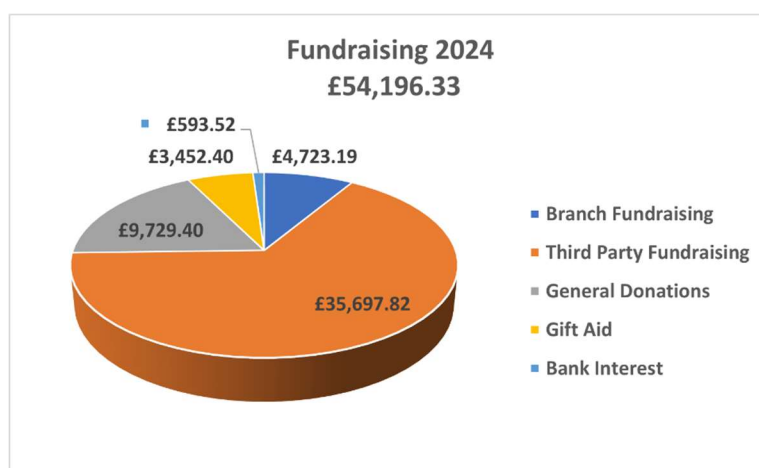


## IMPACT STATEMENT - CHILTERN BRANCH - 2024

This report summarises the work of the Chiltern Branch of the MND Association for the year ended 31st December 2024. It provides financial information – the income generated and how it was spent - some highlights of our fundraising efforts and the work of the Association Visitor team who support families living with MND locally.

We hope that you find this report interesting and informative. If you have any questions or feedback, please contact us at: [chiltern@mndassociation.org](mailto:chiltern@mndassociation.org)



We set a fundraising goal of £30,000 but were able to substantially beat this thanks to the hard work and support from many volunteers and donors. Highlights include:

### ***Branch fundraising events***

- **Snowdrop Sunday** – despite the snowdrops being rather shy this year, the weather was **kind to us** on 18th February in West Wycombe Park. We raised the enormous sum of £3,527.66. Thanks to all who attended and to the generosity of the Dashwood Estate for allowing us to use the Park and Village Hall for the day.
- **Bledlow Manor** – on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> June, despite some heavy downpours, we still enjoyed an afternoon in the Manor Gardens and Tearooms. Lord and Lady Carrington joined us and opened up the museum dedicated to the late Lord Carrington with memorabilia collected from his travels. We raised a total of £2,077.50. Thanks to all who attended and to Lord and Lady Carrington.



- **Chenies Manor** – Good weather helped us enjoy a visit to Chenies Manor Gardens on 18th September. Thanks to Mr & Mrs McCleod Matthews who continue to support us by allowing exclusive use of the gardens and tea rooms for fundraising. A total of £1,119.50 was raised.



### *Fundraising efforts by our supporters – our special thanks go to:*

- **Harewood Downs Golf Club** - £18,504.54 raised in a magnificent year by Lady Captain, Pam Showalter and Paul Hazlehurst, Men's Captain. We were happy to support them using our brand spanking new MND Chiltern Gazebo.



- **Princes Risborough Golf Club** - Sue Pomeroy, Ladies Captain adopted us as her charity of the year (including a tandem skydive for Sue) and presented our Vice Chair with a cheque for £5,000.



- **Aylesbury Rugby Football Club** – a Rugby 7s tournament and Golf Day around their pitches raised over £600 for the Branch.
- **Whipsnade Park Golf Club** – Sade Ggago raised £1,700 during her year as Ladies Captain.
- **Andy Hoad** – Rode the London to Brighton Cycle Ride in June raising £536.92

- **Roy and Caryl Pascal** – Roy, who lives with MND, and his family organised a fundraising birthday party in November which raised the incredible amount of £9011.49



- **Bucks Berks & Oxon Big Band** - raised a wonderful £640 in their annual concert for us at Marlow Royal British Legion. BBO Big Band has supported MNDA Chiltern Branch since 2007 and we are exceptionally grateful for their continued support.



- **Barnet Waddingham, Amersham** held a fundraising raffle in September raising £349 + gift aid.
- **Adam Woolford** – Adam, who is living with MND, raised £2,672.80 on Kevin Sinfield's Final Mile, 2024.
- **Manor Park Residents Association** - Carol Singing in December raised £430 for our funds

Generous donations were also received from:

Between the Lines in Amersham  
Majestic Wines  
Temptation Gifts  
David Alexander  
Gershon Supplies Amersham  
Lemon Tree  
Blush Boutique  
Nikki Banks

Judith Blofield  
Chepping Wycombe Parish Council  
Friends & Family of late Gillian Dudley  
John Jefkins  
Friends & Family of late Angus Williamson  
Sarta Shoe Emporium  
Flower Room Bourne End  
Tesco Amersham

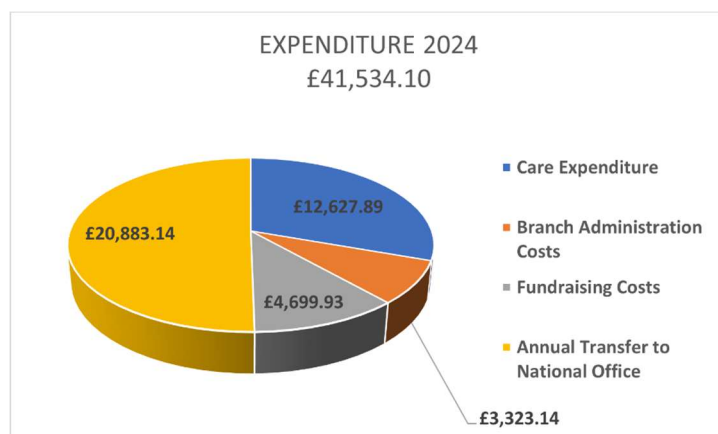
## Expenditure

We fundraise to provide financial support to families living with MND in the Chiltern area and contribute towards research projects and care support governed by the MNDA National Office. We were able to directly support local families during the year with: 15 Quality of Life Grants, 10 Carer's Grants, 8 Care Support Grant and 1 Young Persons Grant. This is in addition to Cost-of-Living Grants paid direct from National Office.

