

Hertfordshire Branch Newsletter

Branch Patron Dr. Viv Lucas

July 2024

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**The Hertfordshire Branch
Special Get Together – Thursday
23rd May with our special guest
CEO Tanya Curry**



The MND association website is: www.mndassociation.org

The National Office New Helpline No: 0808 8026262

Motor Neurone Disease Association Registered Charity No. 294354



FIGHTING MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE



Hertfordshire Branch Impact Summary

In late May we were very pleased to host an event for our Herts community, where **Tanya Curry** outlined the progress and key goals going forward, for the **MNDA**. This report is in addition to the National info and reflects the last 12 months in local support that your branch has been able to provide for the 90+ people and their families (living with MND) across the county, who are registered with us.

Our goal is to provide you and your families with multiple levels of continuous support – from National resources to very personal, local community resources.

This year, we merged the 2 Herts branches, so our support team of local volunteers and the Branch Committee can liaise with you on a more regular basis and respond to your requests for assistance, through the National and Herts teams/funding.

Our committee and several other volunteers provide a range of activities – including fundraising, facilitating support grants, managing our social media activities, member communications, campaigning, hosting monthly get togethers for members, and maintaining regular contact with our community members.

In the last 12 months we have raised over £87,000 through various fundraising activities/events. Donations from:

1. Rotary clubs, pub events, individuals/families
2. Special entertainment/theatre productions
3. Golf days and an open water swim, fitness club members
4. Community days/events and bucket collections
5. A Ukulele group
6. Family donations
7. **Walks to d'feet MND** and the London marathon

Our fundraising goals are to directly support people and their families in Herts, and also contribute to national funds for supporting ongoing research.

From these fundraising events/activities we have been able to provide over 103 support grants over the last 12 months, including:

1. Transport for meetings and care - 22
2. Treatments and personal care - 33
3. Travel for short breaks/holidays
4. Family/carers support - 18
5. Home/personal equip - 23

As always, if you have any questions or suggestions of how we can support you further, please get in touch with me or any other Committee member. - **Kent** - **Thank You**

So suddenly we are half way through the year! It has been a successful 6 months with several great fundraising events. As previously reported, we have received funding from **Stevenage Grange and Amwell Rotary Clubs, Letchworth Rugby Union Football Club, Stevenage CUI Club, Variety Express, Buntingford Community Choir, Belvoir Estate Agents, Rickmansworth Townswomen's Guild and St Albans 41 Club**. More recently we have received **£2,000** from **JJK Fitness** and nearly **£700** from the **Lou Gehrig Baseball Day**, with an equal amount going to *National Office*. We have also received a further **£3,200** from personal and in memoriam donations.

Over the last 2 months we have funded over 20 Grants for, among other things, Stair-lifts, Bathroom adaptations, a Mobility Scooter, Holidays, Gym and Therapy sessions, Carer's grants and Young People's Grant. We have also covered the cost of taxis to medical appointments, branch meetings, **MNDA Road Shows** and exhibitions. We are only able to do this through the generous donations we received, so thank you to all our donors.

- Heather -

- Branch News -

Hertfordshire Branch Special Get Together

Thursday 23rd May, marked a special occasion in the life of the Hertfordshire Branch. For the first time since the start of the Hertfordshire Branch last year, members and supporters of the old South Herts Branch and the North and East Herts Branch gathered together under one roof to meet and hear **Tanya Curry, Chief Executive Officer of the UK MND Association** talk about her role. The Red Lion in Hatfield was a new venue for us all, chosen for its central location in the county and they made us very welcome.

Kent, Chair of the Branch Committee welcomed everyone to the meeting and emphasised the benefit of talking to others before introducing the Branch Committee members. Then it was over to Tanya, who spoke eloquently about her role in the Association and her plans and the challenges facing us. After her talk and the presentation of flowers, we were able to continue talking while we ate sandwiches and cakes. Members were provided with an opportunity for individual conversations with Tanya as she moved from table to table.

It was a lovely afternoon, meeting old friends and making new connections. - Lindsey -

- Fundraising -

Herts Baseball Club rallies Community for MND Research and the Branch

Memorable Day at Grovehill Ballpark as Herts Baseball Club's Charity Day draws record crowds and Major League recognition.

Hemel Hempstead, UK - On Sunday, 2nd June, Hertfordshire residents and businesses joined members of the baseball community in support of **Motor Neurone Disease Research** and the local **MND Hertfordshire Branch** when **£1470.64**, split between the branch and research, was raised from a charity event at a sunny **Grovehill Ballpark** in **Hemel Hempstead** and organised by **Herts Baseball Club**.

