



Multiple Sclerosis Society

Registered Charity Nos 1139257/SC041990
Registered as a limited company in England
and Wales 07451571

Dear Friends

We continue to receive great support from a number of benefactors.

The Green Road Social Club at Kidlington held a day-long music festival in the summer and chose MS as one of two charities to benefit.

Our chairman, John Chipperfield, attended both the festival and the presentation evening and was delighted, as well as astonished, to receive a cheque for £637.50, a half share of the day's profit. The other half went to another deserving cause, Maggie's cancer charity,

A second generous donation came from the Freemasons.

John, accompanied by our secretary and treasurer, Jo and Brian Hawtin, attended a charity evening at the Thame Masonic Lodge and left with cheques for £600.

Of this, £500 came from the St Barbara Lodge at Bicester and

Oxford and district branch Newsletter

January-March 2017

£100 from the Masonic Province. During the evening, cheques totalling more than £10,000 were presented to 13 charities.

Our thanks to both organisations for their wonderful support. The money from the Freemasons was spent on our Christmas lunch at the December Open Day and the rest of the cash will be kept in reserve for our social activities and welfare services in the New Year.

MAGNIFICENT TEAM

Well done to all our members who helped collect £352.62 at Millets Farm Centre at Frilford Heath.

December is not an ideal time, weather-wise, to hold an outdoor collection, but our team stuck to their task magnificently and we thank them all.

Our fundraiser, Alan Cusden, has asked if we could arrange two more collections at Millets Farm, on Saturday, 13th May and Saturday, 9th December, and is awaiting confirmation of those dates. Watch the newsletter for further details.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

We were delighted that so many members were able to join us for our combined December Open Day and Christmas celebration.

Our decision to issue tickets worked well, helping our catering team to judge how many meals to prepare and making sure everyone was served and no-one was disappointed.

The day began with the return of that popular musical duo, Diane and Ian Woods. They have been visiting us in December for several years, and they never disappoint, entertaining us with an hour-long selection of Christmas and popular songs, and encouraging everyone to join in the singing and dance as well if they wished.

Jeff Samways was first to show his dancing talents on the floor and was quickly joined by Pam Steptoe and other members. We also joined in singing Happy Birthday to Tracey Samways and Jo Hawtin.

There was a touching moment when Diane and Ian sang their last song, about peace - one they had written themselves - and members all around the room spontaneously linked hands. It was truly heartwarming.

Afterwards, nearly 50 members sat down to an excellent Christmas dinner, prepared by our wonderful catering team of

Sylvie Lamberstock, Elaine Smith, Ann Beckley and Claire White.

We were also pleased to welcome our four therapists to the lunch - to thank them for all the work they do for us throughout the year.

During the lunch, our chairman, John Chipperfield, presented Sylvie, Elaine, Ann and Claire with orchids in appreciation of their efforts.

MS CAMPAIGN

The next phase of the MS Society's campaign, 'MS: Enough', will demand more support for people with MS who want to stay in or return to work.

Research conducted by the society last year suggested that many who wanted to return to work felt they did not receive appropriate help.

Others in work felt they weren't properly supported or faced discrimination in their workplace.

An MS spokesman said: "These are the issues that we'll be addressing and seeking to change in our campaign."

The new phase of the campaign coincides with the publication of a report by the All Party Parliamentary Group for MS, which has been looking at the issues of people with MS and the problems they face in employment.



Our branch received £600 from the Freemasons at a charity presentation evening at Thame, above, left to right, Assistant Provincial Grand Master Alan Knowles, John Chipperfield, Jo Hawtin, Dale Osborne, charity steward of St Barbara Lodge, Bicester, and Brian Hawtin. Left, members making Christmas floral decorations at our November Open Day.

OPEN DAYS

We were pleased to welcome the ever-popular Wheatley Birds of Prey to our October Open Day, courtesy of Jayne and Clive Jones, assisted by a young student, Harvey. As usual, members enjoyed seeing these wonderful birds at close quarters.

In November, Brenda Franklin led another successful craft workshop. However, it seemed to create segregation – women members did the hard work of creating Christmas floral decorations in one room, while the men sat in another room chatting, reading newspapers and drinking tea!

As usual, we had no Open Day in January, but will be back in action in February, with a visit from Don Rouse, from Lew, near Bampton, who will be telling us amusing tales of village life.

Our annual meeting takes place at the March Open Day and it will be your opportunity to choose the members you want to lead the branch over the next year.

All officers stand down so you can nominate anyone for any position on the committee. A nomination form and the annual accounts are attached to this newsletter. Remember – you have to be a member of the MS Society to vote at the annual meeting.

Our April Open day will feature a

performance by the Witney Belly Dancers,

LIFEBOAT SUPPORT

Bridget Britton and Peter Wilford, from the Royal National Lifeboat Institution, who gave us a talk at our July Open Day, returned with their gift stall in November.

Bridget writes: “Thank you very much for inviting us back to your meeting - it was good to see you. I am pleased to tell you that we sold £112.40 worth of souvenirs and received £5.25 in donations.

“Please thank everyone for their warm welcome and for their support of the RNLI. We enjoyed seeing everyone again. The lunch was delicious, much appreciated on such a wet day! If your members would like us to return next year, we would be happy to do so.”

CHRISTMAS CAROLS

The grand sum of £317.98 was raised at a Christmas event at Templars Square, Cowley, for the Oxford Centre for Enablement (OCE), which some of our members attend, on the Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre site at Headington.

A band played Christmas carols and there was also a tombola stall. The money will go to the Friends of the OCE, which supports the centre by providing equipment and other items not available from the NHS.



