corporate Donations	0	Admin Cost	571
Fund Raising	18465	Publicity and Fundraising	513
Resale of Goods	1587	Purchase of goods for resale	66
Sundry – Just Giving	29	CEO Appeal & MMU Research	0
Bank Interest	93	Total Expenditure	5998
Gift Aid	63	Surplus for the year to date	19828
Total Income	25826	Total	25826

We are often asked about donations made In Memory or from big events, so have included some acknowledgements, not already covered in the newsletter, below. Many thanks to all:

- Woodside Ladies Golf Club
- Captains Charity Mere Golf Club
- Delamere House Occupational Therapy Team
- Crewe Rotary
- AM Stoddart
- DG Lowe Trust

DIARY DATES

5 June @ 2.30pm

15 June

29 June

3 July @ 2.30pm

7 August @ 2.30pm

4 September

September (tbc)

2 October @ 2.30pm

6 November @ 2.30pm

Support Meeting

Strawberry Evening

Carers Lunch

Support Meeting

Support Meeting

Support Meeting

Carers Lunch

Support Meeting

Support Meeting

Rowton Hall, Chester, CH3 6AD

Nantwich Cricket Club

Alderley Edge Hotel, SK9 7BJ

Abbeywood, Delamere, CW8 2HW

Wilmslow Garden Centre, SK9 2JN

Trip to Llandudno for those interested

Rowton Hall, Chester, CH3 6AD

Rowton Hall, Chester, CH3 6AD

Abbeywood, Delamere, CW8 2HW



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Useful Contacts

MND Connect offers support, information and advice to people living with MND, health and social care professionals, staff and volunteers.

mndconnect
0808 8026262
mndconnect@mndassociation.org

Paula Sutton is the Association's **Regional Care Development Adviser** and has detailed knowledge of the care and management of MND. She can be contacted on **07872 161024** or paula.sutton@mndassociation.org

Branch Contacts

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GET IN TOUCH

As always, please do contact the committee if you have any news or events you would like to see featured in the newsletter and promoted through our social media channels.

Don't forget, this newsletter is also available by email by contacting emma@mndcheshire.org.

If you no longer wish to receive information from us, please contact emma@mndcheshire.org or one of the committee listed above.

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