



Multiple Sclerosis Society

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Dear Friends

The fourth and last draw of our 100 Club year, made at our June Open Day, brought a windfall of £23 to Lindsay Hammond. Second prize of £11 went to Rita Thorpe and the third prize of £5 to John Chipperfield.

The next draw will be in September and now is the time to renew your subscription – or, if you are not yet a member, to join the club.

You are allocated a number and if your ball emerges from the carousel at the quarterly draws in September, December, March and June, you win a cash prize.

It is a good way to boost your own income as well as our funds – half goes to the winning member and half to the branch.

We are still looking for a volunteer to take over the 100 Club. Brenda Franklin, who has run it for several years, would like

Oxford and district branch Newsletter

July-September 2016

to step down if anyone else is willing to come forward.

The job involves organising the four draws a year, collecting annual subscription fees, keeping a list of members and attracting new members. Our treasurer, Brian Hawtin, is holding the reins temporarily.

A form is attached to this newsletter for people wanting to renew their subscription or join the club (you don't have to be a branch member to take part).

If anyone fancies the job of 100 Club co-ordinator, please contact our secretary, Jo Hawtin, on **01865 373907** or email jo.hawtin@ntlworld.com

FIGHTING BACK

Many of us who feel we've been treated badly, say nothing and just put up with it. But two branch members with justifiable complaints decided to fight back – with wonderfully surprising results. Read the inspiring stories of Patricia Edwards and Karen Bellingher on the next two pages.

PARKING VICTORY

Patricia Edwards, who has MS, has successfully persuaded Oxfordshire County Council to drop plans to remove parking spaces near her home.

As we reported in the last newsletter, she feared she would have to give up her work as an Oxford college administrator if she could not park near her home in Headley Way, Headington.

She has difficulty walking more than a few yards yet, under the original £12.5m Headington traffic scheme, the parking space she uses would have disappeared to create cycle lanes.

The nearest road with parking would have been 160 yards from her home and not designated for disabled residents. But now, partly as a result of Patricia's protests, the council has backtracked.

Patricia, a member of our branch, writes: "You very kindly highlighted my plight in the last newsletter. In a follow-up to this, which may well be of interest to other people with MS, I have wonderful news to report.

"After three consultations by the council, it decided at a meeting on 9th June to pass the

latest proposals in the 'Access to Headington' plans, which include retaining some on-road parking for residents in Headley Way and Windmill Road.

"I cannot express the relief I felt that after nearly a year of battling with the council, Cyclox (a cycling organisation) and other parties, a good compromise has been reached, taking all viewpoints into account.

"The road is to be widened, there will be segregated cycle lanes and some car parking spaces will be retained. Common sense has prevailed!

"Needless to say, my MS symptoms worsened over this last year, possibly due to the incredible stress and worry over what looked certain to be the loss of my independence and ability to work.

"Now just the impending road works to deal with, but that's fine. They will pass and I will still be able to get to work. Anyway, the fight was worth it!"

Well done, Patricia! It just goes to show that it is worth putting up a fight if you think you have a worthy cause.

Read about another successful protest by branch member Karin Bellinger and her partner, John Faint, on the following page.

KAREN'S BOUQUET

Branch member Karen Bellinger received a bouquet of flowers, a voucher and two letters of apology after being the victim of appalling behaviour by a delivery driver.

Knowing a parcel she was expecting was coming, Karen sat near an open window at her Abingdon home and when she saw the delivery man arriving, she shouted she was coming and opened the door within 90 seconds.

The man shouted "I'm busy, busy", slung the parcel into the hall and hurried back to his van, where he sat for several minutes (not in such a hurry after all!). The parcel landed in the hall, blocking access to the cloakroom and toilet. It was too heavy for Karen to move.

Karen's partner, John Faint, who was out at the time, wrote a strong letter of protest to delivery company Yodel and received letters of apology from both Yodel and Greenfingers, the company whose parcel it was delivering. Karen also received flowers from Yodel and a voucher from Greenfingers. John writes: "Our complaint to Yodel has elicited a better response than we hoped for. Our experience may raise a wry smile and encourage others not to take

matters lying down." The good news is – the driver no longer works for Yodel.

CAKE BREAK

Dorothy and Michael Warner raised the grand sum of £203 for our funds when they organised a Cake Break at their home in Abingdon.

Many of their friends joined branch members for an afternoon of tea, cake and friendly chat – a picture of some of them is included later in the newsletter. So much cake had been made that we couldn't eat it all!

An added bonus, particularly for the men, was that Michael had his extensive model railway display up and running in the garage, bringing back memories of the glorious steam age.

OPEN AFTERNOON

The Northcourt Centre at Abingdon, where we hold our monthly meetings, is hosting an Open Afternoon on Sunday (17th July) from 2pm and inviting everyone to attend.

