motor neurone disease association

Reading and West Berkshire

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News Letter



Miles of smiles and much more . . .

There was sunshine, miles of smiles and £7K in donations after a scorching Walk to d'feet MND in West Berkshire.

Thatcham's Colin Wilkes, who is living with motor neurone disease, was overjoyed that his carers Dee Gunning and Trudy Churcher had organised the 20k fundraiser along the Kennet and Avon Canal on Sunday, May 22nd, to cheer him up.

He said: "It was a fantastic day. Dee and Trudy have worked tirelessly to make the day go well and raised so much money for the MND Association's local branch supporting people with MND in West Berkshire.

"Thanks to all the walkers who battled through a hot day to complete the course and to my friend Tim who helped me take part in the day."

Dee and Trudy, who work for Newbury-based Care Partners, were thrilled with the support from 29 walkers and volunteers.

The caring pair, from Mount Road in Thatcham, said people had donated generously along the route from Hungerford to the finish line kindly provided by Thatcham Town Football Club at its Waterside Park ground.

They also thanked the team at Newbury's Teashop by the Canal where delicious teas and cakes were laid on for weary walkers to refuel.

Dee said: "We did it and are very proud of everyone who took part.

"Thank you to all our supporters who kept us going – now we need to rest our weary feet!"

Dee's son George Futcher was the first across the finish line to receive his medal from Colin's daughter, Louise Brown.

Other early finishers included Panda Phelan and her friend Helen Walsh who were walking in support of Panda's mum, Mrs Linda Wells, from Tilehurst, who is living with MND. Panda, who collected £1,170 in sponsorship, said: "I will do anything I can to help."



Walkers at the start in Hungerford …



… And they're still all smiling when they reach the finish line at Thatcham Town Football Club and are joined by supporters

And the last word comes from Colin who said:

"Maybe do it all again sometime ladies!" 😊😊😊

Dee Gunning is fundraising for Motor Neurone Disease Association at justgiving.com:

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/2-blistersisters

More smiles for Colin





Trudy and Dee pictured with Colin at the finish line

The branch is grateful to Reading Sea Cadets which provided a minibus and a team of helpers to set up the MND Association marquee in both Hungerford and Thatcham. Petty Officer Cadet Zachary Mancey, aged 17, was joined by his dad Andy Mancey, Chair of Reading Sea Cadets, Andy Wright, President Barry Dodds and Jacqui Mansey, officer in charge of juniors.

The picture shows Team MND with (centre) Reading Sea Cadets Petty Officer Cadet Zachary Mancey and first home medalist George Futcher (kneeling).



Linda Wells, who is living with MND, and her husband Barrie, with their daughter Panda Phelan and her friend Helen Walsh proudly wearing their medals

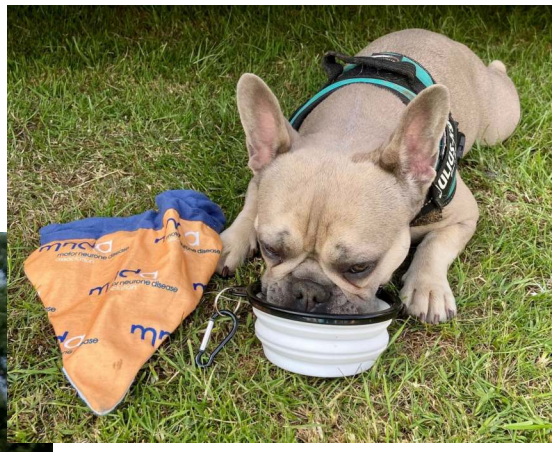




First finisher George Futcher gets his medal from Colin's daughter Louise Brown



How cool are these cakes? Made by walkers Rachel Elliott and Lynne Meads



Dog tired! It was thirsty work at the finish for little Betsy



Thanks to all the lovely staff at Teashop by the Canal in Newbury who provided tea, coffee and lovely home-made cakes for the walkers



Dee displays her medal - and we love her nails in MND colours!



