

GOSPORT AND FAREHAM BRANCH OF THE MULTIPLE SCLEROSIS SOCIETY

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

By the time you receive this newsletter the lighter evenings will have arrived hopefully accompanied by some lovely sunny days.

Jenny and Sian who became committee members at the last AGM are really getting into their stride in their respective roles as web-master and social secretary.

We are very grateful to Owen Morgan for the six years he spent as our web-master but with finals approaching he has had to step aside.

Jenny has now taken on the role and a very good job she is making of it. I hope you've all had the chance to look at the site. It truly reflects just how lively the Branch is!

Sian has made plans for a couple of summer outings. Her past job as an events organiser has been a distinct advantage.

FUND RAISING – Karen our fundraising officer has planned events throughout the year including:-

COLLECTION AT – Sainsbury,s Broadcut Fareham on Saturday 26th April – please contact Karen if you can spare an hour or so!

PAMPER DAY Saturday 12th April at Crofton Community Centre Crofton Lane Stubbington PO12 2PP between 11am and 4pm. Tickets cost £1 and are available from Karen in advance or at the door. A range of beauty treatments and therapies will be available at a cost of £5 for each session.

Refreshments and light lunches will be available.

BOOK STALL - the charity pitch in Gosport High Street has been booked for Tuesday 29th April. Helpers wearing extra layers needed. The High Street can be a very draughty spot! We have a range of excellent books and all at a bagful for a donation.

ABSEILING EVENT



George has arranged a fundraising Abseiling Event at the Spinnaker Tower between 12 mid-day and 4pm on Saturday 24th May. We have 20 volunteers taking the leap for the Branch (including some of our members) and the aim is to raise in the region of £10000. The money will be divided between Branch Support needs and MS Research.

In addition to the sponsorship money raised by the participants we also have permission to hold a collection around the base of the tower on the day.

This will give plenty of opportunity for members to become involved in the event. Lets make it a family day out. We have 2 MPs Caroline Dineage and her husband Mark Lancaster taking part so with luck we will have some media cover and a PR boost.

We may also have some help from the Royal Navy as Jack Anderson is taking part, Jack is the son of Jan and Andy Anderson and is currently serving in the Royal Navy.

The volunteers are listed on the Branch Website with links to the just giving pages, should you wish to sponsor an individual. Do come along and show your support to our intrepid volunteers.

SUMMER OUTINGS

Our Social Secretary Sian has arranged two outings during June and July. I know its early days but it will be easier to finalise arrangements if we have some idea of the numbers. The dates have been chosen in advance of the start of the school holidays

Beaulieu day trip on Tuesday June 10th



Sian has booked a 39 seater coach with a lift for wheelchairs. The plan is to leave from the Fernham Hall car park at 9-9.30am, leaving Beaulieu about 3.30pm. 6 manual wheelchairs and 4 scooters are available at Beaulieu and are free of charge but need to be booked in advance.

The detailed booking form, which is enclosed with this newsletter will make all the details clear. Please return to Sian.

Second outing – Tuesday 8th July

This will take the form of a trip to the seaside followed by a high tea. More details later.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The 33rd Annual General Meeting of the Gosport and Fareham Branch of the M.S. Society will take place on Saturday 7th June starting at 11.30am at the Parish Centre, Green Road, Alverstoke Gosport.

An invitation to attend is included with this newsletter together with a nomination form. This is your opportunity to choose the officers and committee. You may also nominate yourself or someone else to serve on the committee.

REGULAR ACTIVITIES

The dates, times and venues for all our regular activities are listed in the enclosed diary.

You can be sure of a very warm welcome at any of them. They include a lively physio group finishing with lunch. A lovely relaxing yoga session rounding off with coffee, tea and cake and a very therapeutic craft session.

In between we meet up at either the Golden Bowler or the Bun Penny for coffee/lunch.

CHALET DATES – a sign of the approaching summer is a reminder of the dates of the Hillhead Chalet. The chalet is located in the car park at the end of Salterns Lane Hillhead Postcode PO14 3LR

Dates are listed in the Diary. For more details ring Mave on 02392 641124
mob 07789 511124.

Note from MS Nurse - We know some of you have thought that the MS Nurses were not replying to calls you have made to them – we have been told that unless they can be totally sure that a phone line is yours such as a personalised message they are not allowed to leave messages on phones.

NHS Wheelchair Services

From the 1st of April 2014 the provision of NHS Wheelchair Services in Gosport and Fareham will be covered by Millbrook Healthcare.

The current wheelchair service telephone numbers will have an automatic divert function to the new numbers from the 1st April.

The service will operate from the following addresses:-

Millbrook Health Care
Unit D
Centurion Business Park
Bitterne Rd West
Southampton
SO18 1UB

Millbrook Health Care
Unit A12 and A13
Railway Triangle
Walton Rd
Portsmouth
PO6 1TN

Repairs – 0333 0038072

Re-assessment of needs 0333 0038071

If you are awaiting assessment for the provision of a wheelchair you will be offered a clinic appointment at one of the two main sites in Southampton or Portsmouth, an out reach clinic or a home based assessment. Call Millbrook Healthcare on 0333 0038071.

As you will see we have some very busy months ahead. We would love to see you at any of the planned events. You can be sure of a warm welcome.

Best wishes

Juliette