

Useful Numbers

MNDConnect 08457 626262

**N Wilts Group website
www.mndnorthwilts.org**

**Volunteering Team
01604 611681**

Hilary Fairfield
Regional Care Development
Adviser: **08453 751828**

Lucy Etheridge
Volunteering Development
Co-ordinator: **08453 751839**

Sarah Hampton
Regional Fundraiser, South
West: **01805 601802**

**Prospect Hospice
01783 813355**

Support Meetings

We hold support meetings in Swindon and Calne.

Swindon meetings are held at The Lawns Community Centre Guildford Road, Swindon from 2.15-4pm. The next ones will be 17th May and 19th July. Contact Moya Wallis on **01380 859611** or email **moyawallis@hotmail.com**

Calne meetings are held at The Masonic Hall, Stainer Road, Calne from 2.15-4pm. The next meetings will be 19th April and 21st June. Contact Mike Jefferies on **01380 830537**

All sessions are drop in. Come along to share ideas, meet other members and for a change of view! Volunteer helpers also welcome.

Newsletter

Spring 2012

ISSUE No 17

Chair's welcome

On Thursday 22nd March the work of our Group was recognised at **The Pride of Swindon Awards** and we also achieved the highest team award with a cheque for £1,000 sponsored by Zurich. We are all extremely pleased and proud, and send heartfelt thanks to those who nominated us and all those who work with us to make the Group what it is. Our dear friend Paul Wilkinson, who is living with MND, also received a certificate. Well done Paul.

This issue focuses on **fundraising**, which is one of the most important aspects of our work. We thought you would like to read about how we raise money and how it is spent to help local people affected by MND.

The month of June is **MND Awareness Month**, when the Association is aiming to raise £250,000. We hope to raise £1,000 towards that total and we need your help.

One of the initiatives is **Bake MND History**. We hope you will help us by holding coffee mornings or tea parties at home or work. Details are given inside. Please help if you can.

As June will be action packed, we will not be holding the garden party this year and our friends and great supporters Cynthia and Mark Wilkinson are completing a 'make over' on their lovely garden in Bromham. We wish them luck with all the hard work.

Alison Aviss

STOP PRESS! Pride of Swindon

ALL the hard work put in by our supporters was recognised on 22nd March when we were honoured to win the teams section at the **Pride of Swindon Awards 2012**.

This is not just about money (useful) or pride (justified), but about raising awareness of MND in the community.

Thanks go to Zurich for sponsoring the Awards.



*Anne Collison & Bob Perry receive the award
Photo: courtesy of InSwindon*

Fundraising Round-up

What can I do to help?

MONEY makes the world go round. So do caring people. Put the two together and you have **volunteer fundraisers**.

There are many important ways you can help – give a morning to staff a car boot stall, an hour to help with store collections, knit chicks in your own time at home, and lots more. Or do you have fresh new ideas? There is no need to attend meetings, and you can do as little or as much as you choose.

If you might be interested in joining our team, contact **Anne Collison** on **01793 337711**.

Car boot success

Last year car boot sales raised over £6,000 for funds. Congratulations to Anne for a truly sterling effort. To learn more about donating or to helping to staff a stall, please contact **Anne Collison** on **01793 337722**.

Have a Ball

We are delighted to report that the Charity Ball organised by the Rotary Club of Swindon has again selected the North Wilts Group as one of its nominated beneficiaries.

Last year the Group received an impressive £1,000. The size of this year's donation will not be known until after the event which is due to be held in May. We would like to record our thanks in advance for this generous support which will help make a difference to the lives of local people living with MND.

Auction option

Thinking of new ways of raising money for MND is always on our minds. Recently we have taken some older items, such as oil paintings, Poole pottery, a silver handled umbrella and a couple of good quality handbags to Kidson-Trigg Auctioneers near Highworth (visit www.kidsontrigg.co.uk). They are friendly and professional, and have supported us by not charging commission.

Recent lots included two oil paintings with final bids of £80 and £20 and a Finnish glass duck that made £95.

If you have any items you think could raise money for MND, please contact **Anne Collison** on **01793 337711**.

Easter Chicks

Anne writes: For many years we have been selling Easter Chicks, each containing a chocolate egg, around North Wiltshire and raised hundreds of pounds for MND. My mum, Ruby Collison (below) has been the main knitter of the chicks. Her latest project was to knit small stockings with a chocolate bar inside to hang on Christmas trees.

If you are a knitter and would like to help (pattern available), or if you would like to knit or crochet any items for us to sell at our charity stalls or car boots, **Anne Collison** would love to hear from you on **01793 337711**.



Bake MND History

Perhaps a coffee morning or a tea party is more your style?

As your contribution to the MND Month for Optimism in June, why not raise some funds for your local North Wilts Group by baking cakes, sausage rolls, cheese straws, in fact anything you fancy? Arrange an event or sale in your home, workplace, social club or school. For ideas and tips, a Bake MND History Pack can be ordered from national office at www.mndassociation.org.