Thank You



June 2nd is a significant date for **Major League Baseball (MLB)** as America's top professional league marks **Lou Gehrig Day** each year in honour of the former Yankees star player who had **MND**. This date will now also be significant as **Rob Burrow** lost his fight with MND on 2nd June.

We are immensely grateful to **Peter Hogg**, the organiser of the event, and **Michael Cresswell, Club President** for their support of our Branch. **Herts Baseball Club** plans to make **Lou Gehrig Day** an annual event, when they hope to inspire other International Clubs, Players and Fans to get involved and make next year even bigger, and we, at the Branch, look forward to Supporting the next event. - **Hetty** -



Cake Stall *

On Friday 28th June, a lovely lady called **Helen** held a cake stall at the **Granello Lounge in Hitchin**, her mother sadly passed away with **MND in 2013**. **Helen** had her delicious homemade muffins on sale along with some store cakes kindly donated by the **Granello Assistant Manager Maisy Cooper**.

Many thanks to them both for thinking of the Hertfordshire Branch and raising **£270.10** Whilst I was there a lady, called **Debbie Newbound**, stopped and thanked me for all that we are doing for the local people, she is a nurse at St Thomas Church Stopsley. She and **Helen** are holding a coffee morning at the church on Saturday 28th September, all are welcome. **Chris** -

Thank You



Chris and Helen

Maisie, Chris and Helen



Variety Express have again chosen our branch as one of their charities for this year. **The Scary Fairy Tale** will be performed at **St Francis Theatre Letchworth** in October. Following on from their Pirates show last year. This terrifyingly hilarious tale is a must see.




Wet!WET!!WET!!! our 3rd Annual Walk to d'feet MND on Saturday 6th July at Stanborough Lakes. The weather did not dampen our spirits. We were well supported by our very loyal supporters with 44 of us turning up. Unfortunately, it was too wet and unsafe for some of our wheelchair members to go around the lake but several of us did manage a leisurely walk around. **Lesley's 3 sisters** came long to support us walking around 3 times! We were joined by **Roger and Sadie from National Office, Jude, the daughter of Gloria, our past chairman and Julia from Variety Express.** Many many thanks to all who turned out in such dreadful conditions to support The Hertfordshire Branch. - **Chris** -





Branch meeting - Monday 29th July - Held at The Three Horseshoes, Hooks Cross, Watton at Stone. SG14 3RY - 11am



*** NO BRANCH MEETING IN AUGUST ***

Branch meeting -Monday 30th September - Held at The Three Horseshoes, Hooks Cross, Watton at Stone. SG14 3RY- 11am

For More Information Contact - Chris Carter.

**Get Togethers - Box Moor Trust Centre,
London Road, Hemel Hempstead HP1 2RE**

For those living with MND their family and carers - **on First Wednesday** of each month **at 2pm** - 7th August - 4th September - 2nd October - 6th November.

For more information contact - Lesley Ralston - leshenhouse@gmail.com

**** ZOOM'S ****

Daytime Group - Zoom - 3rd Tuesday of every month at **11am to 12.30pm**

16th July - 20th August - 17th September - 15th October - 19th November.

For more information contact - Dawn.Pond@mndassociation.org

South East Carers Coffee & Chat - Zoom - Carers only -

On First Tuesday of each month at 11am

- 6th August - 3rd September - 1st October - 5th November.

For more information contact - lisa.burnard@mndassociation.org



Evening Carers Group - Zoom - Carers only -

On Last Wednesday of each month at 6.30pm.

31st July - 28th August - 25th September - 30th October - 27th November.

For more information contact - justine.cox@mndassociation.org





Contact Details



~ BRANCH MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE ~ 2024 OFFICERS ~

- CHAIRMAN:** Kent Allen 51 London Road Hitchin, Herts. SG4 9EW
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- TREASURER:** Heather Hurley 8 The Dale Letchworth Garden City, Herts. SG6 3SG
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- SECRETARY:** Lindsey Lucas 4 Woolston Avenue Letchworth Herts. SG6 2ED
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-- BRANCH CONTACTS --

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- Hetty Smith** South Herts Area
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-- REGIONAL FUNDRAISER --



ROGER WIDDECOMBE



roger.widdecombe@mndassociation.org

--- AREA SUPPORT COORDINATOR (ASC) ---



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WEBSITE

MNDA Hertfordshire Branch

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OUR EMAILS

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mndassoc.southherts@gmail.com

2024

Twitter

twitter.com/MndaHerts

* * **THE MND HELPLINE – Tel 0808 8026262** * *

mndconnect@mndassociation.org

Our MND Connect Helpline offers advice, practical and Emotional support and directing to other services and agencies.

Monday-Friday 10.00am - 4.00pm



Editors : Derek Dunn & Christine Carter
Newsletter Booklet Coordinated by Alan J Lockett

