

South & West Somerset Branch

Megan's achievement

Megan's grandfather, Nigel Boley, had MND and she started her fund raising for the branch aged 5 with a sponsored cycle ride. This was an event her aunt was organising for a group of adults and it should be added that although she started getting sponsors she could not ride a bike. With the help of the family, by the time of the event, she had achieved this and while the others went off round the organised route, Megan rode round the local park. She has now been fund raising for the branch for five years - our youngest hard working fund raiser.



At the Branch Christmas lunch in December Cynthia Hopkins, Secretary of Exeter and East Devon Branch, presented Megan with a Five Year Certificate, Badge and a MND Lion in recognition of her achievements.

After the presentation she did a little more fundraising and raised another £39 selling Cork Fairies.

Early Spring 2018



Tankard Club

Tankard Club a loose knit organisation that collects funds for 'good causes within 10 miles of the main Post Office in Taunton' meet up on the first Monday of each month to enjoy a meal. The Club offered to buy some equipment for the branch to be used in our area and have sent donations to pay for an i-pad to assist Dawn Bayford, Respiratory Non Invasive Practitioner Nurse in training people with MND and their carer's.

Film Show in Burnham-on-Sea

Burnham-on-Sea's Ritz Cinema held a screening of the award winning 'Lion' for the branch. Committee member Jenny Golding said that through the kind co-operation of Pat and Beryl Scott, owners of the Ritz Cinema, the branch was able to run a highly successful screening.

Burnham-on-Sea's Mayor and Mayoress Bill and Frances Hancock, pictured with Jenny overleaf, were the special VIP guests at the screening.



The total raised from ticket sales, donations and the raffle was £428. Jenny said that MND has touched so many families either directly or indirectly. Burnham's generosity makes a difference to local people and families affected by this terribly debilitating disease.

MND may be rapid, but thanks to you, the Association can be too

Every day, across England, Wales and Northern Ireland, the devastating nature of this disease is matched by the amazing courage and commitment of you, and the rest of our volunteers and supporters – the majority of whom have been personally affected by the MND.

Thank you to everyone who has donated their money and time to enable us to support more people than ever before. Thousands of you volunteered, donated, ran, kept silent, baked cakes and jumped out of planes to raise money to support our vital work. In the past year, fundraisers, supporters, partners and volunteers have donated an incredible £8.4 million. That money together with Ice Bucket Challenge donations has led to the establishment of specialist MND care roles, new research projects being funded, and the expansion of our MND Care Centre Network. The money raised is making a difference today, and the Impact Report explains how. Together we have achieved much for people with MND, their carers, families and friends. However, we know there is still more to do. Our ability to support people with MND will continue to depend on the generosity of people like you. With continued support MNDA can continue to fight the devastating impact of MND and achieve its vision of a world free from MND.

Providing people with the care they need when they need it

We know MND can be rapid, so being able to respond quickly and provide people living with MND, the right support at the right time is essential. Last year MNDA was able to greatly increase the support they provide. MND is a complex condition and requires a co-ordinated approach to care. Research has shown that a multi-disciplinary approach can increase life expectancy and MNDA will continue to fund our MND Care Centre Network to enable as many people living with MND as possible to access this support close to where they live. MNDA supported 3,495 people through its dedicated network. In December 2016, MNDA opened the 20th MND Care and Research Network in Sussex and plan to open the 21st in Norfolk in 2017. The services delivered through the MND Care Centre Network are complemented by an army of care volunteers. Last year MNDA recruited 64 new Association Visitors (AVs) growing our network of AVs to 322, currently supporting 1,098 people with MND. As a result of our support, 92% of people living with MND, who have an AV, feel more supported and 90% feel less isolated. MNDA provided £1 million in funding for individual support grants and loaned 1,500 pieces of equipment to people with MND. 87% of people with MND surveyed said that the equipment improved their quality of life and 78% reported it improved their independence.

MNDA also provided grants to local speech and language therapy teams so they could provide up-to-date communications to people with MND. MND Connect responded to over 8,400 requests for information and support. They provided more than 26,000 pieces of care information to people affected by MND and a further 41,000 copies of publications were downloaded from our website.

MND Benefits Advice Service

Are you receiving all you are entitled to? Since its launch last year, this MNDA-run service has identified £1m worth of benefits people affected with MND were eligible to claim! Call the MND Benefits Advice Service, free of charge, on 0808 8010620.

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 3rd March Coffee Morning hosted by Sarah Chilcott at 3 Durleigh Close, Bridgwater TA6 7HT from 11.00am to 3.00pm. This is a successful annual event raising funds for the branch. Please drop in for coffee, tea and cakes and there will be other items for sale.

