

# NEWSLETTER

Motor Neurone Disease Association South Yorkshire Branch

SPRING 2024



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motor neurone disease  
association

Registered Charity No. 294354

Patron: Suzanne Maguire

**SMH**Group

## Welcome to the Spring Edition of the South Yorkshire Branch Newsletter

A warm welcome to all those of you who are reading this newsletter for the first time. We hope you will find items of interest and helpful information within it and we always welcome your contributions for inclusion as well, so if you have anything you would like to put forward, please contact me on [christine.naylor@mndassociation.org](mailto:christine.naylor@mndassociation.org) or [chris222@sky.com](mailto:chris222@sky.com)

The Fund-Raising Group are busy planning events which will take place during the year and some of these can be found in this newsletter. Other events are in the pipeline and will be announced in future newsletters. You can also find information about the Branch on our website [www.mndassociation.org/southyorkshire](http://www.mndassociation.org/southyorkshire) and where you can find past editions of the newsletter if this is your first copy. If you are planning or thinking about holding any fundraising yourself and would like someone from the committee to attend, please contact either our Vice Chair Julie Ward on [julie.ward@mndassociation.org](mailto:julie.ward@mndassociation.org) or Trevor Peacock at [trevorpeacock56@gmail.com](mailto:trevorpeacock56@gmail.com) – they will be happy to assist you in any way they can.

In the last newsletter we unfortunately had to report the loss of Geoff Bland, one of our committee members and sadly, we recently lost another member with the passing of Dave Booker. The Branch will miss both Dave and Geoff, they were prolific fundraisers and totally dedicated to the MND charity. A tribute to Dave is included in this newsletter.

### AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the Branch usually takes place in February, and the Association have offered the opportunity of a written report being produced instead of a face-to-face meeting. The Report from the South Yorkshire Branch will shortly be available on the Branch Website, so please do log on and read the Report; it gives, amongst other things, an insight into the work of the Branch over the last twelve months, including the way in which funding raised has been used to help people living with MND in our area. A hard copy can be obtained by contacting me directly.

Finally, please do let us know of any changes of address that we should be aware of to ensure that you receive your copy of the newsletter. We hope to see many of you at some of the forthcoming events, which we hope you will support whenever possible.

**Christine**

## Chairman's Report

As the days get longer and Spring approaches it is with a heavy heart that I report the very sad passing of Dave Booker. Dave was tireless in his support for people living with MND in the South Yorkshire region which he performed in a really special way. He was a man with a sharp wit and dry sense of humour and an approach to life that always saw the best in folk and who always described the glass being half full. A lovely, lovely man who was an absolute pleasure to work with. He will be sorely missed by all those who knew him.

Since our Winter newsletter, and thanks to the tremendous efforts of all concerned, our financial position has improved considerably. You can read about this transformation in more detail in our Treasurer's Report. There you will see that it's been

a "record" year for both our fundraising and grant requests, which is a mixed blessing as it also implies that people living with MND have needed more support than ever. It also means that we have been able to offer more help than ever. As I say a mixed blessing. We have another packed fundraising timetable for you again this year so watch this space for events and concerts. Once again, I wanted to remind you all that we are always open and welcoming to new volunteers. So, if you, or someone you know, wants to get involved with the work we do then don't hesitate to get in touch with anyone at the branch. Our contact details are at the back of the newsletter. Enjoy the newsletter and we hope to see you during the year at one of our many events.

**Andrew**

### Change of Branch Contact Details

Please note the change to Branch Contact details. Ann Quinn and I are currently sharing this role.

Please contact me, (Christine Naylor) by **telephoning 0114 2653774**

Contact Ann by **e-mail** via [mndvisitor@gmail.com](mailto:mndvisitor@gmail.com)

## Treasurer's Report

Our financial year ended on 31st December 2023, and once again, I wish to express my thanks to my Assistant Treasurer, Kirsteen Booy, who prepares the cash book so efficiently and makes my work as Treasurer so much easier. We commenced the year with reserves at a relatively low level, which gave us the impetus to push for additional fundraising during 2023. I am pleased to report that our efforts were rewarded and the Branch finished the year in a much stronger financial position.

