

CAMPAIGNER BECKY GATENBY, BRADFORD



Becky travelled down to London to share her father's experiences of claiming Universal Credit after he had to give up work due to MND.

In February the All-Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on MND, met in Parliament to discuss the MND Scrap 6 Months

campaign on access to welfare benefits for people who are terminally ill. At the meeting Becky, from Bradford, gave an emotional speech about her father's attempts to claim Universal Credit. Becky spoke to a packed room of MPs and Peers about how her father had struggled with the welfare system. She finished her talk with a quote from him: 'It was degrading to feel that I had to beg for financial support from a system I had paid into most of my life. I felt abandoned and reduced to a number. The word terminal should be enough. It should not be about time as no one can guarantee how long the terminally ill will live, regardless of the prognosis. The criteria for the terminally ill needs to change before more people suffer at the hands of this system'.

This was back in February and unfortunately Becky's father Anthony has passed away. Thank you both for speaking out for people with MND. Our thoughts are with the family.

TO FISH OR NOT TO FISH, THAT IS THE QUESTION

On June 20th 2020 Anne Walker's Memorial Fishing Match is due to take place at Pool Bridge Farm. This is its fourth year and so far, has raised almost £20,000 which has been given in grants to those living with Motor Neurone Disease. If this event has to be cancelled it will be replaced with a blind auction as a lawn mower has been donated to the event. Look out on Facebook and Twitter for more information from Graham Walker.

SELINA CAMPAIGNING FOR MND



The MND association launched a new campaign to get people living with MND on the government's extremely vulnerable list. Campaigning has now moved on after the Gov announced MND would not automatically be added to the list. People with MND will be

assessed on a case by case basis. For more info see MND's CEO, Sally Light's You Tube video.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cOaH3pcDLQk&feature=youtu.be&fbclid=IwAR0iMbVBnvRxAfiJuOiJqTnB9TaQ4W8lLckmS7gb_KpKcHg-mwe_dIZIFvo

MARK RODGERS & THE LYKE WAKE WALK



Mark has plans to complete the 40-mile Lyke Wake Walk over the North York Moors to raise money for the MND Association as a member of his family is living with MND. It will now take place later in the year than he had planned, partly because of the Covid 19 crisis but also because of a

recent back injury. Mark says, "I am overwhelmed with how generous people have been and I am determined to complete this walk when I am fit enough to do so. Many thanks for your support."

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT AMAZON SMILE?

'AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices and shopping features as Amazon.co.uk The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, Amazon will donate 0.5% of the net purchase price (excluding VAT, returns and shipping fees) from your eligible AmazonSmile purchases to your nominated charity.' Please nominate the MND Association.

IAN TOWLER'S TRIBUTE FUND



Ian Towler, the late brother of Deidre Major and husband of Lorraine Towler, sadly lost his life to MND in December 2008. The family set up a Tribute Fund in Ian's name and Lorraine and their three daughters have since organised several fundraising events, adding the money

raised to his Tribute Fund to aid research into MND.

Deidre celebrated her 50th birthday in 2009 and her wedding in 2014. On both occasions she asked for donations in lieu to gifts to go to Ian's Tribute Fund. More recently it was Deidre's 60th birthday and 5th wedding anniversary. To raise money, she took buns and cakes into Yorkshire Building Society where she works and had a party at the local Golf Club. She had a fabulous time seeing family and friends she hadn't seen for years. Again, Deidre wanted to remember her brother by asking for donations to his Tribute Fund instead of gifts and cards. On this occasion, with the generosity of family and friends, the donation amounted to £1,090.

What is a Tribute Fund? It's a special online place where you, your family and friends can remember someone special, and raise money to fight MND in their memory. For more information see the MND website at <https://www.mndassociation.org/get-involved/fundraising/tribute-funds/>

THANK YOU, MICHAEL JEFFERY



At the end of 2019 we had a bit of a re-jig within our committee and Michael Jeffery, our existing Branch Chair stepped down from this role.

We would like to say a huge Thank You to him for his involvement and hard work within the branch over the past 15+ years. He's always willing to go and give talks,

shake hands and generally promote the West Yorkshire branch. However, he's not getting away too easily as he has agreed to continue his work within the branch as Vice Chair and Committee Member.

CLIMBING MOUNT SNOWDON



Aimee Moreton together with Cheryl Moreton Cracknell & Charles Moreton have been climbing Mount Snowdon? Well, that's not quite correct, they would have been climbing Mount Snowden in preparation for Aimee's Kilimanjaro Trek so instead they climbed the

stairs at home 475 times! Aimee says, "I am taking on Kilimanjaro and the stair climb in memory of my beautiful Grandma and to raise awareness and funds for the MND Association".

