

# Newsletter

Autumn 2025



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



/southyorkmnd



@SYMNDA

# Welcome to the Autumn edition of the South Yorkshire Branch Newsletter

## Chairman's Report

Dear All

In the last newsletter I was describing an early spring, and the summer has flown by. We seem to be getting an early autumn too with the horse chestnuts already full of autumnal colour seemingly far too early.

As you will read elsewhere our finances are in good shape which is all down to the unbelievable generosity of the people of South Yorkshire. Thank you from us all.

We have some brilliant events lined up in late summer and beyond and we have had some fantastic fun, fundraising and awareness days since the Summer Newsletter.

Speaking of newsletters.....We have a favour to ask. If you're reading this in the comfort of your home and got the newsletter through the post, then you don't have to do anything. If you're reading this on-line or picked up a copy at an event **BUT** previously had a copy delivered and would still like to have a copy delivered, then read

the next bit carefully. **To get a copy delivered we need to have your written consent to do that. This means that you have to contact Chris or Ann in writing.** (It can be an email and their details are listed on page 5) **to tell them we have your consent to contact you in sending you the newsletter.** It's a faff I know but that's the rules and regulations of the world of data protection that we live in. So please do contact us with your consent if you want a copy delivered. It's well worth the effort as the newsletter is packed with great stories and relevant information.

A couple of other new news items.

I'm delighted that we have been joined on the branch committee by Andy Dixon who is going to be our new communications lead and is a fabulous addition to the team. Also, we have been working through how to connect people together who have a stake hold in the world of MND and have decided to have two annual "get togethers" between April and October. The

idea is to have all the right folk in a single evening event which will feature a mixture of MND research updates from experts as well as opportunities to talk and chat with PLWMND, volunteers, the branch officers, health professionals and fundraisers. Our first event will be in April 2026 so do keep an eye and ear out for that.

Finally, I hope that you all enjoy the rest of summer as much as possible and hope to see you at one of our events in the not-too-distant future.

Andrew



## Treasurer's Report

I report on the four months ended 31st July 2025. Income for the period amounted to £31,254, after deducting fundraising costs, a good total in my opinion. Our supporters have done well in raising funds with their various events, and our fundraising team have done well in organising several successful events. Thank you all. You should all be proud of yourselves.

Expenditure on care for the period remained at a high level, being £22,003. With such expenditure being at record levels, it is important that we do all we can to maintain our income, especially as winter approaches. At 31st July, we had £19,768 in available funds which does give us a reasonable buffer for the period ahead.

Paul

Produced by

**Dialled In**



# SMH Group charity golf day raises further funds for MNDA

On 22nd August, SMH Group organised their 5th Annual Golf Day at Chesterfield Golf Club, with 25 teams of 4 entering the 'Texas Scramble', and again, the weather was kind to us.

After enjoying a bacon sandwich, the players went out to test themselves against the course, returning for a meal to finish off the day. The generosity of all the players was much appreciated. The day was organised by Ross Jordan, a Partner at SMH Bullock

Woodburn and SMH Reed Smith, part of the SMH Group.

The main charity that benefitted this year was Andy's Man Club, but MND Association South Yorkshire benefitted to the extent of £900. This is in addition to the ongoing support that SMH Group give to MNDASY by paying for the printing and distribution of the quarterly newsletter.

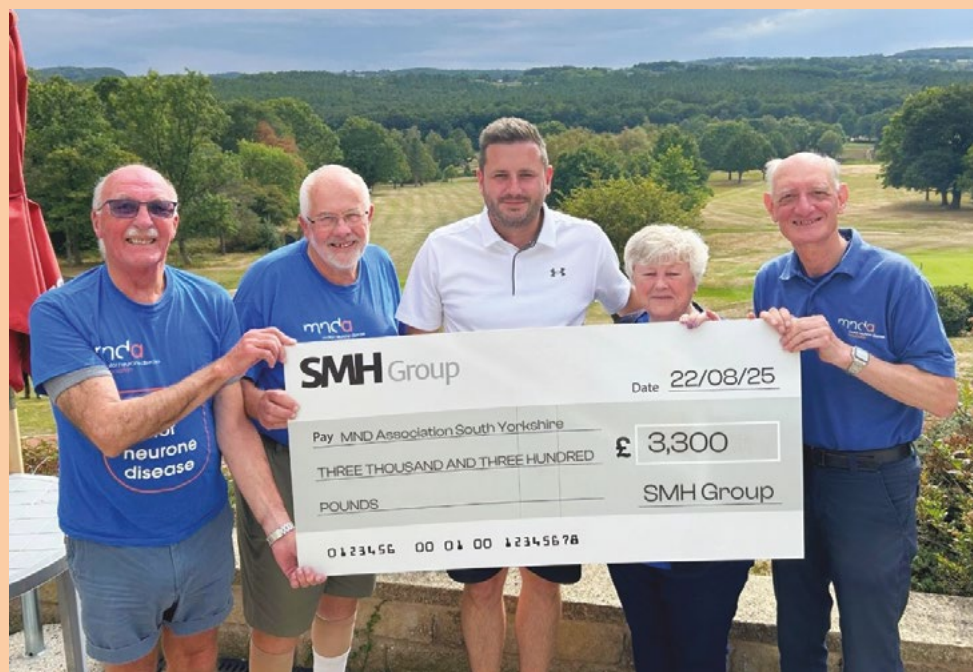
This enables MNDASY to support those affected by the life-altering impact of Motor Neurone Disease

