

# Warrington Branch

# MiScellany

July 2009

**H**i, I'm Sam King. Many of you may remember me from fundraising events like the sponsored walk and coffee morning; I've been involved in MS for most of my life.

My Grandfather, Bill Wareing, was a founder member of the Warrington branch, and my family (the "Wareing girls") has been involved in fundraising for the society ever since.

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I currently attend Manchester Grammar sixth form, and enjoy playing rugby for the school. I agreed to help Chris out with this editorial because I wanted to contribute to the newsletter, which I have recently been taking.

I'm also applying to do medicine at university, and so will be doing some research, out of interest, into MS. This will be especially about the treatment and research into the disease, and I thought you might like to be kept posted about current events in the news, as I know Charles has been doing in his time of writing this article. Hopefully I can keep up the standard of writing, and keep you well informed!

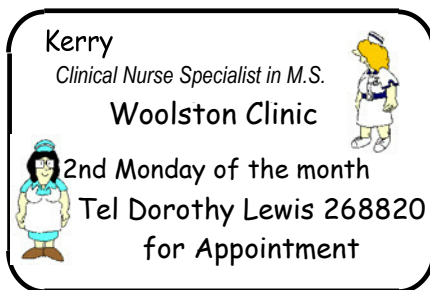
Sam King, 45 Denbury Avenue, Stockton Heath WA4 2BW Tel 860630

I hope you're all enjoying the weather while you can, although no doubt it will be raining again before this has been printed, giving people something else to complain about, instead of the heat!


Firstly, some sad news, Cari Loder (48), a university lecturer who was disabled by M. S. whose treatment regime of several years ago which initially included diet Coke which many claimed made a impact on the lives of PWMS took her own life at the beginning of June. Her patented treatment was believed to give relief to many PWMS and was recently clinically proven to make a difference to symptoms of the disease.

Also, a major drugs company has pulled the plug on an experimental trial of a drug in its second phase, which was hoped to become a treatment of relapsing multiple sclerosis, but has shown no difference to placebos.


More positively, another drug company has been getting good results in trials for the combination of two drugs, Ribavirin and Tiazofurin, and also more genes have been found which make the person more susceptible to having MS. This is important, as it gives scientists a better idea of the most elusive aspect of Multiple Sclerosis; its cause. Also screening for these genes will help



**Kerry**  
*Clinical Nurse Specialist in M.S.*  
**Woolston Clinic**



2nd Monday of the month  
Tel Dorothy Lewis 268820  
for Appointment



to identify people at a higher risk of developing the disease. This means that it can be diagnosed earlier by regular check-ups, allowing treatment to be more effective. Research continues in order to identify more genes which increase the risk of MS, and no doubt this will be, in time, a huge development for the treatment of MS.

While I'm writing this, I'd also like to mention the English half marathon which will be run (no pun intended) on October 4th of this year, in the centre of Warrington, and this will be the first time ever. If you or anyone you know could run this to raise money for Warrington MS, it would be greatly appreciated. I myself will be running, and having run one for Multiple Sclerosis in Liverpool at the end of March, must say it is a great sense of achievement and would highly recommend it, although it does take some training! I'm not quite sure how involved Warrington MS society will be in the event, but I'm sure if anyone is

considering doing it, then they will be more than happy to support them in some capacity or another.

As I haven't done this before, I would be very grateful for any pointers and ideas about what you would like to see included in the editorial; my email address is: [samking91@live.co.uk](mailto:samking91@live.co.uk). I would be interested in hearing which topics you would like me to cover.