You can donate to Aimee's fundraising efforts at: <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/aimee-moreton>

LYNSEY SHAVES OFF HER LOVELY LONG HAIR FOR MND



Lynsey Howarth, a podiatrist, first got to know about MND when she was treating a patient with the disease. About two years after her patient passed away her Dad was diagnosed with MND. At first the family cared for him at home but later he was admitted to St Gemma's Hospice where he passed away. Lynsey's first fundraiser was a skydive and then last summer she held a toenail paintathon, painting toenails all day long for a donation to charity. This year she decided, while in lockdown, to have her head shaved, raising more money by appearing on the BBC's Big Night In. She's raised £320. 21 so far with more money still trickling in. She said, "I am not fit enough to run a marathon or triathlon and I have been able to do this from the safety of my own home on lockdown. My hubby did the shaving". Brave hubby! Brave Lynsey!

TONY GILL'S BIRTHDAY CHALLENGE



A university lecturer has celebrated his 58th birthday with a 100-mile cycle in his garage. Dr Tony Gill cycled on turbo rollers for around 8-9 hours to raise funds in memory of his mentor who died of MND.

Tony, who works at Salford University, said: "In this difficult time of social isolation many people face hardship and difficulty but none more so than those who rely on fundraising donations such as those with MND. Many charities have had fundraising activities cancelled and contributions have dropped, so we need to help in some way."

Tony's challenge took place on his birthday on May 16th. Tony says, 'Every year I have done something to raise funds and awareness for this superb charity and I feel that now it's needed more than ever. So please help and see if you can donate your unused bus fare, unused pub money or just try and make a difference to someone'.

You can sponsor him here: - justgiving.com/fundraising/Tony-Gill5

If you would like to follow in Tony's tracks with a virtual challenge of your own for #TeamMND, sign up today [mndassociation.org/virtual!](https://mndassociation.org/virtual/)

Happy Belated Birthday Tony. £957 raised so far.39999999

BREAKING NEWS

Glenn Horsman on Facebook writes: - 'Very proud of my daughter's partner Dylan who today ran his first ever half marathon on his own as the Leeds event was cancelled. Dylan ran to raise money for MND. Donations are currently above £1600.' Well done and thank you Dylan.

SHOW ME THE WAY TO SANTIAGO



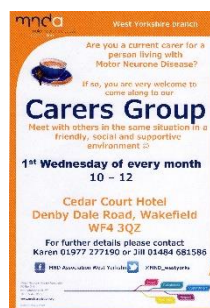
'Peter Kay has written a book about his personal pilgrimage, following the less frequently travelled route of the Via de la Plata from Seville to Santiago, a distance of 1,006 Km.

it's also about the people he met along the way, their stories, adventures together and most of all, the most valuable of commodities which seem so undervalued

these days: humanity and friendship.'

Profits from this book will be donated to the West Yorkshire Branch and to the Northumberland Branch. Purchase the E version or paperback from https://www.amazon.co.uk/Show-Way-Santiago-Peter-Kay-ebook/dp/B086LKJXSC/ref=sr_1_1?crid=YOQCT7H477YU&dchild=1&keywords=show+me+the+way+to+santiago&qid=1588587848&srefix=show+me+the+way+%2Caps%2C184&sr=8-1

CARERS GROUP



Karen says, 'Jill and I are missing our monthly Carers' Group Get Togethers during this very surreal situation. Our last one, on 4th March had our biggest attendance to date. It was lovely to see everyone and we will commence meetings again on the first Wednesday of every month, 10 until 12 at

Cedar Court Hotel, Wakefield as soon as we possibly can.

In the meantime, to all our carers out there, stay safe and take care of you. Feel free to contact Jill on 01484 681586 or myself on 01977 277190 if we can help or you would just like a chat. The MND Association Connect helpline 0808 802 6262 is also available Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm and 7pm - 10.30pm for information/support or email mndconnect@mndassociation.org

AMY'S FACEBOOK FUNDRAISER



Amy Learmonth's father sadly passed away from MND aged just 33. Amy told her family and friends she wanted to raise money for the MND Association. She was inspired by attending a Rob Burrows

fundraising rugby match at the Headingley Stadium. She managed to raise £649! What a fabulous achievement! Raising money via Facebook highlighted a problem in that the funds went straight to the Northampton office rather than to the WY Branch as requested. However, they have found their way to the Association so will be put to good use. If anyone else is planning to raise funds this way contact our Regional Fundraiser, Jenn Dodd, who will be able to direct the funds to wherever you wish them to go. jenn.dodd@mndassociation.org



MIKE BRIDGMAN'S BIG STEPS OF HOPE

In memory of Peter Clarke and Jean-Luc Allard for the Motor Neurone Disease Association. 'Jean-Luc lived and worked in England for a number of years. His elder daughter was born in West Yorkshire and when she married in France I was honoured and proud to give her away. Peter worked in Hospitality all his life. He was good company and even now his very bad jokes and one-liners still give all his friends and family a great laugh. Both sadly missed but never forgotten.' Mike is walking at least 5,000 steps per day during lockdown. Keep going Mike!
<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/MikeBridgman>

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West Yorkshire Branch Motor Neurone Disease Association



https://twitter.com/mnda_westyorks

INTRODUCING OUR NEW CHAIRPERSON KAREN MERREY



Hello to you all.