WE'RE DELIGHTED TO BE BACK AGAIN IN 2022
St Anne's School playing fields
Washington Road, Caversham, RG4 5AA

(Entrance to the playing fields is off Southview Avenue through Our Lady and St Anne's Church car park)

Saturday 10th September from 6.30pm

3 bands (to be announced shortly)
(Keep up-to-date at https://www.facebook.com/events/696626138133016/?ref=newsfeed)

Bar from Caversham's very own The Last Crumb

Hog roast and vegetarian food

Children's entertainment

In support of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, Reading and West Berkshire Branch

This is a family and community event and people of all ages are welcome

Tickets are now on sale at https://www.wegottickets.com/event/541534/

Adults £10 + £1 booking fee
Children under 16 £5 + 50p booking fee
Children under 5 free

Stamps for the MND Association

Jill Gaisford, has buyers for used postage stamps and so raises funds for the branch. If you would like to help please remove the stamp from the envelope with about 1cm around it taking care not to damage the stamp.

Jill collects ALL stamps - contact her on 01635 868 834 or by email to jmg1520@gmail.com.



Give it Up! Challenge Complete √



During March, I gave up the one thing I love to eat most - BREAD - to help people in Reading and West Berkshire affected by motor neurone disease.

I hoped to raise £150 when I started my challenge, so I was blown away by the support I received and generous donations totalling £1,490. Even getting Covid didn't stop me from completing this and I am very proud of myself!

The Association's Give It Up! fundraiser raised £15,810 overall which will help so many families as well as fund research work, support care and campaigning. 🧡💙

Thank you to everyone who donated!



Do keep your eyes peeled for other challenges run by the Association and, remember when signing up, there is an option to raise funds specifically for the local branch.

Branch Secretary Kerrie Newton

A poem by former carer Ken Eggleton of Tilehurst

MND - three little letters you don't want to see
'Cos it brings misery to you and me
It starts with a stumble or maybe a fumble
Or you could even have a bit of a mumble.

You go to the docs 'cos you're not feeling right
But some docs with this are not very bright
It takes time to see someone who really knows
To tell and show just how it goes.

In a short while you feel like a p***k
'Cos now you are walking about with a stick.

The hospital doc has got you a nurse
But in some ways it is a bit of a curse
'Cos you know you are down that slippery slope
And you feel like now you have got no hope.

You have Social Services in to mod your house
So in goes some rails for you and your spouse
You cling to them like you don't know what
And the next thing you know you have got
Another visit, some are good, some not so hot.

To wheelchair clinic off you pop.

Now sitting proud in your brand new chair
You say to your spouse - let's get some wind in our hair
But things like this don't last very long
'Cos your hands are going and you're not very strong.

So now they come to mod your loo
It takes a new perspective when you poo
And the bath goes out and in comes a shower
Straight from the mains or you could have a power.

A shower chair is next on the list
So sit upright and don't have a lean
So your carers can really scrub you clean.

Now along comes Mr Hoist
They don't need to fix it up to a joist
With wheels they have to ferry you around
You can go as high as the ceiling or down to the ground
And the care workers if they play it right
Can move you around without giving you a fright.

Now there's dinner
Yeah that's a bit of a sinner
Some goes in but most comes out
Along with a bit of a shout.

So next is a peg that's attached to your tum
Nature's still working so you still use your bum.

Your food now comes in bottles just like milk
Everything is injected - medicine and food
And if you like it booze, just to lighten the mood.

I think now I shall end as you now have the gist
So goodbye my love, you will surely be missed.

Remembering Anne

Tributes have been paid to Anne Smith, who died in February, aged 78, after living with MND for a remarkable 19 years.

Anne, formerly of Thatcham and Mortimer, was a regular visitor to branch drop-in meetings and events with her friend and former carer Chris Gascoyne.

Sadly, Anne's husband David, passed away suddenly in April just eleven days after her funeral at West Berks Crematorium.

Here Joanna Knott, a former branch Association Visitor who befriended Anne, pays tribute to her stoicism and bravery.

ANNE SMITH
8th September 1943 - 19th February 2022

I first met Anne when we were both working for the NHS and she was the Head Housekeeper for the old Newbury Hospital where she presented as a tall, elegant, and very kind, courteous and capable person.

Then, after we both retired, I met her again and this time she was one of the very first people I 'visited' as a newly qualified Association Visitor.

