

Newsletter

Happy New Year to all our friends and supporters.

2009 Report:

Once again a year has flown by and we have not produced a mid-year Newsletter. We will do our best to get two issues produced in 2010.

Unfortunately our February meeting had to be cancelled due to the heavy snowfalls and while typing this it is a very similar scene outside.

At the AGM Bill Quinn managed to stand down as Chairman after giving us many years in that role. Ray was also able to stand down as Treasurer but is staying on the Committee. Moyra Barker officially became our new Treasurer. All other Committee positions remain unchanged except that as no volunteer came forward for the Chairman role, Ann agreed to take on that as well as Secretary. Before giving her talk Dr Belinda Cupid presented Long Service Certificates to Bill Quinn (22 years), Ray Anness (23 years) and Betty Jackson (18 years). Dr Cupid told us about the good progress being made in Research. We were also glad to welcome Dr Gale who spoke of improvements at the L and D Hospital.

In June Scott Watts told us about his work as Chaplain at Moggerhanger and in August we had our Barbeque. While setting this up the heavens opened and for a while we thought it would be an indoor one. However the rain

cleared away and everyone enjoyed the traditional barbequed food and the Paella.

The speaker from Caddington Hedgehog Rescue due at the cancelled February meeting moved away during the year but luckily for us gave details for Leighton Buzzard Hedgehogs. Jackie Burke agreed to come along in October and bring one of her hogs. We all enjoyed the talk and getting up close to a hedgehog.



FIGHTING MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE

In December we once again had a good start to Christmas with carols sung by St Augustine's Choir. This evening was well attended and enjoyed by everyone.

Fundraising:

2009

In June Elvis came to Caddington and gave everyone an enjoyable evening which resulted in just over £600.00. being raised.

We undertook the annual street collections in Luton Mall (£534.13), Leighton Buzzard (£398.19) and Dunstable (£323.97). Thanks to everyone who helped out on these. It is not exciting to do but people- watching is fun and we do get a reasonable contribution towards funds. Unfortunately the collection arranged at Tesco's in February had to be cancelled due to the snow.

In September the Annual Walk to D'feet was organised by Wendy Currie and Tracey Leu with walkers stepping out from The White Swan in Dunstable to the Downs Discovery Centre and back. The walkers sponsorship raised £406.42 for us. Thanks to everyone for doing this.



2010

Due to health problems Wendy has had to retire from the post of Fund Raiser. You will appreciate that this is a vital role if we are to continue raising money to help local people living with MND. Please if anyone reading this feels they could contribute ideas or organisation skills for fundraising do get in touch.

The collection in the Mall has been arranged for 19th June and details for the other two venues will be circulated as soon as known. Naturally we will be again asking for volunteers to hold the tins.

A new event being researched is possibly holding an afternoon meeting at a Garden Centre in May. Details will be sent out when all is arranged.

Our Open Meetings and Speakers are detailed below. If you have not attended one before do please try to get along. You can always bring family members or friends with you and you will be sure of a warm welcome.

During Awareness Week, 19th to 27th June, there will be our annual collection in the Luton Mall on 19th and the sponsored Walk on 27th. Details will be circulated as soon as arrangements are finalised.

Regional Care Advisor

Rachel Boothman has been working to establish better understanding and communication within the Health & Social Care organisations with regard to MND. On 28th April an event is being held at Keech Hospice Care to consider the future development of services for people living with MND in Luton and South Bedfordshire.

This mapping day is aimed at all stakeholders involved in planning, providing and receiving MND care. There will be opportunities for people affected by MND to work alongside commissioners and health and social care professionals to consider what works well, what doesn't and how services could be improved.

Full details and invites will be distributed nearer the time.

Dates for your 2010 Diary

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

Monday 1st February, 8:00pm	Hannah Thompson - Big Cats with Feeling
Monday 12th April, 7:30pm	AGM - Guest Speaker Kate Gooding MND Connect
Monday 7th June, 8:00pm	Hilary Stubbs - Wardown House
Saturday 7th August, 7:00pm	Annual Barbeque at 40 Downs Road, Dunstable
Monday 4th October, 8:00pm	Wendy Hymus - Disability Resource Centre
Monday 6th December, 7:30pm	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

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 Development Advisor	Rachel Boothman 08453 751830
Local Volunteer Visitors	Sue Diggin 01582 614496 Betty Jackson 01582 613052 Ann Murphy 01582 521604
MDN Association Helpline	08457 626262

Motor Neurone Disease Association

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

Email : enquiries@mndassociation.org

Website : www.mndassociation.org

Registered Charity No 294354

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