

Issue 1 of 2007

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CONTACT NUMBERS

Chairman: Rob - 255494

e-mail: chairman@guernseymultiple-sclerosis.org

Secretary/Support: Liz- 263464

e-mail: secretary@guernseymultiple-sclerosis.org

Treasurer: Ron- 263464

e-mail: treasurer@guernseymultiple-sclerosis.org

GREAT NEWS

FUNDING AGREED

I am really chuffed to be able to begin with some really fantastic news.

At a recent meeting with the Health and Social Services department, it was confirmed that, at the end of the agreed five years of funding by the MS Society, the States will take over full funding of the MS nurse position.

I have managed to meet quite a number of our members in the past year and it is striking how many of you have made sure that I am aware how pleased you have been with the support you have received from our Nurse, Debbie Robilliard.

In her first year of service, Debbie has made a significant difference to many people affected by MS in the Bailiwick.

Our Treasurer, Ron Hendry, and I have had a number of discussions about how we would continue to fund the position when the money raised by the London to Paris rowers ran out.

Thankfully, the challenge of continued funding has been taken away from us and we can now concentrate on raising money to continue our programme of grant provision, and to provide money for research to find a cure for MS.

Rob

BARN DANCE

The preparations started well before the event. Rob arranged for a pig to be roasted on a spit outside the hall at St Martins which had to be baby-sat all afternoon so a rota was set up.

Rob cooked the chilli con carne the day before and arrived at the hall with two enormous pots full.



Cowboy Rob—Doing the cooking!

We decided to save the environment and our funds by using the plates and cutlery at the hall. Thank goodness for a commercial dishwasher which ran through in 4 minutes

The event was a real success, 80 tickets were sold which was maximum for the hall.

The caller was Nick Ozanne, who kindly brought along some experienced barn dancers to help. There was a lot of laughter and a lot of people going in the wrong direction but they bravely carried on.

This evening was a real success and our thanks goes to everyone who helped. and to everyone who came along, but we would like to see more of our members at these events. Over £1,000 raised.



The pig being carved

Liz

LADIES' COLLEGE MUSICAL EVENING

The day before her concert on the Saturday evening, Olga Bobrovnikova held a master-class for young musicians at Ladies' College.

Olga suffers from Multiple Sclerosis and now plays exclusively to raise awareness of the disease and to raise funds to help research and to support those affected by MS

As I am not a lover of classical music, I approached this evening with some trepidation. The first two pieces by Bach were not to my

Rachmaninof and Tchaikovsky soon had me converted. The young violinist from Ladies' College was excellent as were the Year 11 Vocal Group.

The new grand piano was being dedicated to the memory of Michael Gribbens who had been a teacher at the College and the MS concert was the inauguration of the new piano.

The general consensus was that everyone had enjoyed an excellent evening. A retiring

HELP US, HELP YOU!

As most of you know, Susi and I have been running a coffee afternoon at the Cotils and would like your thoughts and feelings.

We would like to attract more people, but we are not sure if we should be changing the format or running separate ones for specific issues and looking at different times.

We want these sessions to be fun, friendly, informative, supportive and helpful, but most of all they are about you and your family and carers.

We started with informal chats, then changed to make them more formal with people speaking etc.

The original idea came from you, so we want to make sure you are getting the best from these sessions.

COLLECTION BOXES

We are currently having a major drive to sort out the collection boxes.

If you see one, which looks as if it needs to be emptied and tidied up, if you know of anywhere that would be willing to take a

FLAG DAY

Flag Day is on the 28th April this year and as usual we do need help with our collection points.

We will be collecting in Town, St Sampsons Co-op, St Martins Co-op,



We have put a few questions down to help, so please tell us what you want so we can help you.

Do you want to meet people with MS in the same age range with similar symptoms?

Do you want things included other than MS issues to take your mind of normal life?

Do you want a structure or a more informal format?

Contact me on Tel: 725241 ext. 2263

MS Nurse—Debbie

box, or if would be willing to help out with the emptying and re-issuing of the boxes. Please contact me.

Julie Fusellier on Tel:254794 or e-mail takasuki@cwgsy.net

M & S at St Martins and L'Islet, Forest Stores and Aladdins Cave.

If you or family and friends can help contact me in the first instance.

Liz

YOUNG PERSONS TRUST

We are really pleased to announce that the branch has received a donation from a local trust that exists to benefit children and young people up to 18, or 21 if in full time education.

With this money, the branch has established a fund that will support young people whose lives have been affected by MS

We envisage the fund could be used to help

a youngster take up, or progress in, a sport or a hobby, or perhaps to help pay for a holiday or for some equipment or training.

The fund could also provide support for a parent with MS in order to give respite for their young carer.

Enquiries please to Liz Hendry on 263464 or e-mail secretary@guernseymms.org

Rob

BRANCH COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

The committee is keen to attract new faces to help bring new ideas, and to spread the workload of our small team.

We had hoped our “Your branch needs You” leaflet, circulated earlier in the year, might have grabbed your attention, but the response so far has been pretty slow!

As a chairman with MS, I am particularly keen to see more Msers (American term apparently, for people with MS) on the committee. It is disappointing therefore, that over the past year, we have lost three committee members who have either found that MS was making attendance too difficult, or that the added commitment of MS committee work was becoming too much.

I have started to wonder if the traditional form of committee is always right for this day and age and whether indeed it is right for this disease.

Is it perhaps unrealistic to require a constant level of commitment and attendance from people who have MS? I have also started to wonder if we might make better use of technology.

One idea we are developing is something we are calling “virtual committee membership”. Janette Rider is one of our members who found attendance at committee meetings a bit too much, but she is still keen to help out when she feels up to it. Janette has become our first “virtual” committee member, taking on tasks that can be done at home. Janette has been compiling accessibility information for the web site and is busy listing restaurant, dentist etc. that are accessible by wheel chair.

This idea might also appeal to members on the other Islands and perhaps in the future we could use web cams and teleconferencing to allow more members to participate in meetings, when physical attendance is not possible.

The MS National Centre confirmed this is a new concept and they are very interested to see how we get on.

If you fancy becoming our next virtual committee member, or if this concept is of interest to you, please contact me either by phone or e-mail.

Rob