

Warrington

# MiScellany

June 2011

Thank You Party

St Josephs Club, Penketh

Tuesday 14th June 7.30pm

Unfortunately Sam is not able to complete the editorial for this edition, end of term exams come first so it is left to me to keep you entertained and informed.

I know we've just had ms week (23 -29 May) but there doesn't seem to be a great deal to report on what is new or life changing. This has resulted in my having to sift through pages on the Internet and try to extract anything that may be of interest to you.

There is one article from Paul, our chairman regarding one of the Society's open meetings

recently held in Leyland. It will be interesting to see what comes out in future months regarding the discussions that were held there (Pages 6 - 7).

Now back to the Internet. I don't know how many of our members are connected and actively use the Internet, I do know that requests for your e-mail address have only

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Sam King, 45 Denbury Avenue, Stockton Heath. WA4 2BW Tel 860630

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resulted with about 17 been passed on to us and there has been no great rush to join the branch Facebook page. The latter I can understand I find it difficult to get to grips with it, it might be an age thing, I'm going on 62 and don't have a desire to open my life to the world. Occasionally it could be useful I suppose in being able to get through to a lot of people quickly.

Just on one site [www.msnews.com](http://www.msnews.com) which originates from the USA were articles on the following: -"Viagra may reduce MS symptoms" research at Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona, I would imagine that volunteers could easily be found for that research. On the same page "potential MS therapy may damage brain cells" lower down the page "scientists discover a way of stopping MS" both of these articles relating to T cells, the first from Alberta Canada the second from University of Zurich.

I could go on there are 10 reports on the opening page from the last two months but I will just mention one more "marijuana may affect intellectual skills of MS patients" I thought this effect covered most who have long term use of the weed.

The headline event in our last issue about the Hardest-Hit Campaign was quite well supported on the day let's hope it will help. Have any of you been reassessed for either Incapacity Benefit or DLA, did you have any problems with the assessment, is there any knowledge that you can pass on to other members, please get in touch by e-mail [cj@warringtonms.org.uk](mailto:cj@warringtonms.org.uk) or telephone any committee member.

I seem to have run out of words Sam will be back for the next edition, don't forget it's Disability Awareness Day on 10th of July they struggled this year to get funding for the event and it needs to be successful if it is to carry on in the future, also it is the twentieth anniversary of the event.

Chris Janovitz

# Summer Fayre

St Joseph's,  
Meeting Lane, Penketh

Crafts, cakes, books, plants,  
nearly new, raffle, tombola.  
Name the Teddy

Saturday August 6th  
12 noon - 4 PM  
Please come along and  
support your branch

To book a table contact Julia  
726758 Cost £10



Our congratulations to:-

Francis V HARRIS	05.Jun
Sue BURNS	12.Jun
Pat ORDISH	13.Jun
Liz HUGHES	15.Jun
Barry TAYLOR	15.Jun
Frances MULCAHY	19.Jun
Geoff SPEED	19.Jun
Karen CRITCHLEY	20.Jun
Mary FERGUSON	28.Jun
Michael ERRIGADOO	04.Jul
Keith MADDOCKS	11.Jul
Christine ASKEW	17.Jul
Tina DUTTON	25.Jul
Pamela LILFORD	03.Aug
Wendy HARMER	07.Aug
Judith WALSH	08.Aug



## MS Nurse Clinic

From Walton Centre

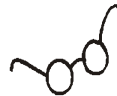
Helen Leggett

0781 331 6314

Woolston Clinic  
2nd Monday of the  
Month 2 PM

MS Helpline Freephone  
0808 800 8000

### WANTED



Spare Spectacles  
Contact Susan Atkinson  
Tel 727612

Used Postage Stamps  
Odd Balls of Wool  
Contact Susan Atkinson  
Tel. 727612



Listening Ear - Margret Hughes - 01925 723917

# 100+Club



There are 107 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.

12 April 2011  
Members 107

Prize	Num	Name
1st	063	Scott Jackson
2nd	067	Jayne Dolphin
3rd	091	Olive Dean
4th	013	Suzan Rainford
	073	Angela McEwan
	081	Rita Daly
	059	Susan Atkinson
	071	E Martin

The amounts were £106.00, £56.00, £31.00 and 5 at £10 respectively

10 May 2011  
Members 107

Prize	Num	Name
1st	073	Angela McEwan
2nd	107	Esther Thomas
3rd	075	Audrey Donaldson
4th	034	K W Mitchell
	096	C Hill
	113	George Lilford
	055	Chris Janovitz
	065	Rita Harrison

The amounts were £106.00, £56.00, £31.00 and 5 at £10 respectively

## Forthcoming Events

14th June	Thank you party St Josephs Club Penketh 7:30 pm
24th June	Brindley Theatre, Runcorn
10th July	DAD Walton Gardens
12th July	Social St Josephs Club Penketh 7:30 pm
9th August	Social St Josephs Club Penketh 7:30 pm

Requests for transport - Jeff Richards 07738609018

## Update for NICE Guidelines

The MS Society this week presented an open letter to the Board of the National Institute of Clinical Excellence, urging them to update the MS clinical guideline as a matter of priority.