Thursday 22nd March Carers Meeting at West Monkton Village Hall (Annexe entrance), Monkton Heathfield TA2 8NE from 2.00pm to 4.00pm. These meetings, led by Association Visitors, are designed to facilitate networking between current carers and experienced ex-carers. The experienced carers listen to the problems and frustrations of current carers and use their vast experience to try and help resolve problems. Meetings are friendly and informal. Occasionally we have a speaker but we always have cake and tea. For more information please contact Evelyn.

Saturday 31st March Great Corfe Bake at Corfe Village Hall TA3 7AN from 10.00am to 1pm. Come and enjoy a coffee, scrumptious cake and a chat. Enter your signature cake in one of the classes and buy a cake for Easter Sunday Tea. Easter Egg hunt for children. Raffle for Easter Eggs and Simnel Cake and prizes for cake classes. For more details contact Judith Richards on 07813 931974 or email mail@judithrichards.co.uk.



Saturday 14th April the Branch Annual General Meeting at the Methodist Church, Lisieux Way, Taunton TA1 2PD, between 2.30pm and 4.00pm, is your opportunity to hear about branch activities in the past year

and plans for the coming year. We will have a speaker and details will be included in the March Events Diary. The Committee will also be elected; any nominees will be very welcome and should contact Evelyn before the meeting. Tea and cakes will be served.

Sunday 15th April 'Classics at the Mill' is a classic vehicle meeting and family fun day at the Haselbury Mill, Haselbury Plucknett, Nr Crewkerne, Somerset TA18 7NY from 10.00am to 4.00pm with all event proceeds going to the Branch – put it in your diary – it is a great day out for all the family and entrance is free for non-exhibitors.



For more information go to the website: www.classicsatthemill.co.uk



Bank Holiday Monday 7th May Milverton Street Fair 10.00am – 4.00pm - Street fair where the Branch will have a stall. Great event with something for all the family - various entertainments and a big variety of stalls. Please contact Evelyn if you can help or contribute jams, plants to be sold on our stall.

Sunday 20th May Regional Conference at Holiday Inn, Filton Road, Filton, Bristol BA16 1QX.

The conferences are held throughout the year at varied locations to enable as many people as possible to attend. Each conference will have a bespoke programme, with Care and Campaigning sessions having a local feel and designed to encourage discussion. There is also a session on Research where an invited speaker will give an update on a project in the area.

The day begins at 10.00am and runs until 4.00pm with plenty of time during the day to network and make new friends.

Alternatively, stay at home and watch the event live on the Associations Facebook page.

For full details follow the link below

<https://www.mndassociation.org/news-and-events/events/conferences/regionalconference/>

Thursday 24th May Carers Meeting at West Monkton Village Hall - details as before.

Friday 9th November Quiz Night 7.00pm for a 7.30pm start at Corfe Village Hall TA3 7AH to raise funds for the Branch. £5 per person entry with teams of 4 or 6, bring your own refreshments. There are prizes for the winning teams and a raffle. It's a fun competition, so make up your teams and have a great evening's entertainment. Contact Judith Richards on 07813 931974 or by email mail@judithrichards.co.uk for more information or to book your team. Early booking is recommended as this is a very popular event.

For Sale

Solid silver charm of the iconic low lighthouse at Burnham on Sea, hall marked 925 at £25. These are now available in gold. There are 8 available at present plus one in gold which costs £100. They make fabulous presents. All profits to MNDA. Telephone Carolyn Boley on 01278 788265 for more information.



Branch and National Office contacts

If you wish to contact the branch, please call either the Branch Contact June Appleton on 01823 271403 or Evelyn Bagg, Secretary on 01935 426434 or email swsmnda@gmail.com.

The branch website and Facebook links are www.mndassociation.org/southandwestsomerset



<http://tinyurl.com/zznld7>

mndconnect
0808 8026262
mndconnect@mndassociation.org

9am to 5pm and 7pm to 10.30pm Monday to Friday
Calls are free from land lines and mobiles.

The MND Connect Helpline is the 'frontline' of the MND Association. They take and answer calls and emails from anyone living with or affected by MND – so that's people living with the disease, carers, family members and friends, GPs, Nurses, Occupational Therapists, Speech and Language Therapists – absolutely anyone!

Disclaimer Any product mentioned should not be taken as a recommendation of the Association who cannot be held responsible should any complaint arise. We offer a free advertising service, but we cannot accept responsibility for the condition of items advertised

The National Office number is 01604 250505, and MND Connect is 0808 8026262. National Office website: www.mndassociation.org

Online forum: <http://forum.mndassociation.org/>,

Registered address Motor Neurone Disease Association, PO Box 246 Northampton NN1 2PR
Registered Charity No 294354

Any newsletter comments or contributions to John Sampson - Editor on 01823 451152
or email mnda.swsnews@hotmail.co.uk



We never lose hope. We strive to find a cure for MND and to support everyone affected by this devastating disease