

Cheshire Branch

Newsletter

ROUND UP

Welcome to our Spring issue which is full of inspiring news of fundraising events.

From bike rides and musical evenings, to quiz nights and birthday celebrations, we are delighted to highlight some of the wonderful work that has been going on to support MNDA over the last few months (p2-5).

We also have an update about changes to our committee. After nearly ten years as Chair, Joel has decided to step down but will continue as Association Visitor, which is wonderful news. Find out who has kindly agreed to become our new Chair and Vice Chair on page 6.

You'll also notice we have a beautiful wedding photo on our front cover! Read about Michael and Joanne's special day on page 4.

This year marks the 40th anniversary of the MND Association - a unique and poignant moment in our history. "Thanks to its volunteers, staff and supporters, the MNDA has been there to make sure nobody has to face MND alone - and that is something that will never change," said Sally Light, Chief Executive MNDA. We couldn't agree more.

As always, please do get in-touch if you would like to see your news featured in the next issue.



Pictured: Michael and Joanne Lowe on their wedding day.



FUNDRAISING NEWS

Andy gets on his bike

by Sarah Walker

A dad of two who hasn't cycled regularly since he was a teenager is gearing up for a 100km fundraising biking challenge in honour of his brave wife, Karen, who is battling MND.



#TeamMND

Andy Wade, aged 64 from Northwich, last used a bike to do a paper round as a 15-year old, but is set to take to the saddle again in the Cheshire 100 on 21 July.

He has been inspired by his wife Karen, who is living with MND and hopes to raise £500 through the challenge. Monies will be used to help the Cheshire branch support others living with the condition and also fund vital research.

"It was a devastating diagnosis. Karen has been battling MND for nearly four years. It has taken away her ability to walk, run, talk and hold hands, but not her humour and smiling eyes. She is fighting all the way," said Andy.

You can sponsor Andy by visiting www.justgiving.com/fundraising/andew-wade12

Quiz night success

A charity quiz held at the Lord Clyde in Kerridge attracted a record audience and raised over £1,000.

Our very own web manager - Becca - turned quiz master when she organised a quiz and raffle evening at her local pub.

Fifty-five people took part on the night, which was the biggest turn out for a quiz the pub had ever had. And Becca's hard work securing fabulous raffle prizes from local businesses helped to further boost the fundraising efforts.

"All in all, it was a really good night. Everyone had a lot of fun, we raised a fantastic amount for MND and I'm sure the pub made rather a lot over the bar!" reported Becca.



Pictured: Becca (r) with family and friends at the Lord Clyde pub.



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Milestone birthday raises funds

by Sarah Walker

Inspired by a good friend who is living with MND, an amazing supporter used his 70th birthday to raise funds for the Cheshire branch.

Stuart Scoffins from Disley, asked for donations to charity instead of presents when he celebrated his special day last December.

His family and friends were extremely generous resulting in a donation of £255. A further amount was given to Great Ormond Street Hospital, which looked after his son when he was a child.



Pictured: Stuart celebrating his special birthday.

Stuart wanted to support the branch in honour of his friend, Mick Clark, who has been living with MND for nearly six years.

Mick said: *"I was very touched that Stuart wanted to show his support in this way and extremely grateful to all those who gave so generously. The amount raised is fantastic and it's wonderful to know that it will help the branch offer vital support to those with MND in the Cheshire area."*

Festive fair was a Christmas cracker!

by Sarah Walker

A Christmas fair featuring a host of gorgeous gift stalls raised a fantastic £680 for the Cheshire Branch.

Shirley Tudor-Evans has been organising the event at her home in North Rode, Macclesfield, for the past ten years raising funds for the Saramek Trust, a Kenyan school which her son founded.

This year, she generously decided to donate half of the proceeds to the MNDA, inspired by her good friend Tim Hill who is living with the condition.

Around 120 guests attended on the day, where stalls included Alpaca knitwear, jewellery, skincare products, Masai crafts, as well as other homeware and gifts.



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'Perfect' wedding day raises vital funds

by Sarah Walker

Newly-weds, Michael and Joanne Lowe, were overwhelmed by the generosity of their family and friends after asking for donations to the MND Association in lieu of presents when they got married at Christmas - raising an amazing £4,500!



Pictured: Newly married Mr and Mrs Lowe (centre) with family and friends in festive jumpers.

Michael, aged 38, who was diagnosed with MND in May last year said the day was "simply perfect", adding; "Being in a wheelchair didn't restrict me at all - I even managed to do a first dance of sorts.

"Our favourite part of the day has to be convincing everyone to wear Christmas jumpers and join us outside for sparklers!"

The couple, who have been together for two and a half years, celebrated their special day with more than a hundred family and friends at Crewe Hall. It followed their engagement last February, when Michael popped the question whilst out walking in the Lake District.

