

# Newsletter

Summer 2025

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# Welcome to the Summer Newsletter of the South Yorkshire MNDA Branch

It seems hardly possible that we are half way through 2025 already. Throughout the next few months, the Branch Committee will continue to hold as many fund-raising events as possible to be able to meet all requests for support that we receive. Without the support of all our fundraisers and volunteers we would not be able to do this, so thank you to all our supporters in whatever capacity you contribute.

We welcome your ideas for new fund-raising events, so please do let us know your thoughts. If you plan to hold any of your own and would like someone from the Committee to come along do get in touch with us. Julie Ward our Vice-Chair is the Lead person to contact, or Trevor Peacock; their contact details are contained elsewhere in this newsletter and we will always endeavour to have a Branch volunteer to attend to support your events.

On a personal note, I am still seeking someone to help me with the production of the Branch Newsletter. If you feel you have an hour or so to spare, please do

consider contacting me to chat about what assisting me could look like for you. I would be grateful of any help anyone has to offer.

My contact details are under Committee Members 2025 at the end of this newsletter.

This Summer Newsletter contains a contribution from the family of James Hartley, the CEO of Sutton McGrath Hartley (SMH Group). SMH Group have kindly increased their support of the Branch by taking over the financial printing of the newsletter and who have financed the postage of the newsletter for some years now. SMH have been prolific in their fund-raising for the Branch as you will read in the article. On behalf of the Branch Committee, we would like to sincerely thank James and Claire Hartley for sharing their story and family's involvement with MND and the South Yorkshire Branch in particular. Thanks also go to everyone at SMH whose contribution should also be recognised.

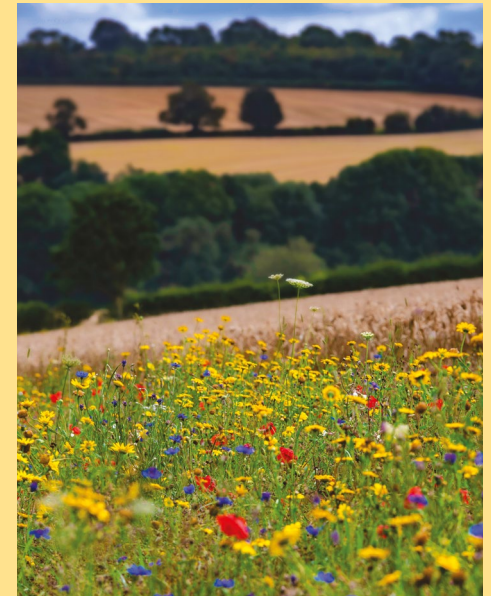
I hope you find something of

interest in this edition of the MNDA South Yorkshire Branch Newsletter.

If you feel you would like to contribute an article, please send it to me via my MNDA E-mail address - I would love to receive news from our readers. In the meantime, let's hope this lovely warm weather we are experiencing continues, especially with so many outdoor fund-raising events planned. Hope to see some of you there.

**Christine**

**Branch Secretary &  
Newsletter Editor**



## Brass Band Concert News

On **SUNDAY 8th JUNE** Unite the Union will be once again providing an evening of music to suit all tastes. The concert takes place at the Niagara Sports & Conference Centre, Sheffield S6 1LU, starts at 7 30 pm and tickets are £7 in advance or £9 on the door and can be obtained from Trevor Peacock by calling 0114 2422956 or e-mail at [trevor.peacock56@gmail.com](mailto:trevor.peacock56@gmail.com)

There will be an opportunity to buy a range of home-made cakes from the cake stall, along with raffle prizes and an auction.

Prior Notice that on **SUNDAY 5th OCTOBER** Stannington Band will be holding another of their

concerts, again at the Niagara Sports & Conference Centre, Sheffield S6 1LU. Please make an early note in your diary for this event.

Both these concerts are very enjoyable and help raise much needed funds for the South Yorkshire Branch, so thank you to all of you who have supported them previously. Hope to see you all again.

A special note of thanks must go to Richard Reaney and all his team at the Niagara Centre who are so welcoming and helpful prior to and during our fund-raising evenings.

# Chairman's Report

Dear All

Where is the year going? As I write we are already flying through May and casting our clouts a bit early this year. That long standing maxim will have to be updated in the future if we don't sort out our greenhouse gas issues!

As you will read elsewhere in the newsletter, we are well advanced with events planning and the Branch finances are in a good position thanks to the huge generosity of the South Yorkshire community.

At the time of writing Bare Legs Brian is on his bike again and riding from his hometown of Sheffield to all the UK capitals raising both awareness and money for the MND cause. So please support him if you can.