in our local area. With no known cure, the MNDA is vital in offering essential care, support and funding for research to improve the lives of those battling MND.

Ross Jordan, Partner at SMH Group comments: "It's always a pleasure to bring together clients, colleagues, and friends for a good cause. The support we've had again this year has been incredible, and we're proud to continue raising funds for charities that mean so much to our team and our community. Thank you to everyone who took part, donated, or helped make the day such a success."

In total, SMH Group has raised £3,300 for the Motor Neurone Disease Association this year. This includes proceeds from the golf day as well as the ongoing sponsorship of the South Yorkshire branch's quarterly newsletter, which the firm covers the cost of printing and distributing. This annual support helps the MNDA continue its vital work across the region.

The South Yorkshire Branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association can be contacted via its Branch Secretary on 0114 265 3774 or by visiting: [www.mndassociation.org/southyorkshire](http://www.mndassociation.org/southyorkshire)



## Important information about GDPR Compliance

You will have read in Andrew Gibson's report about the changes the branch must make to continue sending you this quarterly newsletter.

Data protection legislation is ever evolving and although many of you will have asked us to send the newsletter to you in the past we cannot do this any more unless we have your **written permission** to do so, and to keep your contact details for further mailings.

If you have received the newsletter you will have given us permission in writing to forward it to you. If you have obtained a copy elsewhere but would like to receive a **copy of your own** in the post or by email please let us know. Contact Chris Naylor [christine.naylor@mndassociation.org](mailto:christine.naylor@mndassociation.org) or Ann Quinn [ann.quinn@mndassociation.org](mailto:ann.quinn@mndassociation.org)

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**SMH** Sutton McGrath Hartley

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Proud to be part of the  
**SMH Group**

## Another Enjoyable Day at Gulliver's Valley

On Saturday 21st June, the Branch funded it's fourth Fun Day at Gulliver's Valley for children and grandchildren who are, or have been, affected by someone with MND. Families consisting of parents, grandchildren and children aged up to 14 years attended and were treated to a great day out with the opportunity to meet and chat with others and hopefully make new friends.

The weather was scorching (as opposed to last year when it teemed down!) but at least this afforded everyone to experience the rides outside. Feedback from those who attended and came to chat to the Branch volunteers was positive and the youngsters all seemed to be having a good time. As were the Branch volunteers, as you can see from the photo!





# Tom Preece - The Running Grandpa!

Two years ago, after the heroic feats undertaken by Kevin Sinfield to support his best friend Rob Burrow and his MNDa journey, I decided to enter the Rob Burrow MNDa Leeds Marathon and fundraise for MND.

I managed to raise £1,600 for the charity and at that point at 61 years old I thought that would be my 8th and last marathon adventure.

On the lead up to Christmas 2024 Kevin did the 7 Ultras in 7 days



which was a mammoth task. More importantly, one of our own community was diagnosed with this cruel disease.

At that point The Running Grandpa, at the grand old age of 64, decided to lace up his running shoes and go again to raise funds for the cause.

To this end, I have:

- Participated in the 31 Miles in January Challenge organized by MNDa, covering 119 miles.
- Competed in the Rassel back Endurance Run at Sherwood Pines in January, completing 28 miles in just under 5½ hours.
- Entered and completed the Leeds Marathon in May 2025 with support from Retford Athletic Club, to be followed by the Amsterdam Marathon in October, where I will be running with my youngest son, Matthew.
- Set a goal to run over 1000 miles during 2025; as of the time of writing, over 700 miles have been completed.

One of the big take-aways from the exploits of Kevin Sinfield is the power of friendship and what he has undertaken for his best friend.

