

# Newsletter

## Happy New Year to all our friends and supporters.

Sorry there was not a Summer Newsletter. We will try to get the whole years' activities in this issue.

### 2007 Report:

The Open Meetings have been well attended, though there is always room for more people. Our talks have been quite varied, starting off the year learning about the duties and experiences of a Magistrate. At the AGM we heard about the changes to the Care Line and all that was offered by Connect – the new Help and Information Line run from National Office. We then learnt a great deal about ZSL (Zoological Society of London) and a lot of information on what is available to us just up the road at Whipsnade Zoo. Once again we were lucky with the weather so the BBQ in Lansdowne Road was a very good evening. The year was rounded off by a talk on Hospice at Home and finally our usual Christmas treat of carols sung by St Augustine's Church Choir.

This year we hope that our speakers will appeal to you. If you have not attended one of our meetings, or would like to bring friends, please do not hesitate. New people are always welcome and it is nice for our speakers to have a good audience.

Once again we have done something right and following on from the Oscarr we received in 2006 for Splendid Support, we now have a Highly Commended Certificate for Awareness during 2007. Well done everyone.



During the year we have been lucky to have received many donations. These have included a collection at Gala Bingo which raised £400.

Luton Chilern Rotary Club had decided to let us have a further £500.00. This was almost immediately used to fund the installation and rental of a stairlift. The Longhorn Group Charity have worked very hard during the year both helping us with our street collections and organising ones of their own. They were spotted in the cold outside the new Lidl Supermarket in Dunstable. They had hijacked Santa and his sleigh, were playing Christmas music and holding a collection.



**FIGHTING MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE**

**Fundraising:**

**Barn Dance:**

In March and October we enjoyed very successful Barn Dances. With good attendances and raffle prizes we managed to raise nearly £2,000.00. Kelly's Eye provided the music at each event and Stopsley Working Men's Club kindly donated the use of their Function Room. Preparation of the food is now quite a smooth operation thanks to the helpers.



**New Dance:**

On 4th April we are again holding a dance but this one will be a bit different. The very popular local DJ and singer, Ollie Moran, will be providing the music for 'Strictly Fun Dancing'. Due to the wide range of Ollie's CDs all types of dance can be done so everyone will have the chance to request their own favourite. Tickets will shortly be on sale and these will cost £4.00. No food is being supplied so please bring your own, drinks can, of course, be bought at the Club Bar.

**Street Collections:**

During 2007 we had three collections. For 2008 we will hopefully have the usual ones but also two additional more. Early in the year collected £513.24 at Luton Town Football Club and will collect at Tesco at Skimpot Lane in March. The Awareness Week one in Luton Arndale Centre will be at the start of Awareness Week on 14th June. When you receive details of dates and a request for tin holders please try to be available

**Awareness Week Walk:**

Steve Halton took us round Stockgrove Park for the Awareness Week Walk. We had good weather and as usual a lot of very interesting information from Steve. We have asked if he can assist again this year on 21st June but he is unable to say yes until later in the year. Fingers crossed he will be free. If not, we will still arrange something for you.



**Walk to D'feet:**

At the beginning of September there was a good turn out for the Dunstable Walk to D'Feet. This raised over £1,200.00. Our thanks go the walkers and Declan Duggan for his help and the use of the White Swan Inn both before and after the Walk. This September the walkers will be off again so make a note to get your Sponsor Forms later this year.



### **Regional Care Advisor**

With some regret Moira Mosley left this post during the year but luckily the post was filled and Fiona Turner is finding her feet in this position. We look forward to welcoming her to our meetings.

### **Volunteer Development Co-ordinator**

Congratulations once again to Ruth Barton. She is currently on Maternity Leave following the birth of her son Stuart Anthony on 1st October. Her role is temporarily filled by Wendy Crofts, Volunteering Development Manager

### **Vacancy**

Unfortunately Andy Barter has decided to stop Fund Raising and will be giving up this position at the AGM. During the many years he has undertaken this role he has been instrumental in raising lots of money for the Branch. Thanks Andy. If anyone reading this feels that they can offer their skills please contact the Secretary.

### **Web Site**

This is gradually being updated so hopefully very soon it will be complete.

## **Dates for your 2008 Diary**

*All meetings are held in the Day Room at The Pasque Hospice*

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> February, 8:00pm	Pam Greener "Revoltng Peasants"
Monday 7 <sup>th</sup> April, <b>7:30pm</b>	AGM - Guest speaker Julie Compton Regional Influencing Co-ordinator
Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> June, 8:00pm	Graham Tolliday - East of England Ambulance Service
<b>Saturday</b> 2 <sup>nd</sup> August, <b>7:00pm</b>	Annual Barbeque at 25 Lansdowne Road, Luton.
Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> October, 8:00pm	John Ward - 3 Counties Radio Action Desk
Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> December, <b>7:30pm</b>	Christmas Social with Carols sung by St. Augustine's Choir.

Please come and join our meetings and feel free to bring your friends.

Dates and details of events can be found on our web site:

**[www.mndlutonandsbeds.org](http://www.mndlutonandsbeds.org)**

## **Can We Do Anything To Help ?**

The branch exists to provide help and support to people living with MND and their carers in the Luton and South Beds area.

MND head office can provide a wide range of loan equipment such as raising armchairs and suction machines, but often more specific items are required, that is where the local branch can help. We arrange the supply of small items of equipment or help with the funding of large items.

Within the branch we have three volunteer visitors who will come along to discuss your specific needs and recommend the help that we can provide or other organisations that can be useful.

### **Useful Contacts**

**Local Branch Contact**                      **Betty Jackson 01582 613052**

**Regional Care Advisor**                      **Fiona Turner 08453 751834**

**Local Volunteer Visitors**                      **Sue Diggin 01582 614496**  
**Betty Jackson 01582 613052**  
**Ann Murphy 01582 521604**

**MDN Association Helpline**                      **08457 626262**

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Motor Neurone Disease Association

PO Box 246, Northampton, NN1 2PR. Tel 01604 250505

Email : [enquiries@mndassociation.org](mailto:enquiries@mndassociation.org)

Website : [www.mndassociation.org](http://www.mndassociation.org)

Registered Charity No 294354

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If you wish to be removed from our mailing list please contact our secretary,  
Ann Murphy. Tel: 01582 521604 or email: [ann.murphy@ntlworld.com](mailto:ann.murphy@ntlworld.com)