All groups which use the centre have been asked to take part and we will invite people, as we did last year, to compete in the Dutch game of Schula. All money raised will go towards improvements at the centre.

OPEN DAYS

Our Open Days are becoming increasingly popular, with new members and supporters appearing almost every month.

We have also been pleased to welcome three members of the MS Society staff – local network officer Karin Gray, area fundraiser Nicky Turner and new recruit Beth Robertson.

Our May Open Day featured a craft workshop with Pauline Allen, while in June, we welcomed back Malcolm Nelson, the former customs officer, who delighted us with more tales of smugglers.

In July, we heard about the work of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution and the brave lifeboatmen and women who protect us day and night.

Two ardent supporters of the charity, Bridget Britton and her colleague, Peter, gave an interesting and informative talk, with films and illustrations.

They brought with them a large number of souvenirs and other goods, which we laid out on two large tables. They left after lunch having sold £183.40 worth of souvenirs and with donations of £61.86. Bridget and Peter have asked us to thank all members for their support.

In August, we will have a singalong with Daisy Alexander, while in September, by special request, we have a visit from Rosemary Munro, who will entertain us with music on her harp.

The ever popular Wheatley Birds of Prey are booked for our October Open Day.

Let us know if you have any ideas for our 2017 Open Day programme.

STAMP CASH

Used stamps continue to be a good source of income for the branch.

John Franklin, who died in January, collected stamps from members and supporters for many years and sold them to a dealer who paid cash for them. John would always donate the money to our funds.

His widow, Brenda, recently sent off his latest batch of stamps and handed £130 to our treasurer.

Please continue to collect stamps from letters and parcels you receive and bring them to our Open Day meetings.

Stamps can be British or foreign, but they should have at least an eighth of an inch of envelope around them on all sides.



Dorothy Warner's Cake Break which raised £203 for branch funds

GEE-UP!

Who fancies a spot of horse-racing? Not on a racecourse, but in the comfort of Seacourt Road hall at Botley, Oxford OX2 9LN on Wednesday, 3rd August from 2pm. Tracey and Jeff Samways are organising the afternoon in aid of our funds. Punters back a model horse, a dice is thrown twice to indicate which horse should move forward and by how many spaces, and the winner collects a cash prize.

Refreshments will be kindly

supplied by Tracey. Come along and join in the fun. Call Tracey and Jeff on **01865 790914** for more details.

SUMMER BARBECUE

The Friends of the Oxford Centre for Enablement hold their annual barbecue on Saturday (16th July) from noon to 3pm. All the money raised will go towards equipment and other items not supplied by the NHS. The unit, which some of our members attend, is on the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre site at Headington.

MS COLLECTIONS

With Oxford United playing at Wembley, we feared there might be no-one around to support our collection at Sainsbury's at Heyford Hill in April, but we needn't have worried.

Shoppers were very generous and handed over a total of £441.60, a magnificent result. One brought along £69 in loose change to do his shopping and gave the lot to us! We wonder if he went hungry all week!

We have organised a collection at Millets Farm at Frilford Heath on Saturday, 3rd December and our fundraisers will be looking for volunteers to shake a tin. Call Alan Cusden on **01865 723420** if you can help.

Meanwhile, our thanks to members of Wootton Wednesday Club, near Abingdon, who have made us their charity of the year.

BRIEFLY

Anyone with MS wishing to keep fit can take advantage of classes run by Generation Games, the exercise arm of Age UK Oxfordshire. They take place at Oxsrade in Marsh Lane, Marston, every Wednesday from 10am to noon and at the White Horse Leisure Centre in Abingdon on Mondays from 1 to 2pm. For

more information, contact Generation Games on **01235 849403** or email generationgames@ageukoxfordshire.org.uk (www.generationgames.org.uk).

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 16: Barbecue at Oxford Centre for Enablement, Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre, Headington. 12 noon to 3pm.

Sunday July 17: Northcourt Centre garden party and fundraising day, Northcourt Road, Abingdon. 2pm. All welcome. £5, including refreshments.

Wednesday August 3: Race afternoon, Seacourt Hall, Seacourt Road, Botley. 2pm. Free entry and refreshments.

Friday August 5: Open Day, Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. Singalong with Daisy Alexander. 10am-4pm.

Friday September 2: Open Day, Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. Entertainer: Harpist Rosemary Munro. 10am-4pm.

Friday October 7: Open Day, Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. Wheatley Birds of Prey. 10am-4pm.

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

Friday December 2: Open Day, Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. Musical duo Diane and Ian Woods. 10am-4pm.

Saturday December 3: Collection at Millet's Farm, Frilford Heath.

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 – 2016-17

Chairman/Newsletter Editor: John Chipperfield 01865 374877
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Geoffrey Cowan 07930 542692
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Committee member: Dorothy Warner 01235 554448
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Information Officer:
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:

Brian Hawtin, 11a Vicarage Road, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 2EL