



Multiple Sclerosis Society

Notes from the branch committee
meeting on 27 September 2010

What's happening at the Leicester branch ?

This leaflet is designed to keep you up to date with what is happening at the MS Society Leicester branch, and what the committee are doing. It is the first update, and there will be one following each committee meeting. If you have any feedback about this update (for example, too much or not enough information, or how can we make it better), please let the committee know.

Who is currently on the committee?

Steve Pugh — Chair Pete Tattersall — Transport
Jane Tindle — Newsletter & website

The committee is always looking for new members, so if you would like to talk further please contact Steve Pugh on 07941 038 848.



Branch transport

The branch owns a bus, which we currently use to transport furniture for the shop. All branches are required to operate safely and Pete Tattersall has agreed to take on role of Transport Manager for the branch and make sure we are operating according to risk management guidelines.

Consultation and the branch premises

Some of you may be aware that we are required by the MS Society to put together a business case for our Anstey premises, to demonstrate that it meets the needs of people affected by MS and that it doesn't replicate services already available locally. It also needs to show that we will be able to cover the ongoing running costs. This should have been done before the development started.

Consultation and the Branch Premises [cont]

It is for this reason, and to find out more generally what support people want from the branch, that we are undertaking a consultation that we hope most of you will know about and have completed a questionnaire for. The deadline for members to return the questionnaire was 3 September 2010 .

The MS nurses have also very kindly agreed to send it out to 650 patients, with a return date of 30 November. This will hopefully give us a really good insight into what support and services people affected by MS in Leicestershire want from us. We will share this information with you in the coming months.

In the meantime, until a sound business case is in place, the committee has been asked to only spend money on the development where there are health and safety risks.



Website & Newsletter

The MS Society are in the process of updating the national website, but in the meantime, Jane will keep the local site up to date without major changes.

Jane is keen to do a newsletter for autumn, but is struggling for content. If you have any news or information that you think members would benefit from, do let Jane know.

Drop In

The committee hopes to put a plan of activities together for next year, based on what you have told us you want. If you would like to be involved in delivering any activities at the drop in such as a quiz or a talk on something you are passionate about, please let us know .



Drop In [cont]

It has also been brought to our attention that there have been some incidences of the drop in of members treating other members inappropriately. We would ask that all members treat fellow users of the drop in with courtesy and respect. The Society has a code of conduct that all users of the Anstey Centre are expected to abide by. These are attached, and we would be grateful if you could read them. The centre is here to support all people affected by MS, and we want people to be able to enjoy a comfortable and relaxed time at the drop in.



Branch Fundraising and Finances

Lots of amazing fundraising has been happening – in particular two very successful bike rides. The committee would like to thank everyone involved in fundraising for the branch. The branch is currently financially healthy, but we are always looking for more people to be involved in fundraising, so if you are interested please let Jane know.

Some members may be aware that at the beginning of the year the branch was the subject of a financial audit. This raised a number of issues about the systems we had in place for handling and being accountable for the branch's money. The committee has spent a lot of time putting in place appropriate measures to address the concerns raised, and all spending now has to be agreed by the committee and written in committee meeting minutes.

Respite Care

The committee discussed the outcomes of the recent national AGM, in particular the respite review proposals. Members voted in favour of the Society's decision to update the way in which we provide respite care. This will ensure that more people affected by MS will be able to access short breaks that are right for them, wherever they live and whatever their needs. The Committee will keep members informed through The Key and the website but members should also look out for information in MS Matters.

The committee have agreed that now we have a centre, this should be used as our main address.



Multiple Sclerosis Society

Code of Conduct

The MS Society believes that all individuals involved with or working on behalf of people affected by MS should respect one another and work constructively to achieve our common goals. We therefore ask that all those connected with or acting on behalf of the MS Society take personal responsibility for undertaking the following:

- To be a positive ambassador for the Society and ensure that you take no purposeful action or make any comment which might damage the Society.
- To show respect to all and a commitment to access and inclusion for all individuals connected to the Society, understanding that no form of harassment will be tolerated.
- To recognise that the Society is a democratic organisation, to abide by decisions made by its elected committees and to work with others to resolve any conflicts, which may arise.
- To respect and understand the need for confidentiality.
- To take all reasonable steps to ensure the health and safety of yourself and others and to protect the property of the Society.
- To be committed and reliable in your role(s) within the Society and not use your position to pursue personal issues or policies which conflict with those of the Society.
- To accept the need for reasonable training, guidance and support relating to your role(s) within the Society.

This Code is a statement of the values that we will uphold in all our dealings and that we will expect others to maintain when working with us. Anyone requiring support or advice relating to this code is encouraged to contact the MS Society.