Our income for the financial year to 31st December 2023 amounted to £64,755 (2022 £45,969), reversing the fall in income of the previous two years. Both donations and fundraising both increased in achieving this great result. I should also mention the new Grants and Trusts Team who commenced work during the year, applying for grants from various foundations, and produced income of £4,640. SMH Group also require a special mention. Their golf day raised over £7,000 and on top of that, they pay for the printing and postage of our quarterly newsletter. There are others, too many to mention, who have contributed to this successful year. Thank you all.

Expenditure on care, equipment and support was at an all-time high of £53,853, exceeding the 2022 figure of £47,265, which was also a record. The current economic climate means people need more support, but we are also trying hard, and succeeding, to reach and help as many people as possible. We support not just the person with MND, but the whole family, and do make grants to young people. If we can help in whatever way is needed, we will.

I remain optimistic, but expect that the needs of those people living with MND will continue to increase beyond last year's record level. We have a great team of people on the committee, and many dedicated supporters, so I remain confident that we will continue to be able to support all those who need our help in 2024.

If you wish to donate, cheques should be made payable to 'MND Association South Yorkshire' and sent to Mr P Hebblethwaite at 55 Newfield Lane, Sheffield S17 3DD or you can pay directly to our account 02972378, sort code 30-96-09. You can call me on 07729 118 590 or email me - at paul.hebblethwaite@mndassociation.org or contact my assistant, Kirsteen Booy on 07749 111 570 - email kirsteen.booy@mndassociation.org

**Paul**

## Grants Report Update

For the year ending 31/12/23, South Yorkshire Branch awarded 169 grants, which was the highest total for some years. Of this, £53,159 was awarded to pabmnd of which £23,226 came from the Branch. This was made up of mostly Quality of Life grants and the rest was almost equally shared between the Carers' and Young Carers' and Children and Young People grants.

## The Late David (Dave) Booker



Dave joined the South Yorkshire Branch in 2014 following the death of his wife Margaret from MND. He quickly established himself as a staunch supporter and fundraiser and found his niche as an Association Visitor and on the Fund-Raising Committee. He quickly became a friend to those he visited, who looked forward to his visits and his encouraging words. He took his Visitor Role to heart with great enthusiasm and the amount of

We are pleased to inform you that the Branch is again holding the Fun Day at Gulliver's Valley. Put the date on your calendar: Saturday, June 15th from 10.00 am. You can register details of your party by contacting Brian Jackson at [brian.jackson@mndassociation.org](mailto:brian.jackson@mndassociation.org), or ringing Chris Naylor or Ann Quinn whose contact details are at the back of the Newsletter.

time and effort he put into each week supporting people with MND he did without seeking any recognition or reward.

Dave could be found at all fund-raising events lending a helping hand in any way he could, whatever the occasion and whatever the weather. He oversaw the Walk to D'Feat days at Doncaster Lakeside and never let a drop of rain deter him from using the day to raise funds and awareness. At indoor events he could be seen blowing up balloons, putting out tables and on occasion, having a sneaky taste at a cake on the cake stall to see if it was up to scratch! He was an expert at working the room, selling raffle tickets, always with a smile on his face and chatting to everyone.

Dave was ever the gentleman, thoughtful and always ready to lend a hand. He always had a cheerful cheeky smile on his face. He had a positive outlook, looking for the best in everybody and everything and never had a bad word to say about anyone.

Over the years Dave became a friend, not just a colleague, to all members on the Committee, past and present. His pragmatic, level-headedness, his quiet sense of humour and his strength of purpose will be sorely missed. Dave will be remembered with affection and thankfulness for his time volunteering with the Branch, not to mention those words with whom he greeted everyone "aye up flower"

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## Save the Day, Save the Date.

### MNDA Spring Quiz

Friday 26th April 2024 at Rotherham Titan's Ground, Clifton Lane, Rotherham S60 2SN.

7.00 pm for prompt 7.30 pm start. Pie & Pea Supper. Tickets £15 per person.

All proceeds to MNDA South Yorkshire Branch.

To register interest in attending please contact Julie.Ward@mndassociation.org or

Kirsteen.Booy@mndassociation.org by 19th April 2024.

### Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon on Sunday 12 May 2024

Who can forget the image of Kevin Sinfield carrying his friend Rob Burrow over the finishing line after the first Rob Burrow Leeds Marathon. If you are a runner, or know someone who is who would be interested in taking part this year, please visit the site below to register your interest.

<https://www.runforall.com/events/marathon/leeds-marathon/>

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## Your Donations Really Do Make a Difference!

We were delighted to receive the following letter of thanks from a family after receiving a Carer's Grant funded by the South Yorkshire Branch of the Association.

*"I want to thank the MND Association for a very generous grant towards the cost of two short respite breaks I was able to take with family members, whom I had been unable to visit for*

*ages. For both visits, our trusted support worker came to stay at our home for four nights to look after my husband.*

*In March 2023 I visited my daughter's home for the first time since 2019, which was wonderful. I enjoyed my daughter's company and took part in the happy chaos of family life. It was such a treat not having to cook a single meal or to feel permanently on-call. Among other things, I was able to see my grandson at his athletics club, accompany my elder granddaughter to an art workshop and we collected innumerable fallen magnolia petals with my youngest granddaughter at an arboretum.*

*The second visit was to see my sister who, sadly, now has dementia. Whilst we often talk on the phone, it was so much better to meet in person and to spend some quality time together"*

If you would like more information about how our grants might help you, please feel free to contact Brian Jackson, our Grants Administrator via [brian.jackson@mndassociation.org](mailto:brian.jackson@mndassociation.org)

## And One More

Here is an extract from a thank you letter sent by Mary following her father's death from MND:

*"This donation is only a small contribution to your funds, but as you know I have experience of*

*what such fabulous work is done (by the Branch). I for one, and I know my father, was so grateful for how his life was made so much more comfortable with the stairlift and reclining chair. Not only that, but the regular visits made by Brian gave him such a boost to his self-esteem and he had great respect for him."*

## Raising Awareness



Our Patron, Suzanne and her mum Eve organised an Awareness Day on 14th December at Walker's Garden Centre, Doncaster. Trevor & Doreen Peacock joined them and handed out awareness and display materials, along with information about how the Branch supports people living with MND via the fundraising it does. The

group were approached by many people asking for information, including many who had very little knowledge about MND as well as those who said they had seen the publicity broadcast on TV.

The day achieved its aim of focusing on raising awareness, not as a fundraising event, but donations of over £100 were given in support of the Branch.

## Association Visitor Role

We are grateful to Paul Green, Association Visitor in the Doncaster area, for sharing his experience of MND and putting together this insight into the Association Visitor role.

### MND Diagnosis

Joy, my wife was a nurse. We were lucky enough to have had four children - three girls and one boy. We also shared six grandchildren. She enjoyed cooking for friends & family, her crumble was my favourite!

In 2016 Joy started to notice that her left foot was starting to droop. We were sent for investigations and the diagnosis came in October. For Joy it was a very rapid decline and she passed away on 3rd February 2017, so we only had four months from diagnosis to the end.

### Becoming an Association Visitor (AV)

I retired in 2019 and began my AV role. The first person I was given was a man in the Doncaster village where I grew up. He had a relatively fast descent with his MND. I started with him in January and he passed in September. His wife invited me to the funeral. I heard more about his life story and they thanked me for supporting them. This made me realise how important the role was and I started to increase the amount of people I was supporting.



Paul pictured with his late wife Joy

I have a number of people I visit now; some are post-loss and some going through the journey still. Every person I see with MND is different and their journeys are so different. It is so nice to keep in touch with people, to hear their feedback and to learn that they have felt supported. I am glad I've made a difference in their journey, even if I am only someone for them to talk to.

## Living with MND

On Saturday 20th January members of the Branch Committee attended an interview with Lorraine and Richard Holmes, who is living with MND. The interview was conducted by Dan Walker, presenter and broadcaster. The venue was packed to the rafters with more than 500 people who came along to hear Lorraine and Richard speak about how living with MND has affected them both and how their faith is sustaining them. The interview was, as expected, undertaken by Dan with professionalism, warmth, compassion, and a genuine wish to help raise awareness of MND.