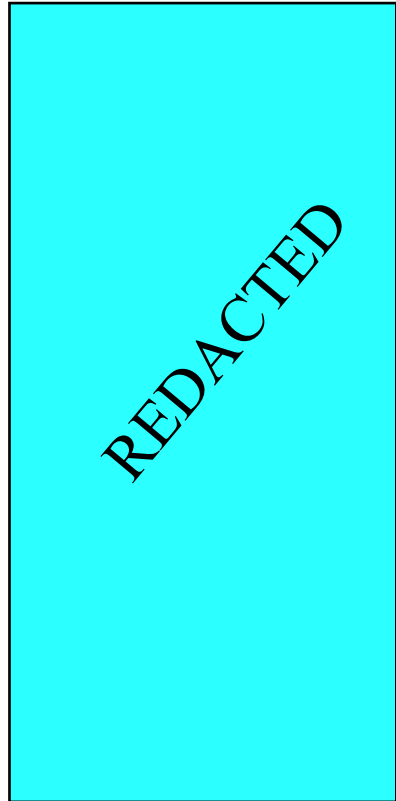
Sam King  
Editor



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Our congratulations to:-



Listening Ear - Margret Hughes - 01925 723917

## More Accurate

New research released by the MS Society has for the first time revealed an accurate estimate of the number of people living with a diagnosis of multiple sclerosis (MS) in the UK.

The results show that there is likely to be around 100,000 people with MS in the UK - a 20 per cent increase on previous estimates.

The new study of GP records - funded by the MS Society - was carried out by Dr Sara Thomas and Professor Andy Hall from the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine who worked with Rachael Williams and Tim Williams from the General Practice Research Database. Their work updates previous estimates of 85,000 people.

The revised figure has major implications for health and social services and the study is a precursor to a pilot MS Register, which will provide much more information on exactly how MS affects individuals.

MS Society Chief Executive, Simon Gillespie, said: "For the first time, we have the right information on the numbers of people with MS. Based on this information, we will seek to work with local health and social services across the UK to improve services for people with MS.

This is just the beginning. As part of its leadership of a European initiative, the MS Society will now fund a pilot MS Register, which will provide much more information on how MS affects individuals.

"If this pilot proves successful, we hope the governments in all four nations of the UK will support the introduction of a complete register."

The study was brought about following work carried out by MS Society members in Hampshire, who found that in their local area, the previous estimated prevalence rate was inaccurate.

Knowing how many people have MS is important so that health and social services can provide the right types of care and support.

In many areas of the country people do not currently have access to all the nursing care, drugs and treatment regime that they so desperately need.

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[www.warringtonms.org.uk](http://www.warringtonms.org.uk)

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## — Do You Have too Much Stuff? —

I know I do. The credit crunch has hit us all but I'm one of those lucky people who's paid off the mortgage and has still got a job. Consequently, when it's birthday or Christmas time and family ask me what I want, the answer is "nothing really"

Well it seems there are a lot of people like me out there. Last year, we received over £1500 from generous people who asked for donations to the Branch in lieu of presents for birthdays, anniversaries and the like.

On a sadder note, we received over £4600 from good people who sent us donations in memory of their loved ones. These donations are made up of hundreds of small gifts and it is becoming a major part of the Branch's income.

So if it's Christmas and you can feel another pair of Marks & Spencer slippers approaching, why not ask for a donation to the Branch instead. Unclutter your life today!

PS If the giver is able to complete a Gift Aid form, we can increase the donation by 22%. All that is required is your name, address, a declaration that you pay income tax and that you would like the Branch to claim Gift Aid on your donation

John Burke Hon Treasurer



Forthcoming Events	
5th August	Social Alford Hall 7:30 p.m.
2nd September	Social Alford Hall 7:30 p.m.
5th September	Flag day Stockton Heath
17th October	60s/70s night Oldford Hall tickets £7.50
Requests for transport - Jeff Richards 07738609018	

## Genetic Study

Results of a genetic study offering new insights into the way that genes interact in the immune system have been published in the scientific journal *Nature Genetics*. The study is part of an international consortium called the FANTOM (Functional Annotation of the Mammalian cDNA) consortium which involves scientists based in 13 countries spanning the globe.

Researchers investigated the genes involved in a type of immune cell called a macrophage. Healthy macrophages are often referred to as the

scavengers of the immune system because they attack and kill bacteria, viruses and dying cells. When unregulated, macrophages can grow uncontrollably and can contribute to numerous autoimmune conditions, including multiple sclerosis.