The “doing things for a friend” mantra does not need to be as grandiose as Kevin’s and anything we can do for our friends is worth doing.

This has been superbly illustrated by the coming together of the village of Everton to support the MND cause.

The village of Everton have fully supported my endeavours with the organising of a recent Community Choir event being a total sell out, raising over £500 on the night and nearly £1,300 with tickets sales and donations.

This has resulted in my fund raising to date to exceed £2,100 so far this year, with a further 6 months to come to help and support the MNDa aim to create a world free of MND.

## Serenity Beauty Bake It

Huge thanks to Emma and the team, at Serenity Beauty & Training in Woodseats Sheffield who recently held a Bake It event and awareness day raising over £1000 for the South Yorkshire Branch. A

great total and the cakes were all delicious.

The funds raised will make a big difference to people affected by MND locally. Thanks to everyone who supported Emma’s efforts!



# Charlie's Challenge

Once again, in the glorious June sunshine, over 50 riders took part in Doncaster Wheelers Annual Charlie's Challenge, a 100 mile bike ride from Doncaster to the Humber Bridge and back raising funds for South Yorkshire Branch of the MNDa in memory of their former team mate Ian 'Charlie' Hindley.

The evening ride saw club members old and new take part with some opting for the 'shorter' steadier 100km ride. Over £1300 was raised for the Branch. The Branch would like to acknowledge the funding raised over many years by these dedicated cyclists, who continue this event in support of their friend and the Branch.



## MND Support Group starting 7th October

First Tuesday of the Month, 10am until  
11.30am

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

Join us for a cuppa, this is a safe space to meet others from the MND community for peer support

Rotherham Hospice  
Broom Road  
Rotherham  
S60 2SW

Free parking & complimentary tea & coffee  
Option to stay for a free lunch, courtesy of Rotherham hospice

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

 [mndassociation](https://www.facebook.com/mndassociation)  [@mndassoc](https://twitter.com/mndassoc)

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

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## Bare Legs Brian's 5 Capitals Challenge

I have now completed the third leg of my challenge with only one more to go in September.

On July 10th I set off to Edinburgh, thinking what a long way to cycle. In fact, it turned out to be the most enjoyable one so far, helped tremendously by my niece Kathy and my two sons, Rich and Phil, and by the weather. There was only one wet day, Day 5, when Kathy and I tried to shelter under a tree on a bridge over the M1. The rest of the week was fine and hot for the first three days. So hot, in fact, that I had to throw away three liquid Mars Bars. Kathy also took my heavy luggage for me from Darlington to her home

where I was stopping between Day 4 and 5.

Day 6 saw Phil joining me as my back up driver and so for the rest of the time I did not have to cycle with my heavy paniers on my bike. It made cycling so much easier.

On Day 7 Rich joined me with his cycle so I had company for the last three days. It was also good to spend time with them both.

July 18th saw us arriving in Edinburgh at the end of a good nine days cycling.

Ireland next on the 1st September. Wish me luck!

**Bare Legs Brian**



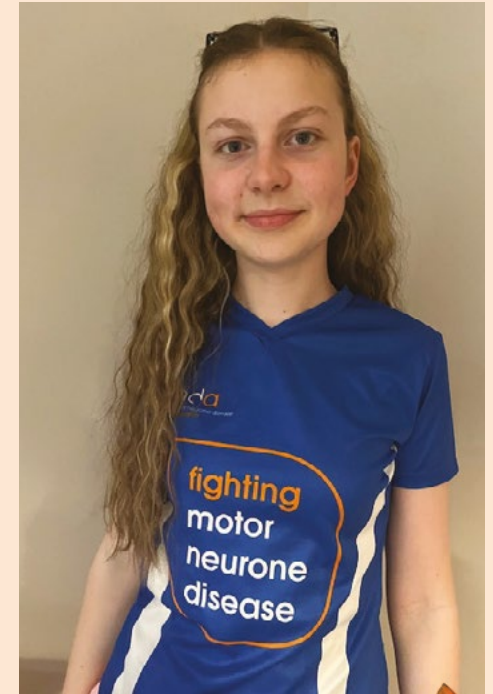
## Team David

Heidi Cawkwell's family set up a tribute fund for her Dad David 10 years ago and they have been fundraising in all sorts of ways. Heidi's Mum Natalie set herself the challenge of the Rob Burrows Leeds marathon in 2023. David's sister Deborah and other family members were regularly running races for MNDA but this was a marathon first for Natalie. The general consensus from the running community was that the heat on the day and the course made that a super tough one, but it hasn't put her off.

