

GOSPORT AND FAREHAM BRANCH OF THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

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

A very happy new year to you and hopefully one which brings us nearer to unlocking the mystery of M.S. There is so much going on at the moment in the field of research and as Dr Chris Halfpenny said at the end of his recent talk a cure (or at least a form of control) is years not decades away.

With this letter I enclose a brief précis of the notes I made at Dr Halfpenny's talk - I hope accurately! I know more people wanted to attend than there were places available.

Chairman – Liz Matthews has resigned from being our Chairman but will still be a valued delegate on the PCT Steering Group and a M.S. Society Helpline operator. Many thanks to her for all her hard work. You will still see her at our events and supporting our much needed fundraising. Wendy Cunningham as Vice Chairman will officiate until our next AGM.

Centralized Membership - The £5 yearly membership fee is now collected from you by the M.S. National Centre. If this works efficiently it will be to the Branches' advantage. It will save us a great deal of work administratively and your £5 plus any donation you have kindly made will come back to the Branch (you can confirm this option to happen on the form/card you will be sent). The £5 will no longer be retained by the National Centre and we will consequently be "better off".

The only disadvantage is that I do not know straight away who has paid their membership! .

A subscription reminder will be sent by the MS Centre to you at the end of January

Neuro PHYSIO on Thursday April 9th – Venue to be confirmed – Parish Centre not available

Fundraising – Our expenditure on welfare has been extremely high over the past year and we have not been receiving the large amounts of funding, which has been the case over the past few years.

Our reserves are in need of a boost if we are to continue supporting members in the same way as we have in the past. I enclose an appeal for help, it would be appreciated if you would give this letter careful consideration.

Our next store collection is at Gosport Asda on Saturday 31st January. Please try and spare an hour. It's a very friendly store and we will be in the foyer. Phone Karen on 01489 570450.

Christmas Bazaar – this year's Bazaar raised £1.050. Many thanks to all those who helped and donated items for sale. It really worked having 2 halls, much more comfortable for everyone. Our grateful thanks are due to the United Reformed Church, who only charged us £60 for the hire of both halls.

I know you're only just got over Christmas but the toiletry stall looked as if a flock of vultures had descended on it. Not even a bar of soap left which was great! So now is the time to set aside those unwanted Christmas Gifts.

Thanks to Steve and Mark who stepped in as Father Christmas and elfin helper respectively when Graham's recent knee replacement put him out of the running.

Equipment Available

We have been donated

3 self propelling light weight wheelchairs

One is made of titanium and I am told the wheels alone cost £500 when new. There is a motorized wheel that can be fitted to aid the pusher.

The other two have only been used a couple of times and are in mint condition – phone Juliette on 02392 581406 if you are interested and would like to view.

Craft Mornings – the craft mornings will continue to be held at the Golden Bowler public house Stubbington starting at 11am on the second Monday of each month. Can you phone Ruth in advance on 01329 318451 as these mornings are proving very popular but we need numbers for the tutors.

Regional quiz WILL BE ON 25TH April at Abbey Hall, Netley – Contact Graham if you would like to be in our team

I enclose a “diary” with this newsletter which gives the dates of our various activities. We would love to see you and you would be made very welcome