

# MBE honour for Dr Brian Dickie

Dr Brian Dickie, Director of Research Development at the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association has been named a Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the King's New Year's Honours List. He has been recognised for 'services to motor neurone disease research'.

Brian has celebrated more than 25 years of working at the Association and during that time has significantly increased both the quality and quantity of collaborative research into MND in the UK and beyond. In 1996 the Association was investing £150,000 in three research projects, we now have a total commitment of £16.8 million consisting of 87 grants.

He has transformed our International Symposium on ALS/MND from a relatively small conference to a large, global event, attracting the most talented and innovative researchers from across the world. This annual event now the premier event in the MND research calendar for discussion on the latest advances in research and clinical management.

"I am absolutely delighted that Brian's incredible contributions to advancing MND research has been recognised in the King's New Years honours. Brian is the reason why the Association is so respected within the MND scientific and clinical community in the UK and worldwide.

"He cares deeply about people affected by MND and he works tirelessly to bring hope to those families by ensuring the Association is at the forefront of cutting-edge targeted research. I am confident that breakthroughs in the treatment of MND, when they come, will be able to be traced back to a decision or investment made by Dr Dickie at some point over the last 25 years."

Sally Light, who recently stepped down as Chief Executive of the MND Association and worked with Brian for the last ten years

"I'm very honoured to have been recognised, but this award really reflects the progress made by the MND research community, which over the past two decades has seen an exponential rise in scientific knowledge about the disease.

"The MND Association has played a pivotal role in this process, not only through supporting vital research, but also in facilitating exchange of information and fostering international collaboration through events such as the International Symposium.

"MND has progressed from being a 'scientific backwater' to take its place at the forefront of neurodegenerative disease research - with increasing confidence amongst the scientific community that it will also lead the field in the development of effective treatments."

Brian

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# Our lovely gentleman cutting the grass

Nothing stops Wayne

## Fun in Canada

### Precious family time

One of our lovely couples had the pleasure of a long holiday in Canada visiting family. With help and determination, nothing can stop you from enjoying yourself. So, with a few things in place off they set. At Gatwick airport they used airport assistance was incredibly useful and took away a lot of the anxiety for both of them. They flew with West Jet. Upon arrival in Canada the wheelchair was at the door ready for him. He even had 2 beautiful cabin crew assist him to the toilet, so his wife could sit back and relax. Once in Canada everything went smooth with the help of ALS – Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis – the Canadian equivalent of

MNDA. They provided bed frames, toilet frames, walkers, ramps etc, which made everything so much easier. All this enabled Wayne to enjoy games with the family and he could also cut the grass, well Wayne had to make himself useful somehow! He also caught up with some old golfing pals. Sounds like they had a wonderful time. All this proves that you can still have a memorable and fun time. If you are planning a holiday, make sure you get aides to help you enjoy yourself. It will also take away any second thoughts you may have as well as any stress too.

Here he is playing games with the family. Nothing stops him from enjoying himself.





What a lovely group we are!  
It's a shame not everyone could attend but there will be more of these I'm sure. As the pictures show we had a good afternoon.

## 'Pie and a Pint'

### **The Churchillian. Portsdown Hill**

On Thursday 24th August we had a lovely relaxed afternoon at the pub!! Instead of having a meeting in a clinical environment we decided to have a get together in a local pub. This was very informal and we had a few laughs. The venue was really nice and we had excellent service, and the food was nice too. I feel it was a success and we have spoken about doing this for Christmas. It was nice to get out and socialise with that very important 'Pint.

Everyone is welcome so if you feel like you could do with a bit of laugh and a chat whilst enjoying a nice glass of wine, then please join us next time. We will definitely do this again.

It's very important for your well being to be out of the house and socialising. It's also a chance for your carer/partner to have a little break.

**One of our lovely gentlemen having a helping hand from his gorgeous granddaughter. I think we will have a job for her in the future.**



# Check out the MND Association Website

We have been busy updating the 'Portsmouth & South East' section of the website.

It will contain all of our upcoming events and more. If there is anything you would like put on there, then please let us know.

<https://www.mndassociation.org/support-and-information/local-support/branches/portsmouth-and-south-east-hants-group>



 mndassociation  @mndassoc

[www.mndassociation.org](http://www.mndassociation.org)

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