Lorraine and Richard spoke candidly about their early lives together, how their hopes for their

The kids think I'm bonkers, but for me the role gives life a purpose. It feels like I am helping people with what Joy had. I think it is easier to have empathy when you've been there.

If you feel that you could make a difference by volunteering for the association, as an Association Visitor or in any of our other voluntary roles, do get in touch with Jayne Thompson, Area Support Coordinator via [jayne.thompson@mndassociation.org](mailto:jayne.thompson@mndassociation.org)



future together, their children's lives, have been changed by MND. It was at times emotional but always inspirational, positive and hopeful, and also very funny at times.

The Branch had the opportunity to have a table displaying information about how it supports people living with MND in the South Yorkshire area. Many people took the time to chat

with us and ask us about our own experience of MND, about the work of the Branch and despite the evening not being a fund-raising event, many people spontaneously donated generously, with £485.00 being raised.

If you feel that you would like to share your experience of MND for inclusion in the Branch Newsletter, please do contact me on [Christine.naylor@mndassociation.org](mailto:Christine.naylor@mndassociation.org).



## Dragon's Tap Night in aid of MND

Thanks to everyone at Dragon's Tap Micro Pub in Rotherham which held its Christmas Party in December. A total of £718 was raised for the South Yorkshire Branch of the Association. A good time was had by all and included fancy dress, a quiz and music. Later Trevor Peacock and Kirsteen Booy were invited to attend to represent the Branch and accepted the presentation of a cheque by customers of the pub.



## Doncaster & District Jaguar Enthusiasts Club

A big thank you to the Doncaster & District Jaguar Enthusiasts Club for their recent donation to the Branch.

The club decided to raise money for people living with Motor Neurone Disease following the death of a friend and fellow member in 2022. They held several fundraising events over a 12-month period, including a tombola at their Annual Show at Cusworth Hall.

Julie Ward, Branch Vice Chair and Brian Jackson, Association Visitor/Branch Committee Member, attended a meeting of the Jaguar Enthusiasts Club. They discussed how MND affects sufferers and highlighted how the Branch supports people across the South Yorkshire area.



Pictured are Brian Jackson, (kilted) receiving a cheque for £500.66 from members of the Jaguar Enthusiasts Club.

## Cheers to Morag and Kevin!



A huge thank you to Morag and Kevin Jackson of Hoyland in Barnsley for their recent donation of £433.

Kevin lost his father to MND some years ago, so the couple decided to raise funds for families in South

Yorkshire who are facing the same situation.

Our Vice Chair, Julie Ward, was warmly welcomed by the couple into their lovely home, which features a very impressive home bar, a centre-piece for their fundraising activities!

Morag and Kevin have hosted numerous events in their home and garden over the past 12 months. We love the idea of Morag and Kevin's friends and neighbours enjoying their hospitality, having fun and raising money for our organisation. We are extremely grateful.

# South Yorkshire Branch Presents:

In aid of  
**mnda**  
motor neurone disease  
association





Award winning championship  
**STANNINGTON BRASS BAND**  
playing movie music and more.

Sunday 24th March at 7.30pm  
Doors, Bar & sales table open at 6.15

Niagara Conference & Leisure, Niagara Rd, Sheffield, S6 1 LU  
Accessible venue and FREE parking

**£6.00** Reserved tickets  
**£8.00** Tickets at the door  
Children up to 16 years **FREE**  
Includes **FREE** Programme & Free prize draw

Contact: Trevor Peacock 0114 242 2956 / [trevorpeacock56@gmail.com](mailto:trevorpeacock56@gmail.com)

 MND Association South Yorkshire  @SYMNDA

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

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# Past Carers Group

Are you a former carer?

