



north wiltshire group

newsletter

The Queen's Award
for Voluntary Service

Welcome to the January issue of our Newsletter

This is the time of year for reflection and for looking forward. The Group is no exception, and you will find our **Impact Report for 2019** inside this issue. It is a good opportunity to review our work over the past year and are delighted to report a 95% achievement of our goals. We would like to thank all those who have made this year possible. We are also planning for the future in order to set realistic goals.

The Group is made up of volunteers; if you would like to help us help local people lwMND, please do contact me on info@mndnorthwiltshiregroup.co.uk

Alison Ariss

Group Chair

MNDA & the Swindon Lottery

If you play the Lottery, this is an easy way to raise regular funds for the North Wiltshire Group.

November saw the launch of the **Swindon Community Lottery**, an exciting new weekly lottery that raises money for good causes in Swindon. As a local charity we have signed up to benefit from the lottery, and our supporters have already won prizes since the first draw took place on 14th December - as the saying goes, you have to be in it to win it!

Tickets for the lottery cost just £1 per week. Each ticket has a **1 in 50** chance to win a prize each week, with a top prize of **£25,000** - that's a better chance of winning than the National Lottery or the Health Lottery!

The draw is every Saturday night when a 6 digit winning combination is picked. Like the National Lottery, prizes are given when matching various number combinations, but match all 6 and you win the JACKPOT!

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Players are able to choose which cause they wish to support. Nominating the Motor Neurone Disease Association North Wiltshire Group means that the Group will have more funds to invest in support for local people living with MND. So if you choose to play the Lottery, please do name the Group as your designated cause and you will be helping us to continue to fund adaptations for people with MND, assist with respite care for families and provide regular, invaluable support groups. It's simple to join; go to: <https://www.swindonlottery.co.uk/support/motor-neurone-disease-association>

A promotional graphic for the Swindon Community Lottery. It features several colorful lottery balls (green with '7', red with '5', yellow with '3', purple with '6', and orange with '1') floating against a blue and purple gradient background. A large pink and white ball in the center contains the text 'WIN UP TO £25,000'. Below the balls, the text 'Play today and support our cause!' is written in white. At the bottom, there is a list of five bullet points in white text on a dark blue background.

**Play today
and support our cause!**

- Make a difference to the community and support our cause
- Sign-up for only £1 a week!
- You get the chance to win cash prizes up to £25,000 every week!
- We get 50p from every £1 ticket and a further 10p goes to other good causes
- Join your community in making where we live an even better place

If you do not want to play the Lottery, you can still donate by following the *Just-Giving* link from the Group's website or going to <http://www.justgiving.com/MNDA-North-Wiltshire1>

Local support for local people

Your activities

Walk to d'feet MND Sunday 6th October 2019, at Coate Water

Thank you to all who supported us at our Walk to d'feet MND on Sunday 6th October at Coate Water Country Park, Swindon. We are delighted to tell you that **we raised an incredible £1,735.38** (including Gift Aid donations).

Well done to all our 41 walkers who far exceeded our expectations of walking 40 laps of the park, by actually completing 65 circuits in total of the 1.75 mile walk. Some did not know when to stop, especially Tom Noble who managed 5 laps and was willing to do even more! We had several four-legged friends with us on the day and are grateful to Waitrose at Whichelstowe and Tesco Extra for their kind donation of doggie treats.



Group members at Coate, with Robert Buckland MP (right).

The tally board to record laps of Coate.



The Group would like to thank our fundraiser, Theresa Williams, for organizing the event and making it such a success. Here's to the next one!

Robert Buckland, MP for South Swindon, said: 'It was great fun, and for a good cause, that I took part in the Walk to d'feet MND at Coate Water on Sunday. Motor neurone disease is a dreadful illness that affects many families across the constituency and the country. That's why I have worked closely with the North Wiltshire Group of the MNDA. This local charity works hard to raise awareness, campaign for improved services and raise funds to support local families affected by the disease.'

