
Greetings

Best wishes to you all for 2011.

You will find our programme for the first six months of the year in this edition, please make a note of the dates in your diaries.

We look forward to seeing you.

Christmas Lunch

Sunday 5th December 2010 saw thirty two of our members and friends gathered at the Plough Inn at Sparsholt for our Branch Christmas Lunch, in pleasant surroundings and nice company. Sparsholt is a lovely old village with the Plough being the local Pub restaurant. The food was excellent and the service exemplary. After the meal we had an interesting quiz arranged by Paul, followed by a raffle which raised £53.00 towards MGA funds.

On behalf of everyone and the Branch, our thanks to the Social Secretary, Paul Haddock for the time and effort involved in arranging this Lunch. We look forward to his next venue in the near future.

Brian Openshaw-Branch Chairman.

Committee

Chairman: Brian Openshaw
Secretary: Joan Finney
Treasurer: Alan Whitehead
Welfare Officer: Jackie Perry
Minutes Secretary: Barbara Whitehead
Member: Irene Jenkins
Member: Barbara Openshaw
Member: Baldish Mandair(Bali)
Social Sec.: Paul Haddock

Editor Joan Finney

A Fantastic Donation

Store collections are an excellent and important way to make the public aware of the charity.

At Sainsbury's & M&S Store Hedge End in August last year when we were collecting for MGA. Mr Philip Husbands, a member of Brook House Masonic Lodge, was so impressed with the Hampshire Branch Display and attitude of the collectors, he said he might be able to support the branch with a donation from the Lodge. He would also put our charity forward in the hope of gaining a donation from the Hampshire and IOW Masonic Grand Charity – The Tom Langton Fund.

After a lot of hard negotiations by Philip the branch was awarded £500 from the Tom Langton Fund and £500 from the Brook House Lodge. This is a restricted fund to support the salary of the MG Nurse at Southampton General Hospital, Lisa Joyce.

Alan Whitehead Treasurer writes,

Lisa Joyce's position is at present being funded by the MGA thanks to a generous grant from GlaxoSmithKline plc, but this may not last.

The plan has always been that the NHS would eventually take over the cost when the cost effectiveness in the saving of consultants' time has been proven.

But in today's financial and political climate?

The £1000.00 Masonic donation was earmarked specifically for the Specialist Nurse Fund.

This will need our continuing support.

This demonstrates the value of collections. Unfortunately the committee have had to restrict the number we do in a year due to lack of help from members. With your support we could do a lot more.

Joan Finney

Fund Raising

At this time last year income had reached £12,399.78 (from 1st April to 31 January).

This year the figure is £8,666.34 with £8,405.00 remitted to Derby HQ.

It is easy to see that we will probably fall short of last year's total which was a record.

Donations

The committee would like to thank the following for their generous donations received since 31st August.

Julie Kingshott
Mrs Kennedy
Mrs Susan Lowe
Mrs Christine Bourne
Hants. & I.O.W. Masonic Grand Charity
Brook House Lodge

Total £1127.85

Events

LiDBA Bike Ride	£888.00
Branch Walk	545.10
Coffee Morning (Mr & Mrs Moore)	161.15
Xmas Fairs -	
Chandlers Ford (Mr & Mrs Moore)	163.40
Bliss, Headley, Haslemere, Bordon	428.01
Rob Payne - Great South Run	748.00
Raffle at Xmas lunch	53.00

Total £2986.66

Collection Tins

The Greyfriar, Chawton	£104.55
Gables News Liphook	13.37
Carol Moore (Florist)	10.12

Total £128.04

Alan Whitehead Honorary Treasurer

A Note from the Treasurer

HELP!

*“When I was younger, so much younger than today,
I never needed anybody's help in any way.
But now these days are gone, I'm not so self-assured,
Now I find I've changed my mind and opened up
the doors.”*

None of us are getting younger and frankly you cannot expect the present committee to continue for ever. We need people to come on the committee to shadow what we do. Otherwise there is a strong possibility that the branch will fold.

We need a transfusion of new blood!

By the time you read this it will be mid-February and only 6 weeks to the year end. The AGM is to be held on 21st May. Time to think what you could do as a committee member .