Association Visitors help families access the Financial Support Grants and in the words of one of our AV's: *"without exception, each recipient of a grant expressed huge gratitude at being thought of – the benefit to these individuals far outweighs the cost of providing them"*

*"Thanks to the kind contribution from the Chiltern Branch, I was able to go on a skiing trip to Italy for a week with my school. I was able to learn new activities and I had a really fun time"* JS

*"Thank you so much for the Card and Gift voucher – so very thoughtful. It's so reassuring to know that the MND Association are there for us – you do so much"*



## Support Meetings

In January 2024 we commenced our new Support meeting for families based in the North of the County at Aylesbury Rugby Club and these continue to provide a forum for local families. We are very grateful to Aylesbury RFC for offering us the use of the club for these monthly meetings.

The long-standing meetings at Cedar Barn continued throughout 2024 and we were joined by several guest speakers:

- Bucks County Council Energy Doctor Scheme – came to share how the Council are supporting households struggling with energy costs and how they can help.
- The ever popular REMAP joined the September meeting to share more examples of how they continue to weave their magic by finding creative solutions to try and make people's lives that bit easier and as ever amazed us with their passion for what they do as volunteers.
- Matthew Cobble – Head of Volunteering at the MND Association joined us in November to talk about the MND Associations current strategy and answer questions on issues affecting local families.



The December meetings at both Cedar Barn and Aylesbury RFC saw **Lizzie Smith** - Queen of the Christmas Quiz - spread her festive cheer.



Always popular was the **Annual BBQ** at Winchmore Hill Cricket Club on 22<sup>nd</sup> July, 2024 was well attended and our Branch chef - **David Alexander** - ensured the burgers and sausages were perfectly cooked. Earl and Countess Howe (the cricket club is part of their estate) kindly joined us for lunch and spent a long time talking to attendees.



### Association Visitor update

The AV team comprised 5 volunteers during 2024 supporting over 20 families and making well over 100 home visits.

The role of an AV as a trusted friend to both the person living with MND and their family has also been reflected in the many comments received: *"I have again been humbled by the comments made – how I am trusted not just by the person I visit but equally by the partner/carers. It is a privilege to share this journey with people at their most vulnerable"*

When supporting a person having a Peg fitted, this AV had this message: *"I really appreciate your support and your prayers – you are such a blessing"*

Members of the AV team were available at Dr Jackson's MND clinic in Amersham Hospital to provide information and support to those attending – some of whom have been newly diagnosed.

Our Branch Chair and AV Carmel Grant represented the team at the regular Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings ensuring Health and Social Care professionals are aware of the support we can provide for patients and carers.

We remember those who died in 2024 and the families they have left behind – we remain in contact with many carers and family members and continue to support them after bereavement – in some cases for many years.

## 2025 Fundraising Plans

Thanks to the efforts of Phil Murray and Martin Goodwill, we are already in a strong position to be able to achieve our target of £30,000 in 2025 with recorded income to end of February 2025 of £9779. A special thanks to Sue Harrison, Ladies Captain of Burnham Beeches Golf Club for making us her charity of the year for 2025.

## 2025 Dates for the Diary

- Bledlow Manor gardens - **Friday 20<sup>th</sup> June from 2pm to 5pm**

## Branch Committee

Huge thanks to **Carmel Grant** who took over as Chair in January 2023 and did a wonderful job for the Branch until she stepped down from that role at the end of 2024.

The role of Chair was taken over by **Martin Goodwill** with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> January 2025 but Carmel will continue as Vice Chair, to support Martin, and also as Association Volunteer.

**John Jefkins** retired as Treasurer at the end of 2023 after many years' service to MNDA Chiltern Branch.

**David Alexander** stepped down from the committee but remains as an Association Visitor and a volunteer.

**Vicki Walduck**, previously Branch Secretary since 2005, has taken over the role of Treasurer.

**Jeanette Fundell** is the new Branch Secretary.

**Alison Rimmer** retired as Speech Therapy Technician from the NHS in March 2024 and also as a long serving Committee Member, Fundraiser and very much more with the Branch. She has moved home to the Dorset area but maintains links with us and her family in Buckinghamshire. She is very much missed by all those whose lives she helped over many years.

Finally, we say goodbye to **Cyndy Mepham**, who was Branch Contact and friend to many living with MND for over 11 years. We wish her every happiness in the next stage of her retirement and hope she will keep in touch + photo

## Closing Statement

The Branch Committee and all our volunteers remain committed to supporting local families impacted by MND in 2025. We will continue our efforts to raise awareness of this devastating disease and to provide families with support through our Association Visitor team and our financial support grants.