Over the succeeding 16 or 17 years, we became friends, and I valued the visits I made to her which became an hour of calm amid a rather busy life. Anne's speech was compromised early on, and she supplemented it with a Lightwriter which, though rather old fashioned, was useful in a noisy environment but in a one-to-one situation in the quiet of her house, we rarely had to resort to it.

Anne valued the local MND Association Branch and supported all the different events that she could. She was a regular at the drop-Ins and enjoyed the different tea parties and lunches that were held at Englefield House and elsewhere.

She also took part in the first canal barge trip that we organised courtesy of Newbury Rotary Club. As I remember, she spent the entire trip outside up in the bows enjoying the natural world even though it rained throughout the journey. But of course, she would not have been able to take part without, initially, the support of her husband, David, and then of her very good friend, Chris Gascoyne, who even took her on several holidays and was with her when she died peacefully at the Royal Berkshire Hospital.

Anne faced all the difficulties and indignities of her condition with great stoicism, and I admired her hugely for her bravery during some tough times and feel very privileged to have known her.



Anne in 2012 at a branch Christmas tea party with her friend Chris Gascoyne



Lin's luxury hamper handout from MP

Government Minister and Reading West MP Alok Sharma dropped in on our amazing fundraiser Lin Jenkins to deliver a luxury food hamper to help raise funds for the branch.

Lin plans to use the gift full of Fortnum & Mason goodies as a raffle prize at one of the many events she is attending this season.

She said: "Alok has been very supportive of my work for MND in the past and it was lovely to see him again."

The MP, who is President of Cop26, spent time chatting to Lin at her home in Tilehurst with some of our other awesome volunteers (pictured L to R) Mary Dodds, Linda Green and Barry Dodds.



Bad news: I'm here with another quiz

Question Sheet #1

Match these relatives of Her Maj with their spouses



1: Princess Beatrice of York
2: Princess Eugenie of York
3: Peter Phillips
4: Princess Anne of Edinburgh
5: Prince Edward, Earl of Wessex
6: Prince Michael of Kent
7: Zara Anne Elizabeth (née) Phillips
8: Princess Alexandra of Kent
9: Prince Edward, Duke of Kent
10: Prince Andrew, Duke of York

A: Mike Tindall
B: Autumn Kelly
C: Timothy Laurence
D: Sarah Ferguson
E: Angus Ogilvy
F: Marie-Christine Anna Agnes - Hedwig Ida von Reibnitz
G: Edoardo Alessandro Mapelli - Mozzi
H: Katharine Worsley
I: Jack Brooksbank
J: Sophie Rhys-Jones

Question Sheet #2

Bojo The Clown here with the general knowledge quiz.



11: Where is Beaumaris Castle?
12: On which lake was Donald Campbell killed?
13: What is the only bird to have a bladder? [a]: rhea; [b]: ostrich; [c]: emu; [d]: kiwi
14: Inverness lies at the head of which Firth? [a]: Firth of Forth; [b]: Firth of Tay; [c]: Moray Firth; [d]: Firth of Clyde
15: What does the 'H' in the name HG Wells stand for? [a]: Harold; [b]: Henry; [c]: Herbert; [d]: Howard
16: What is a group of rattlesnakes called? [a]:Maracas; [b]: Rattle; [c]:Rhumba
17: Which word means the offspring of a male ass and a mare, an instrument for spinning cotton and a backless slipper?
18: "Giants is all cannybully and murderful! And does gobble up human beans!" is a line from a book by whom? [a]: J.M. Barrie; [b]: Roald Dahl; [c]: David Walliams
19: What is it illegal to do in Switzerland? [a]: Drive between 4 & 5 am; [b]: Buy one guinea pig; [c]: Shop on a Sunday:
20: The Anglo-Zanzibar War of 1896 is shortest war in history. How long did it last? [a]:38mins; [b]:38hrs; [c]: 38days

ANSWERS: 1: G; 2: I; 3: B; 4: C; 5: J; 6: F; 7: A; 8: E; 9: H; 10: D; 11: Anglesey; 12: Coniston 13: Ostrich; 14: Moray Firth; 15: Herbert; 16: Rhumba; 17: Mule; 18: Roald Dahl 19: Buy one guinea pig (because they are social animals); 20: 38 minutes

An insight from our amazing fundraiser Lin

The 2022 season is now up and running. Due to Covid we had no events in 2020, and only limited events last year. So it is nice to have a full season ahead of us. At the time of writing, I have had quite a few car boot sales at Thatcham, Swallowfield and Prospect Park.

