



Multiple Sclerosis Society

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and Wales 07451571

Dear Friends

Our hastily-arranged picnic and collection at Millets Farm, Frilford Heath, near Abingdon, provided a welcome boost to branch funds. Four hours of tin rattling brought in £355.94, a great effort.

We are sorry if some members were unaware of the event. It was organised after the last newsletter was published and we were only able to alert those on email, although we did urge members to tell everyone who might not have known.

We were offered two dates – in June and September – and we chose June, because the weather was likely to be better and the garden centre would attract a larger number of customers while the gardening season was in full swing, rather than at the end.

Our judgement proved right – the weather was good (not too hot, but no rain until we had finished)

Oxford and district branch Newsletter

July/August 2015

and the place was packed.

Our thanks to Brenda Franklin, who organised the date and the picnic, and to our band of collectors – Dorothy and Michael Warner, Jo and Brian Hawtin, John Franklin, Margaret Scully, Lizzie Nowakowski, Alan Cusden and John Chipperfield.

100 CLUB WINNERS

The winners of the 100 Club draw in June were Brenda Franklin (£28), Sandra Morris (£17) and Jane Forde Horan (£8). This was the fourth and last draw of the 100 Club year, so organiser Brenda Franklin will be chasing members to renew their subscriptions and persuade others to join.

It is an easy way to win a cash prize in the quarterly draw and to help the branch at the same time. Half the income goes in prizes and half to branch funds. So the more people taking part, the higher the cash prizes and the more the branch benefits. A form to join or rejoin the 100 Club is attached to this newsletter.

RUNNING FOR MS

The support our Open Day volunteer Elaine Smith gives to our branch is amazing. Without telling us, she signed up for the 10-kilometre BUPA London Run.

About 15,000 runners took part in the event, which started and ended in St James's Park, and Elaine was one of a small number raising money for MS.

Her effort brought in £435. The rules mean that she has had to hand the money to head office, but she has asked for it to be passed on to our branch. We will wait to see what happens!

Our thanks to Elaine not only for taking part in the run, but for the valuable help she gives us behind the scenes at our Open Days.

RAIL MARATHON

Mike Homer stopped off at Oxford station during a 10-day railway marathon to raise money for MS research.

He travelled by train from his home at Fareham, Hampshire, to the furthest point he could reach each day, then worked his way back, stopping at towns and cities where there were MS branches.

At each stop, he asked a member of the local branch to meet him, to have a picture taken with him and to sign his route sheet, to prove to sponsors that he had completed his schedule.

Our chairman, John Chipperfield, met him as he got off at Oxford station at 20.18 on Thursday, 11th June. He had travelled all the way to Llandudno that day, the seventh day of what he called his MSaTHON. He and his companion, Bob, spent an hour with John in the station cafe before heading home.

Mike, who was given a freedom pass by South West Trains, his local train company, to travel the country, hopes to have raised nearly £2,000 for MS research.

He said: "My daughter Elizabeth has MS and I want to help her and others as much as I can."

Mike is 76, was medically retired in 1990 with a balance problem and uses a power chair. He was impressed with the help he was given by train companies to get on and off trains.

This was his fifth charity rail run. Previous challenges have raised money for the Rowans Hospice at Portsmouth, Military Ministries International, his church and to help a teenage boy travel to America for treatment to a bowel condition.



Members showed their expertise at creating floral displays at a workshop led by Brenda Franklin at our June Open Day and right, volunteer Elaine Smith after competing in the 10km BUPA London Run in aid of MS



GENEROUS GIFT

We have received a cheque for £250 from the very generous members of the Bear Club of Abingdon.

Club treasurer Marcus Smith writes: "The Bear Club of Abingdon was formed in 1767 and we pride ourselves as being the oldest dining club in England and will have been going for some 250 years in 2017.

"We are a non profit making club and meet eight times a year, between October and May, in various local pubs and inns to enjoy a meal, meet socially and to raise money for local charities such as yours. The cheque comes with all good wishes from us and we trust you can make good use of it."

Our thanks to all members of the club for their very welcome donation, which will help considerably towards the increasing costs of running our monthly Open Days.

GARDEN PARTY

A reminder that the Northcourt Centre at Abingdon, where we hold our monthly Open Days, is organising a garden party on the afternoon of Sunday, 19th July to raise money to improve the forecourt and redecorate rooms.

Muriel and Dixon Halliday have offered to open their garden which backs on to the centre, and cream teas will be served in the hall.

All groups which use the centre are being encouraged to hold a fundraising activity for the hall – we will be inviting visitors to play the Dutch board game of shula.

Please put the date in your diary and come along with your friends and family from 2.30pm – tickets cost £5 (children £3).

It is important that we support this event as we, and other users, will benefit from the improvements to the centre.

OPEN DAYS

We were pleased to welcome back Wheatley Birds of Prey to our July Open Day. Jayne and Clive Jones brought along six of their wonderful birds and everyone enjoyed seeing them at close hand. Look out for pictures in the next newsletter.

Brenda Franklin led another very successful workshop at our June Open Day. Members created some beautiful floral designs to take home, as you will see from the picture.