This is my first time writing for the newsletter as Chair. Woohoo! Due to the current situation we are all experiencing, our regular meetings and our AGM have had to be cancelled. However, via our committee meetings, it has been possible for me to become Chair.

The Branch and its members have helped Steve and I so much during our MND journey, that I wanted to help as much as I am able to at this time. I wish to thank Michael Jeffery for all his time and efforts in being chairman of the Branch for many years and continuing as Vice-Chair. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all our committee members for all they do for the Branch. I have been a member of the MND Association for 8 years. Most of my paid work has been for local authorities in libraries, housing and planning which I left to care for Steve almost 3 years ago. As I have Type 1 diabetes I have spent a lot of years involved in voluntary work for Diabetes UK. My main pastime is gardening and anything that links with plants! It is my therapy. I also enjoy taking photos, walking, reading and my grandchildren Oliver and Sophie.

Please feel free everyone to contact me by phone or email with any thoughts, or ideas you have in respect of the future of our Branch, whether it be in relation to support, awareness, fund-raising, campaigning or future venues for our gatherings. Take care. Karen Merrey

WEST YORKSHIRE BRANCH JUST GIVING PAGE

Any fundraising donations can be entered on our just giving page.

https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mnda_westyorkshire

OUTREACH SERVICES – JUST POP IN

Future planning! Jo Lister and colleagues visited us at Victoria Garden Centre to tell us about the Outreach service provided by The Prince of Wales Hospice at Pontefract.

“Our services are available to any adult from the Five Towns area of West Yorkshire, Pontefract, Knottingley, Featherstone, Castleford and Normanton.”

Outreach is for people who have a life limiting condition and live relatively well at home, but could benefit from social support from others in a similar situation. It’s a chance to get out of the house, make new friends and participate in crafts and other activities, with the added comfort of being in a safe environment.

We accept self-referrals to Outreach. If you feel you could benefit, simply come along to one of our Outreach sessions for an informal chat about your illness and needs.

There are three sessions: Wednesdays, 11am-2pm at Holy Cross Church in Airedale, Thursdays 10am-1pm at St Mary Magdalene Church Hall Altofts Fridays, 10am-1pm at The Lawson Hut in Badsworth. There’s no need to book and you can attend any of our sessions.”

<https://www.pwh.org.uk/outreach>

VIRTUAL GARDEN CENTRE MEETING



The first WY Branch Virtual Garden Centre Get-Together via Zoom. Geoff was the invisible man, Chris and Mary visited from outer space, Anne and Peter had left by this time and Jenny tried to join us but got stuck in traffic. All agreed it was very successful. Next Virtual GC Meeting on May 22nd at 11.30am.

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ILKLEY MANOR HOUSE

Art for MND in the Manor House
Art competition

WIN your work on display in Ilkley Manor House

Later this year the West Yorkshire Branch will be hosting an art exhibition in Ilkley Manor House featuring several local artists. We are offering you the chance to be a part of it by entering to WIN the chance to have your work displayed in the exhibition. All entries will be posted online alongside the title of the piece, first name of the entrant and category they have entered. Winners will be picked from the following categories by artist Matthew Evans: Children aged up to 8 years, children and young people aged 9-18 years and those over 18 years old. All you need to do is create a piece of art inspired by your local area, Yorkshire, for example. For full terms and conditions visit the West Yorkshire Branch page of the MND Association website.

All entries must be scanned/photographed and emailed by a responsible adult to jenn.dodd@mndassociation.org along with the title, your name and age. Entry is FREE, but we are asking for a suggested donation of £2 to the West Yorkshire Branch JustGiving page www.justgiving.com/fundraising/mndawestyorkshire

West Yorkshire Branch @MNDA_WestYorks

www.mndassociation.org
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**FUNDRAISING
REGULATOR**

Painting, Drawing, Sculpture, Models,
Photography Multiple entries accepted.

MEMBERS OF YOUR FUNDRAISING TEAM ZOOMING



Want to join us? You will be made very welcome.