

# Newsletter

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

## **2008 Report:**

2008 has gone by very quickly with some successes and some disappointments for our Branch.

We have had well attended and interesting Open Meetings. We learnt history from Pam Greener with her talk on Revolving Peasants', the day-to-day running of our Ambulance Service with Graham Tolliday and Peter Aspinall gave us an informative and amusing insight into the funeral business. We ended the year with a good evening listening and singing Carols with St Augustine's Choir.

At the AGM notice was given by Ray Anness, Treasurer, and Ann Murphy Secretary, that they both wished to stand down after the 2009 AGM. We have been lucky to find someone to take over the role of Treasurer. Moyra Barker has kindly offered to do this. So far no-one has come forward for the Secretary position. We will be advertising this at the Volunteer Centres but if anyone reading this feels they could assist us or knows of someone, please do get in touch.

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.

During the year we have once again been lucky to have received donations. For example, Luton Celtic Club raised £83. In September Dr Gale, our Branch President, was married. He suggested that guests made donations instead of giving presents which raised £575.00. Barrie and Val Blewitt celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary and again suggested donations to be divided between two charities. This resulted in our receiving £120.00. Thanks to everyone who has helped us.

These donations and our fund raising have enabled us to pay for the installation and rental of two stairlifts as well as contributing towards a very special visit overseas. A third stairlift was installed this month with another home shortly being surveyed for a possible installation. We have also contributed towards two special funds at National Office.



**FIGHTING MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE**

## **Fundraising:**

We have had collections at Luton Football ground, the Arndale, Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard and two at Tesco's Store in Skimpot Road. As many of you know this is not always an enjoyable task but these collections have raised over £1,500.00. so they are well worth continuing. Please carry on putting your names down to help with these.

The Dance in March was a very enjoyable night out for all those who came along. Ollie Moran gave his services and even arranged for Danny Glass and Belinda to sing for us. We did make some money but not nearly as much as we could due to poor attendance.

August we had a Jazz Picnic with Rance's Rocking Chair Band. Everyone attending really enjoyed the music which was Traditional Jazz with a humorous twist at times. Again this was a missed opportunity to raise funds as not enough people supported us.



## **Walks**

Steve Halton was unable to lead our June Awareness Week Walk but undaunted we led ourselves. It was a bit of a damp day but we all enjoyed a circular walk from Studham to Whipsnade and back with the aid of our trusty map. We ended with coffee and a snack at Harpers which rounded off the event well.



In September a Walk to D'Feet was organised with many people making their way from Dunstable Town up to the Visitor Centre on Dunstable Downs. This raised about £700.

## 2009

This year has started well with the Longhorn charity group raising £450 over Christmas and Luton Celtic club raising £257.

This year will bring some changes, hopefully new faces on the Committee and some new ideas.

Our speaker in February will be from Caddington Hedgehog Rescue and will be bringing some prickly friends along with her. In June we have Scott Watts the Chaplain from Sue Ryder at Moggerhanger. He is a very interesting speaker. The August Barbeque will be at a different venue, this time it will be in Dunstable. So far the October speaker has not been finalised.

During Awareness Week. 20th to 28th June, there will be our annual collection in the Arndale Centre, the sponsored Walk and possibly a Golf Day. Details will be circulated as soon as arrangements are finalised. The Dunstable Walk to D'feet will be on Sunday 6th September

The other street collections will be held as usual and as always, please put your name down to help when the forms are circulated.

### Regional Care Advisor

Fiona Turner has been supporting our Visitors well but due to re-organisation of her area she will be leaving us. In March we will welcome Rachel our new RCA who will only have three county areas to work with.

### Volunteer Development Co-ordinator

Susanne Curtis has been appointed and is already in touch and supporting the work of our Branch.

### New Patron

After many years as the Association Patron the Duchess of York reluctantly gave up this role due to pressure of commitments. We have been extremely honoured that HRH Princess of Wales has agreed to take on this position.

## Dates for your 2009 Diary

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

Monday 2nd February, 8:00pm	Mrs Smith from Caddington Hedgehog Rescue
Monday 6th April, <b>7:30pm</b>	AGM - Guest Speaker Dr Belinda Cooper MNDA Research Manager
Monday 1st June, 8:00pm	Scott Watts - Chaplain at Sue Ryder Home, Moggerhanger
Saturday 1st August, <b>7:00pm</b>	Annual Barbeque at 40 Downs Road, Dunstable
Monday 5th October, 8:00pm	To be advised
Monday 7th 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	New Regional Care Advisor being appointed
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)