Join us for a cuppa and peer support on the first Thursday of alternate months  
10.30-12.00

Thursday 4th April  
Thursday 6th June  
Thursday 5th September  
Thursday 7th November

Conservatory Restaurant  
Holiday Inn  
West Bawtry Road  
Rotherham S60 4NA  
2 minutes off M1 Junction 33

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

07811280893

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

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

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## Events

### Support Group Meeting Dates

- 1 In Sheffield** – Peer Support Cafe meetings are held on the **last Wednesday of the month** from **2 00 pm until 3 30 pm** at Greenhill Methodist Church, School Lane, Greenhill, Sheffield S8 7RL
- 2 In Barnsley** – Peer Support Group meetings are held on the **first Friday of the month** from **2 00 pm until 3 00 pm** at Emmanuel Church, Huddersfield Road, Barnsley S75 1DT
- 3 In Doncaster** – Peer Support Group meetings are held on the **first Tuesday of the month** from **11 00 am – 12 30 pm** at the **Linney Community Care Centre, Weston Road, Balby, Doncaster DN4 8NF**
- 4 Rotherham** – Herringthorpe Reform Church, Wickersley Road, S60 4JN - held **every eight weeks on Thursdays** at **2 00 pm until 4 00pm** -next meeting 4th April

All people across South Yorkshire who are affected by MND are welcome at any of our support 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 Conservatory Restaurant, Holiday Inn, West Bawtry Road, Rotherham S60 4NA

(2 mins off M1 Junction 33) on the following dates:-

Thursday 4th April  
Thursday 6th June  
Thursday 5th September  
Thursday 7th November

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY FOR PLANNED EVENTS 2024

Stannington Band Concert	24th March 2024 @ Niagara Conference & EventsCentre
SYMNDA Quiz Night	26th April 2024 Rotherham Titan's Ground Clifton Lane, Rotherham S60 2SN 7.00pm for prompt 7.30pm start
SYMNDA Golf Day	22nd May 2024 Dore & Totley Golf Club
Gulliver's Valley Family Fun Day	15th June 2024 from 10.00 am
Castleford Salvation Army Band	23th June 2024 Niagara Conference & Events Centre
Hallowes Golf Day	Friday 2nd August 2024
SMH Golf Day	23rd August 2024
Quiz Night	11th October 2024 @ Tapton Hall
Stannington Band Concert	13th October 2024 Niagara Conference & EventsCentre

Other events will be published once they are confirmed

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## The Motor Neurone Disease Association

Website: [www.mndassociation.org](http://www.mndassociation.org) Tel: 01604 250505

Registered office: MNDA, Francis Crick House,  
6 Summerhouse Road, Moulton Park, Northampton NN3 6BJ  
MNDA Connect Helpline 0808 802 6262

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### South Yorkshire Branch

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

### Committee Members 2024

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

Vice Chair: Julie Ward  
[julie.ward@mndassociation.org](mailto:julie.ward@mndassociation.org)

Branch Contacts:  
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[mndvisitor@gmail.com](mailto:mndvisitor@gmail.com)  
Christine Naylor 0114 265 3774

Treasurer: Paul Hebblethwaite  
(Home) 01142 363222  
07729 118590  
[paul.hebblethwaite@mndassociation.org](mailto:paul.hebblethwaite@mndassociation.org)

Assistant Treasurer: Kirsteen Booy 07749 111570  
[kirsteen.booy@mndassociation.org](mailto:kirsteen.booy@mndassociation.org)

Secretary: Christine Naylor  
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Newsletter Editor: Christine Naylor 01142 653774  
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Other Committee Member  
Kath Groom

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Regional Fundraiser:  
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Angus O'Donnell  
[angus.odonnell@mndassociation.org](mailto:angus.odonnell@mndassociation.org)

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## Family Fun Day June 15th

Register now. Free admission. Closing Date 31st May 2024

Families affected by MND are invited to meet up and enjoy the outdoor/indoor activities of Gulliver's Valley theme park S26 5QW. Fully accessible and suitable for children 2yrs + Height restrictions apply to rides. Bring your own lunch or food outlets available. Dedicated lunch space to meet up. Register now closing date 31st May 2024.

**Contact Brian Jackson [brian.jackson@mndassociation.org](mailto:brian.jackson@mndassociation.org)  
07467242232 Ann Quinn [mndvisitor@gmail.com](mailto:mndvisitor@gmail.com) Chris Naylor  
[chris222@sky.com](mailto:chris222@sky.com) 01142 653774**

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