Members listening and dancing to the music of Diane and Ian Woods at our December Open Day and Christmas celebration



BRIEFLY

Nuala Reeves, our MS nurse, has retired. However, it is likely that she will return to work for a brief period to help her successor when he or she is appointed. We hope to say thanks and give a proper farewell to Nuala at one of our future Open Days.

The winners of the 100 Club draw in December were Val Clear (£21), Jo Hawtin (£10) and Sandra Morris (£3.50). There are still plenty of vacant numbers in the club, so if anyone would like to take part and hopefully win a cash prize, please see our treasurer, Brian Hawtin, at one of our meetings.

The Northcourt Centre at Abingdon, where we hold our Open Days, is organising an Easter raffle to raise money for improvements to the building. We hope to have tickets available to buy at our February and March Open Days. A special event is being organised at the centre on Sunday, 9th April when cream teas will be available.

The MS Society is investing £1.96m in three projects focusing on improving care and services for people with MS, and eight projects on understanding the cause, improving diagnosis and finding ways to treat MS. All the projects are under way or beginning in January 2017. More information is available on the MS Society website.

The MS Society's Christmas concert, sponsored by investment bank Morgan Stanley, took place at St Paul's Cathedral in London. Classical solo performers Sir John Tomlinson, Catherine Wyn Rogers, Gerald Finley and John Mark Ainsley took part, as well as the Soul Sanctuary Gospel Choir and St Paul's Cathedral Consort. Tickets were priced between £35 and £150.

MS Society Christmas cards were again on sale, but some members are asking why most of them say 'Season's Greetings' and not 'Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year'.

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**. 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

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

Friday February 3: Open Day, Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. Speaker: Don Rouse on tales of village life. 10am-4pm.

Friday March 3: Open Day, Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. Annual meeting. 10am-4pm.

Friday April 7: Open Day, Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. Witney Belly Dancers entertain. 10am-4pm.

Friday May 5: Open Day, Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. Brenda Franklin leads a craft workshop. 10am-4pm.

Friday June 2: Open Day, Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. Speaker to be announced. 10am-4pm.

Friday July 7: Open Day, Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. Speaker to be announced. 10am-4pm.

Friday August 4: Open Day, Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. Speaker to be announced. 10am-4pm.

Friday September 1: Open Day, Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. Speaker to be announced. 10am-4pm.

Friday October 6: Open Day, Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. Speaker to be announced. 10am-4pm.

Friday November 3: Open Day, Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. Brenda Franklin leads a Christmas craft workshop. 10am-4pm.

Friday December 1: Open Day, Northcourt Centre, Abingdon. Diane and Ian Woods entertain. 10am-4pm

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

geoffrey.cowan@hotmail.co.uk

Committee member: Dorothy Warner 01235 554448

dowarner@virginmedia.com

The Annual General Meeting of the Oxford & District Branch of the MS Society will be held on Friday, 3rd March 2016 at 10.30am at Northcourt Centre, Northcourt Road, Abingdon.

Only those who have paid their annual subscription by the beginning of the AGM can vote and stand for office. Members are invited to put names forward for any of the following roles:

- Chairman
- Vice-chairman
- Secretary
- Treasurer
- Support Officer
- Fundraising Officers
- Open Day Coordinator
- Transport Officer
- Newsletter Editor
- Membership Secretary
- Information Officer

Nominations should be seconded and must reach our secretary, Jo Hawtin, at 11a Vicarage Road, Kidlington, Oxon OX5 2EL by 18th February. If you are unable to attend the AGM, you may nominate a branch member to be your proxy.

Committee Nomination Form

Name of nominee.....

Telephone number of nominee.....

Position on committee.....

Proposed by.....Signed.....

Seconded by.....Signed.....

| Income & Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st October 2016 | | | | |
|---|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| | Open Day | General | Total | Previous Year |
| | £ | £ | £ | £ |
| Fund Balance at 1st N | -150 | 18,561 | 18,410 | 18,015 |
| Income | | | | |
| Donations | 5,930 | | 5,930 | 6,081 |
| Raffles | 981 | | 981 | 818 |
| Travel Contrib | 200 | | 200 | 195 |
| Cake Break Events | | 503 | 503 | 663 |
| Subscriptions | | 851 | 851 | 1,093 |
| Grants | | | 0 | |
| Bank Interest | | 135 | 135 | 131 |
| | | | 0 | |
| total Income | 7,111 | 1,489 | 8,600 | 8,981 |
| Expenditure | | | | |
| Grants Given | | | 0 | 400 |
| Outings & Socials | 5,916 | | 5,916 | 5,517 |
| Purchase of Equipment | | | 130 | |
| Transport | 1,180 | | 1,180 | 1,305 |
| Purchases for Resale | | | 0 | 202 |
| Fund Raising | | 140 | 140 | 330 |
| Printing & Stationery | | 346 | 346 | 158 |
| Postage | | 216 | 216 | 376 |
| Telephone | | | 0 | 298 |
| Other | | 26 | 26 | |
| Adjustment | | | 0 | |
| al Expenditure | 7,096 | 728 | 7,954 | 8,586 |
| | | | | |
| Fund Balance at 31st | -135 | 19,322 | 19,056 | 18,410 |
| Represented By:- | | | | |
| Cash in Hand | | | | nil |
| Stock | | | 100 | 100 |
| Bank Balance | | | 19,488 | 18,530 |
| | | | 19,588 | 18,630 |
| Less | | | | |
| Sundry Creditors | | | -532 | -220 |
| | | | 19,056 | 18,410 |