Explaining their fundraising decision, Michael continued; "Jo and I are already well established in our home, so felt the charity could make far better use of donations. The various support groups run by the Cheshire branch and the visits from Joel, our Association Visitor, have made the diagnosis far less daunting. We've been overwhelmed by the generosity of our family and friends who've helped raise such a brilliant amount from such a special day."

Published author supports MNDA

'Dreams of Morpheus' is the recently published book by Paul Harris and Matt Hewitt and it is now available to buy in Kindle edition on Amazon.

Paul was diagnosed with MND in July 2015 and has been writing the book, together with his friend Matt, for the last six years. He is understandably proud of this achievement - particularly as profits from all pre-ordered copies of the e-book are being donated to MNDA in the US.



You can order the Kindle edition of 'Dreams of Morpheus' - described as a collection of short stories and poems - from Amazon. Look out for the paperback version which is coming soon.



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Choir hits top note

The Hawarden Singers raised over £400 for MNDA at Hoole Methodist Church last month.

Members of the prestigious local choir performed a selection of songs, old and new, at the church in Chester. Around 80 people attended the musical event, which was arranged as part of a series of monthly charity concerts organised by John Evans, director of music at the church.



“The concerts are intended to increase awareness of the church within the Hoole community, offer the opportunity to hear good quality live music in a warm and friendly local venue, as well as raise some valuable money for charity.”

“They also offer the chance for the community and charities to meet and share fellowship over refreshments following the performance,” explained John.

We are delighted the Hawarden Singers chose MNDA as the nominated charity for donations from this event. Thank you for your support!

RESEARCH NEWS

Joint study with Marie Curie



MNDA has announced the launch of a jointly funded study with Marie Curie. It is aimed at improving the quality of care received by people with MND and will develop and pilot a web-based decision aid for people with MND considering having a percutaneous endoscopic gastronomy (PEG) tube fitted.

The decision aid will present accurate and reliable information, clearly explain risks and benefits and check users' understanding of the material presented. Crucially, it will also help people understand what is most important to them; so supporting personal choice.

It will be developed with the help of people living with MND, carers and clinicians to make sure the information included is relevant, useful and presented in the best possible way.



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COMMITTEE NEWS

Thank you Joel!

by Clare Ward

Last month, Joel stepped down as Chair of the Cheshire branch after almost ten years' service at the helm.

As we say goodbye to our fabulous outgoing Chair, it seems only appropriate that we celebrate some of his most memorable moments from over the years:

- Cheshire branch ball at the Alderley Edge Hotel (2013) and the Arley Hall dinner (2017) - who knew Joel could scrub up so well!
- Eaton Hall Open Day (July 2013) - it was all hands on deck!



- Ice bucket challenge (2014) - what a great sport.
- MMU project - lending his support to this valuable research project.
- Mere Golf Club partnership - working with Ros & Chris Clempner to raise vital funds.
- Wellbeing Days at the Sunflower Centre at East Cheshire Hospice - he has been instrumental in the organisation.



On behalf of everyone on the committee, I would like to thank Joel for all his efforts and amazing support. We are delighted that he will remain in his role as an Association Visitor and continue to visit people living with MND and their carers in Cheshire. Keep up the good work!

New roles

We are pleased to report that Mike Coleman will be stepping into the position of Chair of the Cheshire branch.

Already a qualified Association Visitor, Mike joined the committee as Vice Chair last year and has now kindly agreed to take on the new role.

The role of Vice Chair has been filled by Richard Webb who will also continue as our Campaigns Co-ordinator.



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FINANCIAL STUFF

Summarised Accounts as at 31 December 2018			
Income		Expenditure	
Item	Year to Date	Item	Year to Date
General Donations	975	Financial Support	20,436
Restricted Donation	14,118	National Office	15,000
In Memoriam Donations	4,603	Info & Education	1,249
Corporate Donations	0	Admin Cost	2,448
Fund Raising	19,846	Publicity and Fundraising	853
Resale of Goods	2,105	Purchase of goods for resale	2,363
Sundry – Just Giving	222	CEO Appeal & MMU Research	0
Bank Interest	437	Total Expenditure	42,349
Gift Aid	2,290	Surplus for the year to date	2,247
Total Income	44,596	Total	44,596

Notable donations and fundraising events to 31 December 2018:

- DG Lowe Trust
- Hazel Grove Walking Group
- Inner Wheel Alderley Edge
- Prestbury Methodist Church
- Race night - fundraising
- Wilbraham Charitable Trust

In Memory

- John Pilling (with permission of Ann Butler)

DIARY DATES

1 April @ 2.30pm	Support meeting	Wilmslow Garden Centre, SK9 2JN
13 May @ 2.30pm	AGM / Support meeting	Abbeywood Garden Centre, CW8 2HW
12 June @ 2.30pm	Support meeting	Arley Hall, Northwich CW9 6NA
22 June 10am-4pm	North regional conference	Radisson Blu Hotel, Manchester airport



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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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