In other news the MNDA invited the Branch to participate in a Leadership Forum in April, which I attended on behalf of the SY Branch. It was well attended, and I met a number of other Branch Chairs and shared experiences with them. Some common issues emerged in our discussions most notably the concerns about Branch sustainability which everyone in the MNDA is rightly concerned about.

In addition, work within the MNDA is well advanced in respect of creating a new strategy fit for the

future which the Branch has actively contributed to. As a result, we will be having a close look at how we can make improvements within South Yorkshire in our support and care role for those PLWMND in our community in tandem with the refreshed MNDA strategy.

Finally I hope you all enjoy the summer as much as you can and I look forward to seeing you at one of our awareness or fundraising events.

**Andrew**

## Soak A Scientist

**SATURDAY 9th AUGUST 2025**

This year's "Soak a Scientist" will once again take place in Endcliffe Park on Saturday 9th August. The event helps to promote awareness of MND as well as an opportunity for visitors to the park to learn about neuroscience and research into the neurological diseases like MND.

Why not come along, pay £1 to "soak the scientist" and at the same time help to raise funds towards research into finding a cure.

The real-life scientists have vowed to hold this event every year until a cure is found, so please come along and support them.

# Treasurer's Report

I report on the quarter ended 31st March 2025. This is always the quietest time of year for fundraising, but we have had quite a good start to the financial year with income being in excess of expenditure. Income for the quarter amounted to £13,569, and April has also been a good month. With the planned events over

the next few months, we should remain financially strong this year. Expenditure on care remained at a high level, being £15,780 for the first quarter and a similar level for April. At 30th April, we had a reasonable sum in the bank and available funds of £12,640.

**Paul**

## Wheels For All

Neil Morris is a retired Community Worker and Charity Volunteer from Barnsley. He was diagnosed with MND (PLS) in September 2024.

Neil and his wife Janet wanted to share a recent experience with the South Yorkshire MND community. They found a new activity at the Doncaster Cycle Track, where they have a range of accessible bikes. Neil loved it. It was only £5 a session. It is run under the 'Wheels for All Scheme.'

Wheels for All ([wheelsforall.org.uk](http://wheelsforall.org.uk)) is the largest provider of inclusive cycling in the country. Their aim is to offer every disabled person and those with long-term health conditions the opportunity to feel the exhilaration, joy, and empowerment of cycling.

Wheels For All is also available in Barnsley, at the Dorothy Hyman Sports Centre. Sessions run each Thursday from 10am to 12pm and costs just £5 per person (parents and carers go free).





# A Personal Cause That Drives Our Support

For James Hartley, Chairman of SMH Group, Motor Neurone Disease (MND) is more than just a cause — it's a deeply personal one. His father-in-law, Keith Herring, passed away from the disease in 2007 after a short but devastating battle, and his experience continues to inspire SMH Group's ongoing support of the Motor Neurone Disease Association (MNDA) in South Yorkshire.

Keith was born on 19th November 1935 and lived a full and active life as a company director at a DAF truck dealership in Chesterfield. He was a proud family man, a dedicated golfer, and someone who embraced life with energy and optimism. But in his late 60s, things began to change. He lost his appetite, suffered a fall due to muscle weakness, and started to experience overwhelming exhaustion. At the time, even doctors struggled to identify what was wrong.

It wasn't until September 2006 that Keith was finally diagnosed with MND. Just eight months later, he passed away on 20th May 2007. "With MND, there's no hope of recovery," says Keith's daughter,

Claire Hartley. "It's a cruel illness where you know things will only get worse. It felt like he was wasting away with no cure in sight."

Keith was supported by the team at the Royal Hallamshire Hospital, including leading MND researcher Professor Chris McDermott. But it was the MNDA who stepped in with practical and compassionate support, offering specialist equipment like a tilting chair that made a huge difference to Keith's daily comfort and dignity. "It was life-changing for him at the time," says Claire.

Driven to make a difference, Claire and her mum raised over £60,000 for SiTraN, the Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience, where they even had the honour of meeting the late Queen at the official opening. They also sold hundreds of pounds' worth of MNDA Christmas cards every year to continue raising funds and awareness. Claire's mum continued fundraising for years, until she herself became unwell.

Today, SMH Group proudly honours Keith's memory by



supporting the MNDA South Yorkshire Branch. As a business rooted in strong values, their cultural vision is built around doing the right thing for their people, clients, communities, and wider stakeholders. "Keith's journey reminds us why supporting this cause is so important," says James. "He was looking forward to being a grandad for much longer than he got. That sense of loss fuels our commitment."

Every year, SMH Group hosts a charity golf day—something that feels particularly meaningful, as Keith once dreamed of becoming a professional golfer. The event has raised thousands for the MNDA, helping to fund vital support and research into what Dame Professor Pam Shaw calls "the worst disease in medicine."