We had lovely weather for Beanpole Day at Caversham Court. This is a green/eco day where I sell old tools, gardening equipment, a few plants etc.

Bank Holiday Sunday was my first time at Lambourn Vintage Vehicles and Country Show. Despite some pretty awful weather, we had a very good day. I "Welcome people back to the 20th Century" on my stall, with a large selection of items from different decades of the 20th century. I had a few printed questions around the stall, for example "what is this?" attached to an old yoke. I explained to younger people how the milk maids hung their pales from them. A basket of candles, with "What year(s) was the 3-day week?" started a lot of family conversations across the generations. It was 1973/4 in case you have forgotten.

At Burghfield May Fayre on 8th May I sold tents, sleeping bags and mats, duvets, pillows, and all things camping - suitable for all campers, but especially festival goers.

There are some exciting events coming up over the next few months and I can't wait. I am already rushing my summer away!

I have two more eco/green days.

Most exciting are the steam fayres, where I take a selection of retro items. This is such a popular stall, and I have truly missed these over the last two years. Stoke Row Steam Rally on June 11th and 12th will see me sleeping in the gazebo again alongside my stock. This lets me work late into the night, and then start very early next morning as it takes a lot of setting up.

Island Donkey Sanctuary at Brightwell-cum-Sotwell, near Wallingford, is another new venue this year.

On top of this I send books and CDs to Ziffit and World of Books. Scrap metal goes to the A4 Metal Recycling at Beenham. Please remember to save all your cables from old electrical appliances, computer cables etc. - they are paying a good price for these now.

I have a regular delivery of vinyl records and CDs and have several people who come to the house to look through them. When they have finished, I have a man who pays for a job lot to dispose of the rest of them.

I try to keep people up to date with my efforts on Facebook now. This allows people to see where I am and what I am doing.

I have one or two different ideas which I am just starting to pull together and I will keep everyone up to date on those.

I would like to thank my family, friends, and supporters for their help across the year.

Lin Jenkins



We can help in so many ways . . .

We are the Reading and West Berkshire branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association, and we are your local point of contact. You might be surprised at how we can help you and people living with MND, their families and carers. We do a lot more than just providing voice banking, fundraising and organising the social events you read about in this newsletter.

We are all volunteers and most of us have had a close connection with MND. We work with professional health care providers to try and ensure people living with MND get the best possible care and advice. We also have a few hard working trained volunteer Association Visitors (AVs) who can offer guidance and support.

Don't be shy, use the contact details so we can discuss with you how we might be able to help.

Email: contact@mndrwb.org **Tel: 07760 854975**

Artist Maz inspires her friends

Since hair stylist Maz Swann was diagnosed with bulbar onset MND in February 2021 she has rediscovered her love of painting.

And, as you can see, she's brilliant!

Her friend Stephanie Goodchild (pictured right) was so delighted with this colourful picture that she donated to the branch for "its amazing work."



She said: "Maz is an inspiration to so many people."

While Maz, from Earley, near Reading, might look very able she wants people to realise that MND has robbed her of her voice by affecting the muscles in her face, throat and tongue.

Despite this she is making the most of life and improving her skills with an ever-increasing portfolio of paintings for friends.

Maz has also inspired her "bestie" Kim Facer to get her knitting needles out to create a menagerie of very cute, fun animal hats.

Kim said: "I knitted the pig hats for my friend Helen Bantock as she has a smallholding in Wales with pigs, goats, chickens and ducks. Helen's friends loved the hats so much I was asked to knit some more. I said 'Yes' to raise funds for MND. Her lovely mum Anita Hartley donated £20 for wool to get me started and my dear friend Suzie James is the perfect pom-pom maker."

Now their hats are donning heads in Wales and have given a £150 boost to branch funds.