14 year old Heidi decided 50 miles walking in May would be her challenge, to mark what would have been David's 50th birthday. She also raised over £1200 which far exceeded her initial target. She was so grateful to everyone who donated and supported her along the way.

Natalie's brother has another Yorkshire marathon in his sights and the rest of the family have

been doing various raffles and selling flowers and MND merchandise over the years. The family all intend to continue with raising funds and awareness of MND into the next decade. Many thanks to Heidi and all the Cawkwell family for the thousands of pounds in total that they've raised.





## Golf Day to Raise Money for MND – Wheatley Golf Club, Doncaster



A huge thank you to Wheatley Golf Club, especially Geoff Sims and Keith Burke, for organising a fundraising event, held on 3rd June, raising £6000 for the South Yorkshire Branch of the MND Association.

The event was very well supported by members of the golf club, along with their guests and everyone had a fantastic day. All the golfers

enjoyed an afternoon tea in the club's Halfway House, which was served to them by fundraising volunteers from the branch.

Pictured here are Keith Burke and Geoff Sims from Wheatley Golf Club, Doncaster and some of the golfers who took part. Huge thanks to all concerned in helping to raise this magnificent amount of money for the Branch.

## Everton Community Choir

On Friday 30th May, 3 members of the Branch Committee attended a fund-raising event at Everton Village Hall, Doncaster. The event was an outstanding performance by Everton Community Choir in support of their choirmaster, whose partner is living with MND.

The Choir performed songs across all genre including songs by the Carpenters, Elton John, the Everley Brothers, Queen, Sister Act through to I Vow to Thee My Country to name but a few of the artists whose music the choir covered. It was an absolute pleasure not only to hear the beautiful sound of the singers but to see the obvious delight they get from their singing and their determination to support their

choirmaster and his family. In another nod to their support, all were wearing something in either orange, blue or both, the colours of the MND Association. It was an uplifting experience and the three of us who attended came away with the sounds of their songs resonating in our heads.

The event was organised by Viv Preece, herself a member of the choir, and her husband Tom. Tom has undertaken the Leeds Marathon and is planning to do another in Amsterdam later in the year. All proceeds from these events, and the choir, will come to the South Yorkshire Branch.

Thanks go to Viv and Tom and especially the Community Choir.





# Every August until a Cure

On 9th August South Yorkshire Branch volunteers joined forces with students from Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience, SiTraN, to hold the 10th Soak a Scientist event in Endcliffe Park Sheffield.

The Ice Bucket Challenge in 2014 spurred on students at the research institute to continue with a summer awareness raising event involving water! A table of delicious cakes and bakes plus a tombola helps with the fundraising too. Endcliffe Park Sheffield is busy with parkrunners and families on a Saturday in the summer and for just £1 anyone can delight in the satisfaction of throwing a bucket of cold water to drench a scientist in their white coat.

Branch volunteers and scientists were on hand to answer any

questions from the public, and to fill the buckets up again and again! A big thanks to everyone who played their part and to the generosity of local businesses who once again gave prizes for the tombola. Money raised will help with research projects and hopefully future students will continue the "Every August until a Cure" cause.



## South Yorkshire Presents... STANNINGTON BRASS BAND



This concert is kindly supported by The Webster & Naylor families.

### Join our autumn concert!

Sunday October 5th at 7:30 (doors open at 6:15pm)

The Niagara Conference & Events Centre, Sheffield, S6 1LU  
Accessible venue with lift and secure parking

Tickets are £7 pre-ordered or £9 on the door, so get yours now! Tickets include a free programme and entry to the prize draw. Accompanied children up to 16 years old FREE.

**Contact Trevor Peacock on 0114 242 2956 or on [trevorpeacock56@gmail.com](mailto:trevorpeacock56@gmail.com) for tickets!**



southyorkmnd



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

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# Jill and John's Quiz Night With Pea and Pie Supper

(in aid of Motor Neurone Disease Association – South Yorkshire Branch)

On Friday 10th October at 7 for a 7.30pm prompt start – Bar from 6.45

Venue: Tapton Hall, Shore Lane, Sheffield S10 3BU

**ONLY £18.00 EACH**

Maximum number in a team, 7.

Prizes for the **RAFFLE** would be appreciated.

**Bring Your Friends and Enjoy A Great Night.**

There are pre-ordered Vegetarian and Gluten Free options available.

Please return by 1st October to:

**Jill and John Hill, 78 Dransfield Rd, Crosspool, Sheffield S10 5RQ**

I would like \_\_\_\_\_ places at the Quiz night on Friday 10h October.

