

GOSPORT AND FAREHAM GROUP!!! OF THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

**From the Secretary – Juliette Hewitt, 11 Beech Grove, Gosport,
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Dear Member,

Happy New Year! I hope you all had a happy and not too exhausting Christmas.

Here is the first newsletter for 2017 which will let you know what is happening within the Gosport and Fareham Group. Note the new term, we are no longer being known as a Branch. I must admit it sounds friendlier.

New for 2017!

Meetings at Gosport Discovery Centre will start this year, the first being on **WEDNESDAY 18th JANUARY** and then every third Wednesday of the month. Please come along and join us for a chat between 2 and 4pm and perhaps get a cake and a cuppa from the library café.

This is a new initiative organised by Jo Bardall, who is one of our younger committee members. She feels that some people might feel intimidated by walking into a pub. After all if you walk into a library and don't like what you see you can always pretend your there to borrow a book!

Quiz and fish and chips evening

Steve has arranged a Quiz and fish and chip evening **SATURDAY 25th MARCH** at 7pm at The Parish Centre Green Road Alverstoke, £10 a head which includes the fish and chips. He's hoping to make a bar available on the night.

Store Collections

Our fundraising Officer Steve Irving has also booked two collections in local Tesco Stores.

- 1) Tesco Whiteley - Friday 20th January
- 2) Tesco Fareham – Saturday 18th February

The collections will be from 9am onwards. If you can spare even an hour please contact Steve on 01329 234581 or email on irvingfam@btinternet.com

Regular events

There is a diary accompanying this newsletter, which gives details of our regular events to which you are most welcome.

PIP Forms

I know many of you are receiving the “invite” letter to apply for PIP. We are wondering how you are getting on. Do many of you feel you are losing out? Do let me know the outcome of your application. (The link on our website, under benefits will take you to a great publication which helps with process, or I have got copies of it)

Other Benefits

Are you claiming everything you are entitled too? (Some you may need to fit certain criteria, but its worth a look)

There is a section on Benefits on our website that lists several , there are also things such as:-

applying for a registered disabled card (this helps Hampshire County Council know how many disabled people it has) ring 0300 555 1386 and can sometimes be used to access payment reductions in some places

If you are disabled you do not need to pay VAT on some products designed or adapted for your own or domestic use See www.gov.uk for more details

Free vehicle tax (if you qualify)

Blue badge – you do not need to own a car to get one – its for you
www.hants.gov.uk Hants web – search blue badge

Fareham Home Help etc

Community Action Fareham provide a low cost service for anyone living in the Fareham borough who is unable to do their own basic housework. They deliver a friendly, reliable and efficient service, they charge £7.25 per hour with an administration fee of £25 (some discounts may be available) Call 01329 223144 or email homehelps@actionfareham.org.uk for more information or website is www.actionfareham.org.uk then support for people (also lists about Dial a ride, Gardening, Voluntary Car Scheme and Shopmobility to name a few)

E mail addresses

Now that I have been dragged into the 21st Century can you make sure I have your email address.- please send your email address to juliettehewitt@gmail.com
If you think I donot hold it.

Hoping to see you at some of our activities

Very best wishes

Juliette