*Local support
for local people*

Fundraising — the Ins and Outs

Where does it come from?

The North Wilts Group is part of the national MND Association. Although the national Association provides a number of important facilities, fundraising is a vital part of the work we as a Group do to provide support to those in our area who are living with or affected by MND. So a lot of our effort is directed to fundraising in different guises. Some of the successes are celebrated elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Raising funds takes time. We are fortunate to have several very enthusiastic and committed fundraisers on the team, though there is always room for more. These lovely people staff car boot and charity stalls and collect outside stores. Around Easter time they sell knitted chicks at work, or Santa stockings near Christmas. Is this something you would like to help with?

Several local companies have had links with people living with MND and have made the Group one of their official charities. ...

Collections from funerals may be donated to the North Wilts Group or to the national

Association: your undertaker can manage this. The donation can be used to set up a Tribute Fund in memory of your loved one – more on this in a later issue or see the MNDA website www.mndassociation.org.

Car boot sales and charity stalls raise a significant amount each year – as noted above. More volunteers to staff stalls and more items to sell would help us to increase even further the amount raised in this way.

Events, both organised formally by the Group and arranged informally by individuals, are a valuable source of funding.

A **Bake MND History** event (see above) would be a good way both to raise money and to raise awareness among your friends and colleagues.

There is always scope for **imaginative fundraising ideas**. Baking ... Sponsorship ... Think widely and you may come up with a winner. Don't forget, the Newsletter can help advertise your event; just note the submission deadline published in each issue.

Where does it go?

The mission of the Group is to support local people living with MND. We take a holistic approach to support, from the work of the AVs, through local support meetings, to helping individuals meet the financial costs of adapting to MND.

Requests for support are viewed as part of the whole suite of services offered nationally and locally.

Already this year we have been able to help with the following:

£800 towards the cost of a Closmat toilet, which will enable someone to use the toilet independently without the indignity of asking others to assist with personal hygiene.

£1000 and £750 towards the purchase and installation of two stair lifts.

£700 towards the cost of a holiday in Bournemouth for 2 people.

£1000 towards the cost of respite care.

In addition we receive requests for smaller sums which will make a huge difference to the quality of life of an individual living with MND: e.g. providing bed linen.

As part of its core activity, the local Group funds support meetings. We also help the Association with the cost of essential support services and information at a national level.

Each year the Group allocates funds to support research into MND carried out on behalf of the national Association. This is the only way we, as a local Group, are able to contribute to this vital research.

Meet your Local Support Team

Hilary Fairfield

HILARY is the MND Association's Regional Care Development Adviser (RCDA) for the West of England.

Contact Hilary by phoning **08453 751828** or email hilary.fairfield@mndassociation.org

Association Visitors

THE North Wilts. Group currently has two Association Visitors (AVs):

Moya Wallis

CONTACT Moya on **01380 859611** or email moyawallis@hotmail.com

Alison Aviss

CONTACT Alison on **07976 155635** or email alisonaviss@btinternet.com

Regular support meetings are held in Swindon and in Calne. See the front of this Newsletter for dates and venues.

New Information on Benefits

THE MNDA has just published a series of information sheets, numbered 22A to 22E, on a variety of benefit related subjects. These are available on the MNDA website at www.mndassociation.org/publications or can be ordered from MND Connect on **08457 626262**.

Could you use any of the following?

- ◆ Non slip place mat
- ◆ Dish with sloping front
- ◆ Spill not container with 3 different sized inserts
- ◆ Easy pour kettle stand
- ◆ Easy chopping/slicing stand (can be used with one hand)

If you are interested in any of the above contact Moya on **01380 859611**, or email

Support for You

What's On?

19th April

Calne Support Meeting, Stainer Road, 2.15pm

3rd May

Committee Meeting, Prospect Hospice, 7 pm

5th May

Charity collection, Asda Wal.Mart, Swindon.

17th May

Swindon Support Meeting, The Lawns

June

A Month for Optimism — MND awareness month. Special events to be arranged — check www.mndnorthwilts.org

7th June

Committee Meeting, Prospect Hospice, 7 pm

21st June

Calne Support Meeting, Stainer Road

5th July

Committee Meeting, Prospect Hospice, 7 pm

14th July

Collection at Tesco, Ocotol Way, Swindon

19th July

Swindon Support Meeting, The Lawns

28th July

Charity stall, Market Cross, Malmesbury.

2nd August

Committee Meeting, Prospect Hospice, 7 pm

Thank you

We would like to record a big thank you to all our supporters who have helped with car boots, Easter chicks or in many other ways.

I am delighted to be able to serve as your new Editor. But I want to emphasise that this is YOUR Newsletter. If you have any comments or suggestions please do contact me on AndrewRSargent@gmail.com.

The deadline for submission for the next issue will be **30th June 2012**.

Andrew Sargent



We never lose hope. We strive to find a cure for MND, and to support everyone affected by this devastating disease

Registered Charity
No 294354