The guideline is nearly eight years out of date and does not account of the reams of new evidence that has emerged in that time on the best available treatment and care for people with MS.

It is now in urgent need of review, as the lack of a relevant guideline is affecting the way local health authorities treat people with MS and commission services to meet their needs.

We travelled up to the NICE Board meeting in Leeds on Wednesday to personally deliver the letter, co-signed by James Gray, chair of the All-Party Parliamentary Group on MS.

NICE chairman, Sir Michael Rawlins, agreed to consider the letter to the Board and provide a response to the Society, while NICE chief executive Andrew Dillon paid tribute to the work of the Society. The institute is currently considering whether it should review the guideline and is expected to reach a decision next month.

Mr Dillon told the meeting that NICE needed to assess whether there was a "critical substantive evidence base to warrant updating the guideline". He added that NICE needs to ensure it allocates its limited resources appropriately - and even if it does update the guideline, this is expected to take up to three years to develop.

Following the meeting, the MS Society will continue to lobby for the guideline to be updated as soon as possible, and ensure that MS is one of the conditions in line for a Quality Standard when NICE opens a consultation on the issue next month

MS Society 20/05/11

Outings & Events

Support Your  
Branch

Monthly Socials



## MS Society Open Meeting

Three members of the branch attended the above meeting Saturday, 21 May 2011 Leyland Hotel, Preston to liaise with volunteers from branches in the region, national board members and paid staff. It was well attended.

The agenda/format was similar to previous meetings, i.e. presentations and discussion groups. There were presentations by paid staff and board members on the new structure of the society, operational expectations for the next two years, fund-raising, and challenges for local teams. We should receive "hand-outs" covering these topics in the near future, I will let anyone interested have copies.

The presentations were well received but there were clearly many other issues that attenders wished to raise. These seemed to focus on the current structure of the society and whether it fully and appropriately enabled the work of volunteers. Questions raised included ;

- are volunteers being asked to do tasks that should be undertaken by paid staff - this detracts from the real strength of volunteering i.e. delivering face to face support,
- do paid staff support the work of volunteers or visa versa,
- is the demand on volunteers too heavy or appropriate,
- is there duplication of activity (and sometimes competition i.e. fund-raising) between regional and national paid staff and branches. Is this healthy and efficient,
- is the current branch structure viable, workable and unnecessarily complex,
- should the society be looking at alternate models / structures should as the hub and spoke model, with enhanced regional/local centres comprising volunteers and paid staff, working to local groups rather than branches.

The organisers recognised the importance of the matters raised and were willing to clear parts of the programme to allow more detailed discussions on them. They also indicated that concerns of this type are being voiced at national and board levels. While the discussions that followed raised and aired all of the above and some additional matters it was not anticipated that it could produce any firm resolution. However, detailed notes were kept and board members present undertook to write a paper on structure, in particular the need for a national review. In the coming weeks this will be presented to the board. A copy will be sent to me and I will forward it to any member who is interested.

These discussions took place while recognising the possible effects of local and national government cuts and the affect this could have on volunteer resources.

As a follow on to this discussion I have agreed to meet with at least one other branch chair to consider formulating a proposal on structure for the national Annual General Meeting this year. I will report back on that as appropriate.

In addition to the above matters, on behalf of the branch we raised an issue to do with respite arrangements and the process of obtaining extra grant to cover the additional cost of respite at former society centres, now that the central society top-up will no longer be made. We have been promised information in the near future, again I will share it with anyone who is interested.

In the end this turned out to be a useful meeting. It allowed volunteers to make their concerns known to board members and paid staff and gave everyone some comfort that the concern had already been noted. It does look as though there will be some action to resolving important current issuers. I will keep in touch with developments and report when appropriate.

Paul Harrison  
Branch chairman

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

Hi Everyone, its newsletter time again. A number of our ladies Rita Harrison, Helen Janovitz and Margaret Wilmot have been busy over the last year making a number of craft items for us sell at local events.

The fundraising programme has started again this year with our first fundraiser at Ryfields on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2011. As always we enjoy this event and it is nice to see and meet the residents again. This year we raised £465.00. Thanks to all those who helped on the day including residents and staff.

This event was no sooner over then we had our Annual Sponsored Walk which is kindly organised and arranged by Chris Janovitz. There were approximately 18 walkers and together we have raised just over £1,100. For 2012 we would like to raise the profile of this event and if anyone has any ideas or can spread the word please let Chris know. Thanks to the St. Johns and Warrington Lions who helped with this event.