At our August Open Day, we will welcome members of Wantage Male Voice Choir, who will entertain us with popular songs and bring with them a little bit of humour.



Mike Homer at Oxford railway station during his rail marathon in aid of MS research. He was met by our chairman, John Chipperfield

Jo and Brian Hawtin, who made a great sacrifice by spending their golden wedding anniversary with us at our May Open Day.



BRIEFLY

Our thanks to foot specialist Mrs Shergold, of Woodstock, who continues to support us by encouraging her customers to give a donation for MS in exchange for the treatment they receive. Her latest cheque to the branch was for £354.59 – a wonderful gesture.

A reminder that the annual barbecue will be held at the Oxford Centre for Enablement, on Saturday, 11th July from noon to 3pm. Tickets cost £5 (£2.50 for children 13 and under and free for those five and under) and are available from the centre. All the money raised will go towards patient amenities. The centre, which many of our members attend, is on the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre site at Headington.

The MS Society is carrying out an online survey about members' experiences of claiming disability benefits. The results will help its continuing campaign for improvements to the welfare system. In a statement, the society said: "Living with an incurable, progressive condition like MS shouldn't be made harder by financial insecurity." Members who received the questionnaire by email have until Tuesday, 14th July to send in their views.

Please note that our transport officer, Liz Smith, has moved to Farmoor and her new telephone number is **01865 863764**. Her email address remains the same - smithlizt@gmail.com

Let us know if you hear of anyone ill or in hospital. Call **0779 237 7178** for all welfare matters. Send correspondence to John Chipperfield at 3 Lambs Close, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 2YD. For the MS nurses, call **01865 234461** or email ms.advice@orh.nhs.uk Call **01865 231869** for information about ongoing and new MS trials. To contribute to the newsletter, call John Chipperfield on **01865 374877**, write to 3 Lambs Close, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 2YD or send an email to mjpchipperfield@yahoo.co.uk

If you change your email address or install email in your home, please make sure you let Stevan Heads, our membership secretary, know. The more newsletters we send by email, the more we save in printing, stationery and postage costs. And you see the pictures in colour, not black and white. Call Stevan on **01235 532184** or email sheads@icloud.com

All views expressed in this newsletter are individual and not necessarily the view or policy of the charity or its supporters.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Saturday July 11: Barbecue at Oxford Centre for Enablement, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre site, Headington. Noon-3pm (booking essential)

Sunday July 19: Garden party at Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. 2.30-5.30pm.

Friday August 7: Open Day, Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. Wantage Male Voice Choir entertains. 10am-4pm.

Friday, September 4: Open Day, Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. Speaker: Malcolm Nelson, My life as a customs officer (Part 2). 10am-4pm.

Friday October 2: Open Day, Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. Speaker: John Winn on his hobby of steamboats. 10am-4pm.

Friday November 6: Open Day, Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. Brenda Franklin leads a Christmas craft workshop. 10am-4pm.

Friday December 4: Open Day, Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. Christmas music from Ian and Diane Woods. 10am-4pm.

2016

No Open Day in January

Call Alan Cusden on 01865 723420 or Geoff Cowan on 07930 542692 if you wish to help with fundraising or collections.

Don't forget to look at our website at www.mssociety.org.uk/oxford

Oxford and District Branch Officers – 2015-6

President: Prof Derick Wade

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Vacant

100 Club – Rules

This club is a fund raising scheme for the Oxford branch of the MS Society which is operated under the control of the Fund Raising Committee who will appoint a 100 club administrator.

1. The subscription is £12.00 per year payable in June. Members are permitted to join at any time throughout the year paying £1.00 per calendar month for the remainder of the year.
2. All Members must be over the age of 16 and must fill in an application form (attached).
3. 50% of the monies collected for the quarter will be distributed in prize money; the other 50% will go to branch funds. From that 50% prize money there will be three prizes:
 - 1st prize = 30%
 - 2nd prize = 15%
 - 3rd prize = 5%
4. Draws will take place on the first Friday of June, September, December and March
5. The draw will take place in front of at least 5 branch members.
6. All draws will take place at the Open Day venue.
7. Winners and the amount of prize will be published in the Branch newsletter immediately following each draw.
8. An up to date list of all members will be held by the 100 Club organiser
9. The 100 Club Organiser will hand an up to date list of members to the Treasurer on each draw date.
10. Members wishing to leave the 100 club may only do so at the membership year end. Refunds will not be given for people wishing to withdraw before the year end.

Making payment to join the 100 club whether by cheque, cash or direct to the Branch's bank account deems that participants agree to the 100 club rules

100 CLUB Application Form

Name:
(applicants must be over the age of 16)

Address:
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Post Code:

Telephone No:

Email:

Total Payment enclosed (£12 per year):
(Cheques to be made payable to MS Society Oxford and District Branch)

Signed:

Please ensure that you have completed all your details. By signing this form you have accepted that you have received and accept the rules of the 100 club of the Oxford & District Branch of the MS Society

Please return this form together with your cheque to:
Brenda Franklin, 14, Station Road, Brize Norton, OX18 3PU