Hats off to them all for supporting the vital work of the MND Association's Reading and West Berkshire branch!

https://localgiving.org/charity/rwbmnda/

Jane Gilbert

Picture below shows Kim on the left with Suzie James behind an array of hats



Helen Bantock, who started the fundraiser, is pictured below with husband Ashley wearing her piggie hat.



Keep calm and carry on – that's our motto at the Art Café

A massive thank you to everyone who came to our recent event at the Art Café in Whitchurch-on-Thames. The branch raised a whopping £347.50 in just two hours.

To all our fabulous bakers who continue to supply and amaze us with such delicious mouth-watering cakes, and to the generosity of those who were unable to attend, but who continue to donate to help families affected by MND – THANK YOU!

This Art Café event was a little different to all the others we have run as there was a slight incident in the kitchen. The three ladies who were doing sterling work on March 26th were Paddy Lunn, Sandra Wilkinson and Katie Cooper. Paddy, pictured right, had an accident earlier in the week and had damaged a finger which was strapped up but this didn't stop her from serving teas and coffee with Sandra helping her while Katie was getting everything washed and dried as quickly as possible.

Suddenly Katie let out a heavy sigh, and we discovered she had cut her hand on something sharp. She was rescued, bandaged up immediately and then changed places with Sandra. Moments later, a faint sound came once again from the direction of the sink; this time it was Sandra saying: 'my back's gone'. . . I suddenly found myself with three injured ladies roaring with laughter which left me with only one thing to do; get myself to the sink and crack on with the job. What a fun, crazy morning!



Date for your diary:

The next Art Café is on June 11th, 10.30am-12.30pm, at The Old Rectory Stables, High Street, Whitchurch-on-Thames near Reading, RG8 7DF.

Looking forward to seeing you!

Mary Dodds

For further information and support contact our MND Connect helpline mndconnect 0808 802 6262

Ryan and Laurence ran Reading Half for mum-in-law

Congratulations to runners Ryan and Laurence who smashed the Reading Half Marathon in April for their mother-in-law Karen Murphy, who sadly died of MND a few weeks later.

The pair decided to raise funds for the branch after Karen was diagnosed last December and they romped home with donations of more than £2,000.

Ryan Pownall wrote on their online page that Karen's condition had rapidly deteriorated over a short period of time.

He said: "We have seen first-hand how challenging and unfair this disease can be, not only to the person but also their loved ones.

"Although there is no cure, there is support and care available to those who are living with the disease every day, so we want to raise as much money as we can to ensure those who need it are able to get the care they need. "

Jane Gilbert

Who should you call?



In late December 2019 my wife and I bought a new fridge/freezer, a new flat screen tv, a new printer and a new laptop from a **well known** high street store which for legal reasons I cannot name. Less than six months after buying the laptop I realized that the battery was barely lasting an hour although they had said in the shop that it would last several hours. As we were shielding at the time I wrote to them suggesting possible ways to get it looked at without having to go into their shop. Although, during an online 'chat', they admitted they received it they failed to respond and continued to ignore further letters sent by me and then emails and telephone calls from Trading Standards over the next year! They finally made contact and agreed to fix the fault only when our daughter Vicki posted details on a social media site, including my age and disability and shamed them into acting.

They offered to repair it and a few days later their driver called and picked it up. A couple of days later they phoned to say that they had replaced the battery and the cracked screen (what cracked screen?) at a cost to us of £145! We said that we were unaware of any problem with the screen and that we had reported the problem with the battery well within the 12-month warranty period. They said the screen had a hair-line crack which I probably wasn't aware of and the battery wasn't covered by their warranty - completely ignoring the Sale of Goods Act. They further said we had to pay or we wouldn't get the machine back, so we had to pay!

Summary of store's failings:

1) they ignored all approaches for a year;
2) they damaged the laptop;
3) they tried to charge for damage they caused;
4) they tried to charge for a part covered by Sale of Goods Act;
5) they failed to diagnose the *actual* fault

When the laptop was returned we found why the cracked screen was a mystery to me - the lid now has a big dent in it which wasn't there when their driver collected the machine. In addition the battery charge only lasted marginally longer! Once again Vicki came to the rescue: she again posted details on social media and shamed them into refunding the £145.