Swindon Illuminations

Last October and November the coloured lighting display at Greenbridge Roundabout promoted a number of local charities, including the MNDA North Wiltshire Group. For a fortnight from 1st-13th October the lights were orange and blue to raise awareness for our Group and were part of our celebration of the Association's 40th anniversary.



Greenbridge Roundabout lit up

Councillor Maureen Penny, Swindon Borough Council's cabinet member for transport and the environment, said: 'It's a pleasure to be able to help charities and good causes raise awareness in this way, and I would like to thank Affleck Electrical for facilitating it. I think the lighting displays will be brilliantly eye-catching and I'm sure they will make the roundabout look very impressive indeed.'

Source: www.swindonadvertiser.co.uk/news for 7th October 2019

Mrs Scrump's Christmas Market

The group were delighted to be invited to participate in Mrs Scrump's Christmas Market at Dauntsey Park House in December. The event attracts local craft retailers selling high quality merchandise. Despite being a cold and foggy day, there was a good turnout. All proceeds from the stallholders' rental, refreshments, book sale and collection buckets were donated to the North Wiltshire Group. We had our own stall selling MND Christmas cards, home-made fudge & truffles and tree decorations. An amazing total of £1,769.02 was raised on the day.

Our sincere thanks to Susannah Dibben for organising the event, and Emma and her family for the use of their lovely home and for all their hard work supplying the refreshments.



Our stall — home-made gifts and MND Christmas cards

North Wiltshire Group — Our Impact in 2019

As a Group, we are very proud and committed to represent the Motor Neurone Disease Association and assist in delivering its aims in our local area. To help us to do this effectively, we develop our own **action plan** to help us **focus our activities**, assist in **maximizing our resources** and skills and to provide a mechanism **to identify and celebrate our successes**.

The 2019 action plan focused on 5 key areas:

- ◆ Support for people with Motor Neurone Disease
- ◆ Awareness Raising
- ◆ Fundraising
- ◆ Campaigning and Influencing
- ◆ Group Organisation

How did we do?

The 2019 plan detailed 44 individual actions. However 1 of these was not applicable as local and national priorities changed in the year.

- ◆ 41 actions were successfully completed
- ◆ This result equates to a 95% achievement rate
- ◆ Collectively, our group volunteers gave over 5,000 hours of their time

Here are some examples of our achievements:

- ⇒ We directly supported over **50 local families** affected by MND and worked closely with local health and social care providers to ensure a coordinated approach to care
- ⇒ Provided nearly **£5,000 in financial assistance** to local families towards the cost of home adaptations, specialist equipment and quality of life improvement
- ⇒ The highlight of our year came in June when we were awarded **The Queens Award for Voluntary Service**, which is equivalent to an MBE for voluntary groups. We are the first group or branch within the Motor Neurone Disease Association to be nominated and to win this accolade. As part of the award, Alison and Barbara attended a Buckingham Palace garden party to represent the group and we were presented with the official scroll, signed by Her Majesty and crystal trophy by the Lord Lieutenant of Wiltshire at a special support group meeting. We all feel very honoured that our work has been recognized and understand that the award recognizes commitment and effort over and above what might be reasonably expected
- ⇒ We have been delighted to welcome **new volunteers** to the Group during the year, Theresa Williams as fundraiser, Natasha Flintoft as Carer Champion and Liz Sardari-Kermani as Social Media Officer
- ⇒ We recognized the **40th Anniversary of the Association** with social media posts, the lighting of Greenbridge Roundabout in MND colours and by a *Walk to d'feet MND*. This involved a large team of volunteers who were tasked to walk a total of 40 laps around Coate Water Country Park, raising funds in the process

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⇒ Throughout the year we have continued to support the Association's **campaigns** programme, especially *Scrap 6 Months*, by encouraging signatures to the petition, which received 55,435 in total, and lobbying local MPs

Our grateful thanks go to all who have raised money and awareness for our work during 2019, with special mention for:

- ◆ The John Daniels Cup golf day
- ◆ Waitrose Community Matters green token scheme
- ◆ Wiltshire Freemasons
- ◆ Mrs Scrumps Christmas Fayre

All donations help us to assist local families with much needed support grants.