My daughter Natalie works for Warrington Borough Council and

as their department was being split into three they decided to have a dress down/cake event with the proceeds going to the MS Society. Members of staff together with members of my family were busy baking on the Thursday night. At the end of the day they had raised £207.59

We currently have two collecting tins at the Railway Club in Town Centre. Unfortunately the Railway Club has closed down, not sure if this is a temporary measure or not and one of the members has returned the collecting tins. The amount in the tins was £39.64.

Morrisons at Stockton Heath are kindly allowing us to collect at their store on the 15<sup>th</sup> July. If any members, family or friends are able to help please let me know.

DAD is fast approaching and as usual if anyone has any unwanted tombola gifts for this event can you please let me know.

We also have a Flag Day in Stockton Heath on the 20<sup>th</sup> August 2011 and if anyone is able to help collect please let me know

## Activity & Social

Date	Event	Contact
June 14th	Thank you party St Josephs	Just come along
16th	Lowry shopping & science Museum	Julia 726758
24th	Brindley Theatre Runcorn	Margaret 755017
July 14th	Llandudno Day Out	Margaret 755017
20th	Greyhound racing Bellevue	Peter 492970
Aug 4th	Haydock Park racing	Peter 492970
6th	Summer Fayre, St Joseph's	Julia 726758
10th	Candle works/ice cream factory	Helen 723564
19th	Boat trip	Mandy 726758
Sept 22nd	Steam train trip Bury to Rawtenstall	Mandy 726758

There are still a few tickets left for the Brindley Theatre for the Elvis lookalike and P J Proby on 24th June and any members wishing to go on the Llandudno trip get in touch with Margaret as soon as possible so that transport and the meal arrangements at the Belmont Hotel can be organised.



## MS Support Group

The first few meetings went very well, but we need more people! The group is very informal and provides an ideal opportunity to talk about things that you may not find the chance to do elsewhere. If you would like to join us for the next meetings on Tuesday 28th June and 26th July, please call Mandy on 07734 952392 or contact her at [anwilton@hotmail.com](mailto:anwilton@hotmail.com).



Dave Hinde Travel Services  
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Mobile 07887 615040  
Parcel delivery service. Accounts

**P**ictured above are a group of walkers at the halfway stage of our annual walk enjoying a hot drink and a biscuit. I am the one with the woolly hat and I can tell you that a warm drink on this none too warm 22nd of May was needed. We did raise £1,100.00 for our efforts. Many thanks to those that attended.

## Membership News

**N**ot very much on the membership front today we do have two new members but as yet I do not have a signed a data protection act form so I can't tell you anything about them, nevertheless welcome to the branch to you both.

We also have a new member on the committee Julia Wilton has been co-opted to give help with fundraising and social activities.

Don't forget the next social on 14th of June it is the Thank You Party and as always it will be very nice buffet I hope to see some of you there.

### Unwanted Clothes and Shoes

Curtains Blankets 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

## —— MS Shows Symptoms in Childhood ——

However, there are several other conditions which share some symptoms with multiple sclerosis (MS).

Because these conditions occur more frequently in children than in adults, it can be hard for neurologists to determine that a child has MS, leading to delays in diagnosis.

The MS Society is supporting the first major UK study into MS in children

This pioneering research aims to:

- Identify children with MS
- find better treatments
- develop more and better services
- provide up to date information
- improve paediatricians' awareness of MS
- a bank of samples from participants to help future research

What has this study achieved so far?

Already, lead researcher Dr Evangeline Wassmer has been instrumental in producing guidelines which provide a framework for healthcare professionals in diagnosing and treating children with MS both now and in the future.

As Dr Wassmer puts it, the guidelines offer health professionals "tailored information about the specific issues that children with MS face and how best to deal with those issues."

What else is there to do? In the next stage of the study, the team will look at cases of children with showing symptoms which might be signs of MS, following their progress over time to learn which children go on to be diagnosed with MS.

MS Society May 2011

# Executive Committee April 2011

## Branch Officers

Chair	Mr Paul Harrison.....	01606 892151
Secretary	Mrs Elaine Magill.....	637120
Treasurer	Mr John Burke .....	824041
Support Officer	Mrs Dorothy Lewis.....	268820

## Committee Members

Fundraising	Mrs Julie Richards.....	573980
Joint Equipment/ Transport	Mr Jim O'Connor.....	451472
Web/DTP	Mr Jeff Richards.....	07738609018
Social	Mr Chris Janovitz.....	723564
Everybody's Help Activities	Mrs Rita Harrison.....	01606 892151
Editor	Mrs Suzan Rainford.....	602719
Subscriptions	Mrs Margaret Wilmot.....	755017
Everybody's Help	Mr Sam King.....	860630
Everybody's Help	Mr Peter Travers.....	492970
Activities	Mrs Mary Burke.....	824041
Activities/fundraising	Charles Dooley.....	860112
	Amanda Wilton.....	726758
	Julia Wilton .....	726758

**T**his 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: Sam King  
Layout 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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