Keith's legacy lives on through the lives he touched and the ongoing work of the MNDA he helped to inspire.

# Fun Day, Gulliver's Valley, Saturday, June 21st 2025

The closing date for the above event is Friday 6th June. There is still time to register. Please contact either [Brian.Jackson@mndassociation.org](mailto:Brian.Jackson@mndassociation.org) or [Christine.Naylor@mndassociation.org](mailto:Christine.Naylor@mndassociation.org) if you wish to attend and have not yet registered.

## Rotherham Titan's Rugby Club Hosts MND Quiz

The Branch once again worked in partnership with Rotherham Titans Rugby Club on our second MND Spring Quiz, which was held on 10th May. The evening was a great success and raised £1750 for the Branch.

We would like to thank the Rotherham Titans Team for making the events possible, especially John Whaling, Titan's Commercial Director and Diane and Barry Thurman.

Pictured here are John Whaling from Rotherham Titans with our Vice Chair Julie Ward, also Diane Thurman with Kirsteen Booy, Branch Deputy Treasurer.



# MAKE A DIFFERENCE IN MND CARE

## ARE YOU LIVING WITH MND OR AN INFORMAL CARER FOR SOMEONE WHO IS?

The University of Sheffield is researching how to improve psychological support for people living with Motor Neurone Disease (MND) and their informal carers. Your insights can help us develop better services.

Participate in our 15-30 min survey and help shape the future of MND care.

## SCAN TO TAKE PART IN A SHORT SURVEY



[bit.ly/iDeliver-survey](https://bit.ly/iDeliver-survey)

or contact:

[iDeliver-MND@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:iDeliver-MND@sheffield.ac.uk)





## Bare Legs Brian's 5 Capitals Challenge

Sheffield to London - first leg of challenge completed. 200 miles cycled. 5 days cycling. Average speed of 10.3mph which included pushing about 35kg of bike and luggage up two 1:6 hills. This meant two days of 9hr journeying.

Here's to Sheffield to Cardiff in June.

Wish me luck and good weather.

**Bare Legs Brian**



## Technique Scaffolding Raising Money for MND

A huge thank you to Kelly & Damian Baker of Technique Scaffolding in Wombwell, who hosted a corporate hospitality event at Barnsley Football Club on 12th April and raised £1,780 for

the South Yorkshire Branch.

Pictured here from left to right are Julie Ward, Branch Vice Chair with Kelly Baker from Technique Scaffolding and Raymond Newton, Branch Fundraising Volunteer



## Progress in MND Research: An Interview with Professor Dame Pamela Shaw

Marianne King is Postdoctoral Research Associate at the University of Sheffield's SITraN. She is part of the Readable Research team, producing clear, simple summaries of scientific research, "read and reviewed by those who live beyond the laboratories at the Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience SITraN." Marianne began volunteering with the branch a year ago and is a link between SITraN and the branch, helping to explain to us what is happening locally and nationally in research.

We asked Marianne what we could share in the newsletter this time, and she suggested including her recent interview with Professor Dame Pamela Shaw, the Lab Lives series.

### Readable Research - Watch & Discover

Marianne explains "I had done previous interviews with PhD

students and postdocs in SITraN about their day-to-day lives and work but really wanted to get a much broader perspective from Prof Shaw (as well as hear about her typical day too!) as she's so respected in the MND community. It's part of a bigger effort where I'm trying to open up what happens in research to people who don't work in the field.

I found that her interview had an extremely optimistic message even as she described some of the challenges that come with working in science. She's definitely someone who has inspired countless scientists who work in MND research and will continue to inspire many more."

It is several years now since our Patron Suzanne Maguire talked to Professor Shaw in a recording that followed her visit to one of our Open Meetings, so thanks Marianne for sharing this interesting update.





## Tom Davis Cup

April marked the inaugural “Tom Davies Cup”, a rugby tournament hosted by the Hallamshire RUFC in Sheffield, in aid of the MND. Tom was a keen rugby player before his diagnosis of MND last year, aged 29. Teammates from all three of his previous clubs (Sutton Coldfield, Sheffield Medics and Hallamshire) wanted to show their support and solidarity with Tom, and what better way to do so than a rugby tournament in his name, accompanied by plenty of beer and pizza.

Hundreds of people turned out from all corners of the country, and miraculously there wasn't a single drop of rain. The siblinghood and love were tangible, and the huge crowd was a testament to the organisers and

to Tom himself. After some nail-biting rugby, the Sheffield Medics team took gold, and in the hotly anticipated raffle, some fantastic prizes were distributed. These included vouchers to local pubs and restaurants, a painting of Rob Burrow and Kevin Sinfield, and a box of mystery meat.