These achievements have only been possible due to the dedication and commitment of the volunteers who make up the North Wiltshire Group team, and who share a common goal to make a real and positive difference to all those affected by MND in our area. If the c.5,000 hours given by our volunteers were paid at the UK living wage hourly rate the annual cost would be close to £45,000!

Thank you all so much for your continued support.

If you would like to help us with this important work we would love to hear from you. Please contact us at info@mndnorthwiltshire.co.uk or call us on 08457 626262.

Money raised for the North Wiltshire Group benefits those in Wiltshire!

Fundraising is one of the key aims for our Group and we are always looking for new opportunities to do this. This is vital because money that is raised by the North Wiltshire Group can then be spent by the Group to support all those in our area that are affected by MND. Money raised locally helps us to provide support group meetings and most significantly to fund support grants for essential equipment, breaks for carers, memory-making holidays and care grants for more major projects. You will see that at the end of the year we publicise what we have been able to fund during the year and this is a massive sense of pride for our volunteers. We will be working hard in 2020 to continue this vital work but we are only a small group of volunteers so need your help please!

Could you help us by holding a fundraising event for the North Wiltshire Group? We'd love to hear from you on info@mndnorthwiltshiregroup.co.uk

Local support for local people

Things to Know

Useful Contacts

N Wilts Group website
www.mndnorthwiltshire.org.uk

N Wilts Group contact
info@mndnorthwiltshire.org.uk
or phone MND Connect

Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/MNDNorthWiltshire>

Twitter @MNDNorthWilts

Letters will be forwarded from:
North Wiltshire Group, c/o MNDA,
PO Box 246, Northampton NN1 2PR

MND Connect 0808 802 6262

MNDA national website
www.mndassociation.org

MNDA Volunteering Team
01604 611681

MND Benefits Advice Service
0808 8010620

Prospect Hospice 01793 813355
Dorothy House 01225 722988

Congratulations to Dawn Beckett

Last year Dawn Beckett was appointed to the post of MND Coordinator based at the Royal United Hospitals in Bath. Prior to that appointment Dawn had many years of experience working with people with MND as a specialist Neuro Occupational Therapist in North Wiltshire, but many of you will know her as our Association Visitor for the Swindon area.

Dawn was recently nominated for the Chief Executive's Customer Care Award at RUH Bath. Those of us who know her will not be surprised that she was commended for her customer care skills and her dedication to the role. The nomination states that Dawn provides 'a reassuring and experienced voice' to patients, providing comfort at what is a very difficult time. The Group would like to congratulate Dawn on this highly prestigious nomination.

What's On?

19th February

Swindon Support Meeting, The Lawns

10th March

Seend Support Meeting, Community Centre

15th April

Swindon Support Meeting, The Lawns

5th May

Seend Support Meeting, Community Centre

Support Meetings

We hold support meetings in Swindon at The Lawns Community Centre, Guildford Road, Swindon, from 2pm-4pm. The next meeting will be 19th February & 15th April.

Contact Susanne Webb, email susanne.webb@gmail.com

Alison Aviss & Anita Creamer hold support meetings at Seend Community Centre, Rusty Lane, Seend, Melksham SN12 6NS from 2pm-4pm. The next meetings will be 10th March & 5th May.

Contact Anita Creamer, email anitacreamer@mndnorthwiltshire.org.uk

All sessions are drop in. Come along to share ideas, meet other members or for a change of view! Volunteer helpers also welcome.

The deadline for submission for the next issue of the newsletter will be **4th April 2020**.

The editor would love to receive your news, comment and photos for inclusion: please email him on info@mndnorthwiltshire.org.uk

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