

GOSPORT AND FAREHAM BRANCH OF THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

From the Secretary – Juliette Hewitt, 11 Beech Grove,
Gosport,
Hampshire PO12 2EJ. Tel 02392 581406
Email graham@grahamhewitt7.wanadoo.co.uk **March 09**

Dear



Now those awful winter months are coming to an end its time for another newsletter to bring you up to date with what is happening in the Branch over the spring and summer period.

Annual General Meeting – our 28th AGM is to be held on **Saturday May 2nd** at St Mary,s Parish Centre starting at 2.30pm prompt. This is always a very important meeting and is your chance to find out just how the money is spent and what activities we have carried out over the past year. The meeting also elects the Branch Officers and Committee

We are keeping the presentation on a lighter note this year in the hope that it will attract more people. A speaker from Accessible Travel and Leisure is coming to tell us about the different options that are available when planning a holiday – from weekend breaks, holidays in the sun and cruises. It might inspire us to organize a branch holiday!

The Managing Director himself has limited mobility and it was because of some of the dire experiences he had when attempting to take a holiday that he founded the company.

Do stay on and join us for afternoon tea afterwards.

Nomination forms are enclosed with this letter for officers and committee members. Please return by April 15th 2009



IMPORTANT! PLEASE NOTE – No events

during August. We are running more regular groups and the volunteers etc. are starting to wilt! So this year we are going to go back to not having **ANY** events during August (the same as many other local MS **Branches**), this will give us a break to top up our batteries, or be able to see children or grandchildren. **THIS WILL MEAN NO PHYSIO, YOGA OR COFFEE MORNINGS DURING AUGUST** see diary.

Physio and Lunch Group – On Thursday **9th April** date the Parish Centre is not available (blood donation) so I have booked the Bulsom Hall from **11am** onwards. The hall is part of the St Faiths Church complex which stands in Victoria Square Lee-on-Solent. Postcode is PO13 9NF. There are many ways to approach the hall from the sea-front and there is ample parking.

Lunch will be coming courtesy of Lee-on-Solent Fish and Chips.

Can you let me know what you would like – Haddock, Sausage, Scampi or Chicken and Chips.

Summer Strawberry Tea- Party - This year's tea party will be held on Sunday 26th July at St Mary's Parish Centre from 2.30pm onwards. Do come along for what I can promise will be a delicious tea and to meet up with old and new friends. There will be a bring and buy stall and a bouncy castle for the children in the grounds. Let's make this a real family event.

Hillhead Chalet

Mave has booked the chalet for the following dates during the summer, all on a Wednesday.

The dates are as follows:-

27th May, 10th June, 8th July 29th July and 30th September.

We meet between 11am and 3pm and coffee, tea and soft drinks are provided. Bring a picnic if you wish otherwise fish and chips can be ordered and collected on the day.

Do come and join us. It's a lovely spot on a sunny day sitting under the gazebo and its nice and cosy inside on a wet day – looking out at the view.

The Wheelhouse chalet is located in the car – park on the sea front at the end of Salterns Lane.

Mave's no is 023 92641124 or mob 07789 511124 if you need more details.

River Hamble Boat trip – on the specially adapted launch The Alison Mcgregor on **Sunday 5th July**. Mave's been at it again. (She really should have the title of Social Secretary) and has booked two trips from Hythe Marina at 10.30am and 2pm. The boat takes up to 12 people including if necessary 6 people in wheelchairs. We will provide a picnic lunch on the quayside, as cafes are not that close.

Notify Mave if you would like to come along. A bus with a hydraulic lift will be available for those who need transport.

Craft Group – The craft group meets on the 2nd Monday of each month at the Golden Bowler public house in Stubbington. They always make us very welcome. To book a place phone Ruth Moorhen on 01329 318451.

The dates are:-

Monday 9th March

There will be no craft group in April because of Easter

Monday 11th May – pottery, Monday June 8th, Monday July 13th

Newly Diagnosed Session

Sheila Chartres the M.S. nurse specialist is organizing a newly diagnosed session at the Jubilee Hall, Church Lane (off Catherington Lane) Horndean PO8 9SU on **Thursday April 2nd** between 2 – 4pm. For more details contact Sheila on 01329 224532.

Family and friends event

An event for people who care for a loved one with M.S. in Hampshire. Jane Ware and Hazel Daniel two M.S. Specialist Nurses from Southampton are organizing two workshops entitled Changing Relationships and Symptom Management on **Saturday 25th April** from 10.30am at the Colbury Memorial, Main Road, Colbury SO40 7EL. I have sent out information to those who I though might benefit but I am sure there are others. Give me a ring on 02392 581406 if you would like a booking form.

Motability Roadshow I enclose a leaflet on the Roadshow

Trip to Exbury Gardens

We need to finalize arrangements but we have got a bus booked for **Wednesday 24th June** to these famously beautiful gardens. Please let Juliette know if you you would like to come. Barrie Hill from Shopmobility and Mark Lewis are supporting us by offering to take scooters or powerchairs for anyone who would like to use them, again let us know!

Scooter available

We have recently been left a “top of the range” scooter in a legacy. It is an Invacare Meteor with a 15 mile range and 4 wheel drive. The scooter is in top condition. You would not be able to get it into the boot of a car and must have covered storage. Would anyone who has an interest make contact and we will allocate it to the person it would most benefit.

Fund raising

Now, onto the ever present (but very vital) subject of fundraising. Our hardworking and very efficient fundraiser Karen has organized the following events for the Branch.

Store Collections

Karen has booked Store collections at:-

Sainsbury's - Broadcut Fareham	Saturday 14 th March
Morrison's Gosport	Saturday 4 th April
Tesco - Whiteley	Friday 12 th AND Saturday 13 th June
Sainsbury - Broadcut Fareham	Sunday 31 st May

If you need a lift to get to any of these venues just ask and I'm sure it can be arranged.

Please help if you can, even if it's just for an hour. It's a good way to meet people and the general public are very nice and friendly. Ring Karen Reeves on 01489 750450 or mob 07888842041.



Quiz Night with fish and chips

at Crofton Community Centre Stubbington on Friday 26th June
7pm - 11pm. £5 a person. Bring your own wine, fruit juice etc, tea and coffee available to purchase at small cost.

Please come along and support this very enjoyable event. Rally round your relatives and friends to make up tables of 6 to 8 people. This is a repeat of the very enjoyable evening Karen organized last year, which everyone agreed was a great success.

ACTIVITY Diary – I enclose with this newsletter the diary itemizing all our other regular activities which include the Yoga, Physio Group and pub “get togethers” to which you are all very welcome.

We look forward to seeing you at the various events. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

Best wishes