Then about 6 months later when I was in the middle of a job on the machine it shut down, and then re-booted. I quickly realized that it had reverted to the factory settings and I had lost everything I had added in the 18 months since I bought it! I emailed three repairers explaining the problem, two said it was a virus and the other one said he thought it was corruption of my user profile.

I emailed the first one to respond to arrange to drop it off and asked that he wear a mask as I was still shielding. He refused and said he didn't want me to wear one either as he is an expert on COVID: he had read about 30 articles explaining that it is a hoax! So I contacted the second repairer to respond who called round, wearing a mask, and picked up the machine. The next day he phoned to say that just as he had suspected my user-profile had become corrupted. He had fixed it and immediately everything I thought I had lost had reappeared. Not only that but he had found that there was some hidden programme that was working 'flat-out' the whole time the computer was on! When the machine was returned I found that the battery charge then lasted several hours.

. . . so, if you have a problem with a computer who do you call?

Well, maybe not them →



I can recommend the chap who fixed mine: Bob Chapman from PCBoB.

His contact details are: phone: 07958 473675; e-mail: info@pcbob.co.uk; website : www.pcbob.co.uk.

Alec Jenkins

Carer Ray's holiday boost

Keen cyclist Ray Hayhurst found it hard to find time to leave the house to train for his epic 100-mile ride on May 29th in aid of the MND Association.

As a carer for his wife Deb, who is living with motor neurone disease, Ray, from Earley, says words can't describe how tough it is for everyone affected.



Deb's shock diagnosis inspired Ray to take on the big Ride London – Essex cycling challenge and their generous friends have so far donated £5,103 to his online page.

Ray said: "Training hasn't gone as well as I'd hoped, it's difficult to find time to get out of the house. Another MND bonus! I'm still hopeful of a good time though."

Thanks to the MND Association's Reading and West Berkshire branch, Ray is looking forward to a cycling break this September.

He was delighted to receive an unexpected Carers' Grant to spend on a trip to Spain where he is pictured a few years ago.

IT consultant Ray said: "It's something I miss greatly and so Debs' family have said they'll cover me in September so I can go again. I'll use it for that. It's something to look forward to.

"Next year I'll do something a bit out of my comfort zone to raise funds. I can't swim and am useless at running so that might be a challenge.

"It's a nice thing you do for people. I don't think most people understand how hard this is for carers.

"And next year if I can raise money for the local branch that will hopefully repay and help someone else."

Ray Hayhurst is fundraising for Motor Neurone Disease Association at justgiving.com.

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ray-hayhurst-1

Jane Gilbert

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.

Sign up to AmazonSmile and you can support the MND Association as you shop, at no extra cost to yourself.

The Association is excited to partner with AmazonSmile. By signing up to shop via AmazonSmile, you'll still be able to enjoy the same range of products and prices just like you can with a regular Amazon account.

However, you'll now be able to select the Association as your chosen charity – which means that 0.5 percent of the price of every eligible product that you buy will be donated to the association. This will have no effect on the price that you pay.

Shop and support the MND Association today:

1. **Sign up for AmazonSmile via smile.amazon.co.uk.**
2. **Search for the 'Motor Neurone Disease Association' via the charity lookup.**
3. **Select us as your AmazonSmile charity of choice.**
4. **Look out for products which are marked as "AmazonSmile eligible".**

Enjoy your shopping!

An egg-cellent Easter fundraiser

On Easter Saturday I held another plant and cake sale in the glorious sunshine on my driveway to raise funds for the branch. This time I had around 300 plants, 17 cakes, a collection of second-hand jigsaws and ran a raffle.



The sale was the culmination of months of work potting up seedlings, taking cuttings, dividing perennials and watering plants. The days leading up to it were spent baking and decorating cakes - I made sure I had gluten-free and vegan offerings. On the day itself, I was helped by my son James, daughter-in-law Rachael and her mum Nikki, which meant that I was able to chat to people and give advice on the plants.

I felt really supported with friends and neighbours baking cakes, dropping off plants, allowing me to borrow tables or providing raffle prizes.