I enclose a Cheque for £ \_\_\_\_\_

Number of vegetarian meals: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Gluten Free meals: \_\_\_\_\_

OR

Pay Bank Transfer to **Mr John Michael Hill**

REF: **Your name** | Sort code: **40-47-67** | Account: **05560195**

And please Email us with your name, number of places and any dietary requests

**jillandjohnhill@aol.com** | mob. **07971235678** | Tel. **01142301882**

## Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge



Photograph with t shirts (taken at end) shows Janson (Grandson), Elliot (Grandson), Jack, Katie, Rob, Jake (Grandson), Charla (Granddaughter) and Millie.

Charla Kidir, granddaughter of Kate Newton who sadly died of MND in October 2023 after a short illness, and her other 3 grandchildren decided to do the Yorkshire 3 Peaks Challenge and aimed to do it in under 12 hours - and they made it – JUST!- on Sunday 27th July 2025. The conditions were good, but bearing in mind not many had undertaken such a huge hill climb before, then it was amazing that 7 out of the 8 who took part completed it, even though to beat the time they skipped the last refuelling stop

to make up lost time. Currently, they have raised over £2000 including gift aid. donations. Mum Jane, and Grandad Raymond provided support. All done for love of people and the wish to help the MND find a cure. In the photograph Charla is the smallest, shortest legs but very determined and all just 2 days after receiving her 1st Class Honours Post Graduate Master's degree in Human Rights Law. Grandmother Kate would be very proud – as are all the family.



## Rat Race 100 Miler

A **HUGE** thank you and well done to Ben who recently completed the Rat Race 100 miler from Bamburgh to Edinburgh Castles raising a staggering £7500 along the way! Ben was running in memory of Bryan and Richard, both affected by MND. The funds raised will help us continue our vital work with those living with and affected by MND in the South Yorkshire area.



## Making Memories – A Trip to the Farne Islands

A financial grant from the South Yorkshire Branch of the MND Association enabled Howard Owen to realise a long-held wish to visit the Farne Islands, situated just off the Northumbrian Coast.

Howard, who was recently diagnosed with MND, took a boat trip around the islands from Seahouses, taking breaks to admire the spectacular scenery and beautiful wildlife, including grey seals, cormorants, gannets, razorbills, gulls, guillemots and the iconic puffins.

Howard ended the day with a walk on Inner Farne, a sanctuary for an endless array of nesting birds. He is pictured here being dive-

bombed by an artic turn, all part of defending their nesting chicks.

If you are interested in applying for a financial grant, you can visit the MND website or contact Brian Jackson, who is a volunteer with the Branch and administers grants within South Yorkshire.



## Support Group Meetings

1. **In Sheffield** - Peer Support Cafe meetings are held on the **first Monday of the Month 1.30pm until 3.00pm** at Clifford House, Ecclesall Road South, S11 9PX.
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 Dates are 5th September, 3rd October, 7th November & 5th December.** 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.
3. **New Group in Rotherham** - Starting **7th October on the 1st Tuesday of the month 10.00am till 11.30am** Rotherham Hospice Broom Rd S60 2SW.

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 - **Thursday 6th November.**

## 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:

Dr Andrew Gibson -  
[andrew.gibson@rcp.ac.uk](mailto:andrew.gibson@rcp.ac.uk)

### Vice Chair:

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[julie.ward@mndassociation.org](mailto:julie.ward@mndassociation.org)

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### Social Media Administrator:

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### Community Support Co-ordinator:

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[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

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 Tapton Hall, Shore Lane, Sheffield S10 3BU

If you would like to share information about your fundraising or events relevant to people in South Yorkshire affected by MND please contact our Secretary Chris Naylor [christine.naylor@mndassociation.org](mailto:christine.naylor@mndassociation.org) or Communications Lead Andy Dixon [andy.dixon@mndassociation.org](mailto:andy.dixon@mndassociation.org)

## Cawthorne Antiques



Cawthorne Antiques of Dodworth held a charity event for the South Yorkshire Branch in memory of Kate Newton who was one of their dealers who died of MND. So, to celebrate the shop's first anniversary of moving to High Street, Dodworth, S75 3RF they held a tombola on both Saturday and Sunday (12th & 13th July) and together with a raffle and donations raised £780. Thanks go to the team of Wendy Jones, Meryl Hamby, Jayne Harrison, Steve & Karen Fearnley along with all the many kind people who donated including the lovely cafe.





# MND Coffee Club at Clifford House

First Monday of the Month, 1.30pm  
until 3pm

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

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](https://www.mndassociation.org)**

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