Other ways you can help for instance –

- 1 Spare a couple of hours collecting
 - 2 Place a Collection Box with your newsagent or corner shop
 - 3 Organise your own event
 - 4 If you are fit and well enter an event such as the LiDBA Bike Ride, the Great South Run, the Branch walk,
 - 5 Come to our social events.
- But please do SOMETHING.

We do appreciate the minority of members who willingly help us.

Alan Whitehead

Events

We welcome to the branch two new members Rob Payne and his partner Louise Andrews. Louise was diagnosed with MG in March and Rob was determined to help the MGA by entering the Great South Run (10 miles) in Southsea and getting as much sponsorship as possible. He raised £748 for the Hampshire Branch, and it will be even more when gift aid is added. Our thanks to Rob for this splendid effort.

This year the race takes place on Sunday 30th October and entries are now being accepted. It is on our door step so we should find a competitor! If you wish to enter please contact Regional Organiser Steve Saunders Tel 01273 581087 Email: steve.saunders@mga-charity.org

As we go to press I am hoping that Louise's story about her MG will be in the local press to commemorate Rare Diseases Day 28th February.

Also on that day the Committee will be busy providing a tea for the players at the Bridge Afternoon in Liphook. We have 15 tables so far!

Tunnel Vision is a Good Thing!

The long awaited opening of the Hindhead tunnel on the A3 is taking place very soon and before this happens, there is a once in a lifetime opportunity to walk through the tunnel before it is officially opened to traffic.

The Tunnel Vision Open Day is taking place on Saturday 14th May 2011 and will allow the local community to walk through the longest underground road tunnel in the country at 1.2 miles long.

Here is an opportunity to take part in this unique event and help support the Hampshire Branch of MGA at the same time. The organisers are charging £5 for adults and just £2 for age 16 and under and will be providing approximately 10 park and ride sites on the day.

There will also be a super prize draw with some magnificent prizes including being amongst the very first to walk through!

Register to take part and we will send you some sponsorship forms to raise funds for the branch. Contact steve.saunders@mga-charity.org or call Steve on 01273 581087 for more details and to register.

AGM

This is an advanced notice

Hampshire Branch AGM**Saturday 21st May 2011****St John's Centre Locks Heath Southampton
2-5pm SO15 5FB****Speaker we hope from the Wessex Centre
Southampton Hospital****Refreshments and Raffle**

Collections

All Day Petersfield Collection**Saturday 4th June 2011****Helpers required****Contact Joan Finney**

**17th & 18th June Tesco Tebourba Way
Southampton****24th –25th June Tesco Bursledon
Southampton****Helpers required on all days between****Noon - 2pm and 2pm - 4pm****Contact Jackie Perry**

Hampshire Branch Programme 2011

- February Thursday 3rd Feb Collection Hedge End all day
Monday 28th Feb Bridge afternoon 1.30-5.30 Liphook Village Hall
- March Sunday 13th March Thames Walk London 1mile / 3miles / 6miles
- April Saturday & Sunday 9th & 10th April Walk the Marathon London
- May Saturday 14th May Branch Walk Hindhead Tunnel
Saturday 21st May AGM St John's Centre Locks Heath Southampton
SO15 5FB
- June Saturday 4th June Collection in Petersfield all day
Sunday 12th June Lidba Cycle Ride
Friday & Saturday 17th & 18th June Collection Tebourba Way Southampton
Friday & Saturday 24th & 25th June Collection Bursledon Southampton
- July Thursday 14th July Summer Outing: Lunch, followed by a show at New Milton New Forest
- All enquiries contact Joan Finney*

Advanced Notice of the Summer Outing Thursday 14th July 2011

The social events we have held in 2010 have been well supported and the numbers attending are growing; the venue for the Christmas Lunch was a little crowded probably due to me not wanting to turn anyone away, so we will have to be a little careful in the future and ask that everyone books by the due date.

I look forward to meeting you again at the next social event on Thursday 14th July which will be a lunch, followed by a daytime show by the Olde Tyme Players . This will be held at the Hoburne Bashley Holiday Centre New Milton in the New Forest. Numbers are restricted so please book early.

We do hope as many of you as possible will come to this event and further details will be issued shortly.

Paul Haddock Social Secretary

PS

If you can sell goods at an event, please contact Joan Finney; she has a garage partly full of goods to sell, and she needs the space!