In addition to a brilliant, fun-filled day of sport, the event raised a whopping £8,174 (and counting) for the MND, and Tom has chosen that this be distributed between the local and national branches. Thank you to everyone who played, organised, cheered, chatted, donated and generally showed up for Tom and for everyone living with MND. We look forward to the next Tom Davies Cup!



## Support Group Meetings

1. **In Sheffield** - Peer Support Cafe meetings are held on the **last Wednesday of the month from 2.15 pm - 3.45 pm** at Clifford House, Ecclesall Road South, S11 9PX.  
**Meeting dates are 25th June and 30th July 2.15 pm - 3.45 pm.**
2. **In Barnsley** - Peer Support Group meetings are held on the **first Friday of the month from 1.30 pm until 3.00 pm** at Emmanuel Church, Huddersfield Road, Barnsley S75 1DT.  
**Next Meeting date is 6th June 2025.** Negotiations are underway to relocate this Group Meeting to Barnsley Hospice and individuals who currently attend Emmanuel Church will be informed when this move takes place.

All people across South Yorkshire who are affected by MND are welcome at any of our support meetings.

Please contact [Jayne.Thompson@mndassociation.org](mailto:Jayne.Thompson@mndassociation.org) for further details about Support Group Meetings.

## Past Carers' Meeting Dates

Meetings will take place between 10.30 am-12.00 pm on the **first Thursday of alternate months** in the Holiday Inn, West Bawtry Road, Rotherham S60 4NA

(2 mins off M1 Junction 33) on the following dates - **5th June 2025**



## The Motor Neurone Disease Association

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

Tel: 01604 250505

MNDA Connect Helpline:  
0808 802 6262

Registered office:  
MNDA, Francis Crick House, 6  
Summerhouse Road, Moulton  
Park, Northampton NN3 6BJ

South Yorkshire Branch

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

## Committee Members 2025

### Chair:

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### Vice Chair:

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### Fundraising:

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Trevor Peacock -  
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Christine Naylor (0114 2653774)

### Communications Lead: Vacancy

### Website Administrator: Vacancy

### Social Media Administrator:

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[andy.dixon@mndassociation.org](mailto:andy.dixon@mndassociation.org)

### Community Support Co-ordinator:

Jayne Thompson -  
[jayne.thompson@mndassociation.org](mailto:jayne.thompson@mndassociation.org)

### Regional Relationship Fundraiser:

Stacey Kirkpatrick -  
[stacey.kirkpatrick@mndassociation.org](mailto:stacey.kirkpatrick@mndassociation.org)

## Forthcoming events in 2025

Tuesday 3rd June	Doncaster Golf Day at Wheatley Golf Club, Armthorpe Road, Doncaster DN2 5QB
Sunday 8th June	Unite the Union Concert at Niagara Niagara Conference Centre S6 1LU
Saturday 21st June	Family Fun Day at Gulliver's Valley, Mansfield Road, Sheffield S6 5QW
Wednesday 25th June	Golf Day at Dore & Totley Golf Club, Bradway, Sheffield S17 4QR
Saturday 28th June	Frecheville Carnival, Churchdale Road, S12 4XT (all day event from 11 30 am)
Friday 1st August	Golf Day at Hallowes Golf Club, Hallowes Lane, Dronfield, S18 1UR
Saturday 9th August	Soak a Scientist, Endcliffe Park Rustlings Road, Sheffield S11 7A
Friday 29th August	SMH Golf Day Chesterfield Golf Club, Matlock Road, Walton, Chesterfield S42 7LA
August 2025 Date to be confirmed	MND Day at Lakeside Village Shopping Centre, White Rose Way, Doncaster DN4 5PH
Saturday 20th September	Franki Vallie Tribute Night at Beighton Miners' Welfare Recreation Ground, High Street Beighton Sheffield S20 1ED
Sunday 5th October	Stannington Band Concert - 7 30 pm at Niagara Conference Centre, S6 1L
Friday 10th October	MND Quiz Tupton Hall, Shore Lane, Sheffield S10 3BU
Further Events - Dates yet to be confirmed	Jazz Concert Christmas Concert both at Niagara Conference Centre S6 1LU





# MND Coffee Club at Clifford House

Last Wednesday of each month,  
2.15pm until 3.45pm

Do you have MND? Are you affected by or care for someone with MND?

Join us at our tea & coffee club, this is a safe space to meet others from the MND community for peer support, chat or just listen.

Clifford House (part of St Lukes Hospice), Ecclesall Road South,  
Sheffield S11 9PX

Free parking & complimentary tea & coffee

**Contact Jayne Thompson at**  
**[jayne.thompson@mndassociation.org](mailto:jayne.thompson@mndassociation.org)**  
**or call 07811 280893**

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

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