Some people had seen the sign advertising the sale and were round first thing buying plants. They spread the word to their neighbours and came back later to return the empty flowerpots. Others were more interested in the cakes and a couple of people bought whole cakes to take home for the family. One neighbour brought his own plate round to collect his slice of cake! Most people opted to take their cake home but some did stay for a cuppa and it was lovely to see people chatting and enjoying themselves in the sunshine.

I was delighted that we managed to raise £458.50 on the day and a further £15.50 from the plants left out with the honesty box over the rest of the Easter Weekend.

Despite feeling shattered by the end of the day, I will be planning another similar event next year. So, if you are green fingered, please take some extra cuttings or grow a few extra seeds for me.

Jacqui Warbey

Fashion Show and Clothes Sale

Tuesday 5th July at 7.30pm

Theale Village Hall, RG7 5AS

A joint venture between the MND Association and Sue Ryder/Duchess of Kent Hospice.

A large amount of clothing, much of it new, has been donated to us so we thought it would be fun to use this for an evening's entertainment, as well as a fund raiser!

In addition to the clothing, we will have hats, handbags, a few shoes, jewellery, make up, toiletries and possibly more!

Entry by ticket £5.00 each in advance. Book early, limited seating available.

Refreshments will be on offer, plus a raffle.

Text 07796 783835 please.

Lin Jenkins

FREE HOLIDAY PRIZE DRAW

The Reading & West Berkshire Branch has been given the wonderful opportunity of a one-week stay at the Tudor Lodges, Looe, south-east Cornwall. This follows a review in our Newsletter of an enjoyable holiday spent there by Alec Jenkins, one of our local friends who is living with MND and writes regularly for the Newsletter.



The offer of a 3-bedroomed fully accessible lodge sleeping six persons could be yours for **FREE!** Included with the lodge is the availability of the mobility equipment such as hoists, shower/commode chairs, Hi/Lo profiling beds, riser recline chairs and many other aids.

This prize draw is open to all our local people living with MND. Please keep a look out for registration details coming through your front door soon!

Well done to Alec! The branch is very grateful to Tudor Lodges for its generous offer and hopes the holiday will give a boost to a family affected by MND.

Kerrie Newton



Get in touch with MND Connect on 0808 802 6262

MND Connect is available Monday to Friday between 9am - 5pm and 7pm - 10:30pm.
Calls to this number are free from landlines and mobile phones within the UK and do not appear on itemised bills. You can also email **mndconnect@mndassociation.org**

Newsletters

If you would like to change the way you receive newsletters (post or email) or if you do not currently receive your own copy and would like to be added to our mailing list (post or email) please contact

Kerrie Newton:
secretary@mndrwb.org

We're off on an away day to Blenheim Palace

The Jumbulance Trust makes accessible travel possible for adults and children who are disabled or have serious or complex health conditions. Thanks to the generosity of the Trust, the Reading and West Berkshire Branch has been offered a free day trip to Blenheim Palace on Tuesday, 28th June, for our local people living with MND.

Invitations have been posted out but if you have not received your invitation, please do email our Branch Secretary at secretary@rwbmnd.org.



To connect with us on Facebook please click on the following link:

https://www.facebook.com/mndrwb/

Golf captain Michael's last hurrah!

Golf club captain Michael Miller's extended year at Deanwood Park Golf Club, near Newbury, has ended with a flourish for the MND Association.

Despite the restrictions due to Covid the big-hearted golfers have presented the branch with a fantastic total of £2,692.



Golf Captain Michael Miller (third from left)
with branch volunteers Barry Dodds, Carol Allen, Kerrie Newton, Deanwood Park Golf Club Manager John Bowness and Mary Dodds

Association Visitor Carol Allen, who attended the handover, said: "Michael's captaincy had been extended a bit because of the virus but Deanwood still did him proud.
"They were also interested to hear about MND and how the Association and our branch supports people."

Michael chose the Association's Reading and West Berkshire branch as his charity as he has had several friends who have been affected by MND.

During his captaincy the golfers generously supported various events including raffles, bucket collections and fun rounds of golf.

Branch volunteers (pictured) thanked the players for their very generous support.

Jane Gilbert



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