Scientists previously thought that the growth of immune cells such as macrophages was regulated by a few “master regulator” genes that controlled numerous processes involved in cell growth and development by giving instructions to other genes within the cell. This new research now shows that there are actually hundreds of regulator genes and shines some light on how these genes “speak” to each other to influence how these immune cells behave.

Authors of the study have suggested that further work concentrating on understanding how these macrophages change, and

### Exercise & Relaxation

Great Sankey Library  
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Thursday at 11.30am

Contact

Mary Burke

01925 824041

For details



how the interactions between each of these many genes influences this change, may help to identify targets that can be used to treat a host of conditions such as cancer, multiple sclerosis and rheumatoid arthritis.

Dr Doug Brown, Research Manager at the MS Society remarked, "This study opens up a whole new way of thinking about how our immune cells work and now we can work towards further understanding how these immune cells behave in multiple sclerosis."

He added, "This is a good example of how biomedical research can contribute to our knowledge and understanding of very complex situations and hopefully this will lead to new therapeutic targets for multiple sclerosis in the long run."

————— **100+Club** —————

**T**here are 109 members if you're not one of them please consider joining contact Chris Janovitz on 723564. Remember the more

3rd of June 2009  
Members 110

Prize	Num	Name
1st	044	J Wolowicz
2nd	004	M A Price
3rd	017	K Daniels
4th	091	Olive Dean
	054	Bill Hampson
	001	J Burke Snr
	076	John Paice
	090	Roger Spensley

The amounts were £118.00, £66.00, £38.00 and 5 at £10 respectively

1st of July 2009  
Members 110

Prize	Num	Name
1st	070	C T Hull
2nd	018	John McQuillan
3rd	028	C Tate
4th	015	G L Short
	098	D Shenton
	083	Jayne Ward
	069	Sylvia Rowles
	010	B Roylance

The amounts were £118.00, £66.00, £38.00 and 5 at £10 respectively

## Hydrangea Roots & MS

Research published last week in the prestigious journal *Science* suggests that a molecule commonly found in the root of the hydrangea plant may prove beneficial for people with MS.

Researchers at Harvard University identified a molecule called halofuginone that can stop the immune system from producing specific cells that may cause some of the damage in MS. These cells, called TH17 cells, are thought to be involved in causing the damage to myelin in MS and are also linked to other autoimmune conditions. Until now, compounds that block their development without also affecting other T cell types have not been identified.

The research showed that halofuginone works by specifically starving TH17 cells of essential factors, called amino acids. When cells are starved of their essential proteins they cannot develop properly.

Halofuginone is much more efficient at starving TH17 cells of essential factors than it is at starving other cells in the immune system, which means that it may be able to specifically block the production of these cells without affecting the rest of the immune system. This study has shown that this occurs in laboratory models of MS, but has not shown halofuginone's effects on human TH17 cells.

Halofuginone has also been shown to block tumour growth and blood vessel formation, making it a potential candidate for cancer therapy. In 2006, a phase I clinical trial was completed showing that halofuginone (taken as a pill) was safe in people with advanced solid tumours with some side effects including nausea, vomiting and fatigue. Halofugi-

Listening Ear - Margret Hughes - 01925 723917

none has also been used successfully to treat scleroderma, a chronic autoimmune condition affecting the skin and internal organs.

Dr Susan Kohlhaas, Research Communications Officer at the MS Society said, "This is exciting research that invites further investigation."

"It will be necessary to see if halofuginone has the same effects on human TH17 cells as it does in laboratory models of MS, which is the next step before halofuginone can be tested as a therapy in MS."


