



## North Wiltshire Group – Our Impact in 2019

As a group, we are very proud and committed to represent the Motor Neurone Disease Association and assist in delivering its aims in our local area. To help us to do this effectively, we develop our own action plan to help us focus our activities, assist in maximizing our resources and skills and to provide a mechanism to identify and celebrate our successes.

The 2019 action plan focused on 5 key areas:

- Support for people with Motor Neurone Disease
- Awareness Raising
- Fundraising
- Campaigning and Influencing
- Group Organisation

How did we do?

- The 2019 plan detailed 44 individual actions. However 1 of these was not applicable as local and national priorities changed in the year.
- 41 actions were successfully completed
- This result equates to a 95% achievement rate
- Collectively, our group volunteers gave over 5,000 hours of their time

Here are some examples of our achievements

- We directly supported over 50 local families affected by MND and worked closely with local health and social care providers to ensure a coordinated approach to care
- Provided nearly £5,000 in financial assistance to local families towards the cost of home adaptations, specialist equipment and quality of life improvement
- The highlight of our year came in June when we were awarded the Queens Award for Voluntary Service, which is an MBE for voluntary groups. We are the first group or branch within the Motor Neurone Disease Association to be nominated and to win this accolade. As part of the award, Alison and Barbara attended a Buckingham Palace garden party to represent the group and we were presented with the official scroll, signed by Her Majesty and crystal trophy by the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire at a special support group meeting. We all feel very honoured that our work has been recognized and understand that the award recognizes commitment and effort over and above what might be reasonably expected
- We have been delighted to welcome new volunteers to the group during the year, Theresa Williams as fundraiser, Natasha Flintoft as Carer Champion and Liz Sardari-Kermani as Social Media Officer

- We recognized the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Association with social media posts, the lighting of Greenbridge Roundabout in MND colours and by a Walk to d'feet MND. This involved a large team of volunteers who were tasked to walk a total of 40 laps around Coate Water Country Park, raising funds in the process
- Throughout the year we have continued to support the Association's campaigns programme especially Scrap 6 months by encouraging signatures to the petition, which received 55,435 in total and lobbying local MPs

Our grateful thanks go to all who have raised money and awareness for our work during 2019 with special mention for:

- The John Daniels Cup golf day
- Waitrose Community Matters green token scheme
- Wiltshire Freemasons
- Mrs Scrumps Christmas Fayre

All donations help us to assist local families with much needed support grants.

These achievements have only been possible due to the dedication and commitment of the volunteers that make up the North Wiltshire Group team, who share a common goal to make a real and positive difference to all those affected by MND in our area. If the c 5,000 hours given by our volunteers were paid at the UK living wage hourly rate the annual cost would be close to £45,000!

Thank you all so much for your continued support.

If you would like to help us with this important work we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at [info@mndnorthwiltshire.co.uk](mailto:info@mndnorthwiltshire.co.uk) or call us on 08457 626262