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Contact Susan Atkinson  
Tel. 727612



Spare Spectacles  
Contact Susan Atkinson  
Tel 727612



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## Activity & Social

**Haydock Park Horse Racing August 6<sup>th</sup>** If interested please get in touch with Mary on 01925 824041

**Wizard** 14<sup>th</sup> August if interested please ring Chris on 01925 263494

**Evening Pub Lunch** September 8<sup>th</sup> 2009 if you are interested please contact Peter on 01925 492970

**Trip to Port Sunlight** 17<sup>th</sup> September if interested please get in touch with Margaret by August 25<sup>th</sup> on 01925 755017

**Trip to Ice Cream farm** Sept 24<sup>th</sup> if interested please get in touch with Peter by 1<sup>st</sup> Sept on 01925 492970

**10 pin bowling** we will be going in October if you are interested please call Rita by the end of September on 01925 815873

## Fundraising

Hello again everyone, sorry I missed the last newsletter. We are now approaching our busy time of the year for fundraising and if anyone has unwanted gifts please let me or any committee know as we are getting really low on tombola and raffle prizes.

We started off our fundraising this year with something different. Nigel Ball son of one of our members together with a friend long boarded from Warrington to Abersoch over the Easter Weekend. Talking to Nigel he had good time. Amount raised has not been finalised yet.

Our annual coffee morning at Ryfields this year raised £404.30 Thanks to everyone who helped on the day including residents and staff.

Following on from the coffee morning we held our own Quiz Night at Alford Hall. Unfortunately it clashed with a Warrington Rugby League match and we lost some of our regular teams. However we still had a enjoyable evening thanks to Marge and Gordon Lawless and raised £226.00

Again this year we held our Sponsored Walk in May setting off from

the Islamic Centre. Fortunately the weather held off. We also had a couple of new members who attended and it was nice to see and welcome them. The amount raised was approximately £1575.00

At the Thanksgiving Party Maureen from Wales gave me monies from a collection box and a donation from a friend who was going to do a sponsored slim but instead gave a donation. The amount received in total from Maureen was £95.00. Thank you.

Karen Daniels and the Warrington Market Traders have also completed a sponsored walk around Rivington Pike. The proceeds from this are to be split between St. Roccas and the MS Society.

Sam King has recently completed a half marathon in Liverpool with the proceeds coming to the MS Society. He is also contemplating another Marathon and I will keep you informed in case anyone would like to sponsor him. Well done Sam.

A young person I know named Mark Baker has also completed a ½ marathon recently and has raised

approximately £700.00. Some of you may know Mark from St. Oswald's Club.

On Saturday 13 June we held our Flag Day in Warrington, we were fortunate with the weather but not with collectors. However we managed to raise £736.54

On the 20<sup>th</sup> June 2009 we held our Flag Day in Lymm. Many thanks to the Lymm Lions who every year look after this event for us. The amount collected was £190.70.

## **Forthcoming Fundraising Events for 2009**

DAD	Walton Gardens	12th July
Flag Day	Stockton Heath	5th September
Flag Day	Culcheth	5th September (to be confirmed)
60s Night	Alford Hall	17th October

## **Membership News**

**N**o new members but we have got a new editor after the request in the last newsletter Sam King who has been involved in fundraising for many years volunteered to follow in Charles's footsteps and take over this roll. Judging by his first effort I don't think we'll be having any problems.

In the last issue new committee member Nicola Broster had taken on running a forum for branch members if you'd like to join please e-mail nabroster@aol.com and she will send you details. To-date the response hasn't been very good, I know it's on facebook but other than e-mail address you don't have to give any personal details. So come on let's get joining.

Also in the last issue was our considering sending the newsletter as a PDF file to any member who so wishes. It will be the same as printed version but will save the branch about 42p per issue on each copy. Do we not have any computer users? There was no response to this at all.

# Executive Committee September 2009

## 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	Mrs Rita Harrison.....	01606 892151
Activities	Mrs Suzan Rainford.....	602719
Editor	Mrs Margaret Wilmot.....	755017
Subscriptions	Mr Sam King.....	860630
Everybody's Help	Mr Peter Travers.....	492970
Everybody's help	Mrs Mary Burke.....	824041
Everybody's help	Nicola Broster.....	01942273644
Yoga & Exercise	Charles Dooley.....	860112
	Mary Burke .....	824041