



**A world free  
from MND**



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# NEWSLETTER



**“Congratulations to Eddie Redmayne for winning an #Oscar for playing me in The Theory of Everything Movie. Well done Eddie, I’m very proud of you.” - SH**

In January, volunteer Alana Hughes arranged for the Northern Ireland Branch to hold a collection at the Moviehouse Cinema, Dublin Road, Belfast at the screenings of **'The Theory of Everything'** which explores the relationship between Stephen Hawking and his first wife Jane. It focuses on the challenges of being a carer and partner to someone with this progressive condition. This film has put MND in the spotlight and Eddie Redmayne, who played Stephen Hawking, has received a multitude of well deserved awards including a BAFTA and an Oscar.

## Game for Anto

West Belfast man, Anto Finnegan has been working hard to raise awareness and funds for MND since he was diagnosed in August 2012.

He established the deterMND Trust which has raised thousands of pounds for MND through a series of events including gaelic matches, a mammoth charity cycle and walking alongside a team of MND supporters at last year’s Belfast marathon.

But the highlight of the work of the father-of-two has been the hugely successful ‘Game for Anto’ that was held at Kingspan Stadium, the home of Ulster rugby, in November 2014.

The former Antrim gaelic football captain galvanised the GAA community and over several months organised an historic match between Dublin and a select Ulster team.

Thousands of sports fans stood alongside politicians and members of the MND community to show their solidarity with Anto in his campaign to raise awareness and funds.



The unique challenge match was watched by a crowd of over 6,200 and thousands more at home as the match was broadcast by Setanta. At the last count the Game for Anto raised more than £68,000 and the funds will be used specifically for research into MND.

Anto was also honoured at the recent Belfast Telegraph Sports awards where he was presented with the Sport NI-sponsored ‘Local Heroes’ award for his charity work and training sessions he runs with youngsters at St Paul’s GAA club in west Belfast.

Antoinette McKeown, CEO of Sport NI and Tyrone GAA manager Mickey Harte presented him with the award.



## MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIRMAN

Welcome to the latest edition of the MNDANI Newsletter. We have had a busy time since the last edition as can be seen from the content and again thanks to all who supported us. Just a few highlights, the Ice Bucket challenge which ran riot over the summer raised the tremendous sum of £7 million in England, Wales and Northern Ireland and this is a major boost to the Association's finances and will allow us to bring forward a number of research and care schemes which were planned for the next decade. The 'Game for Anto' at the Kingspan Stadium raised £68,000 for research, hopefully here in Ireland.

In some of my previous articles I have stated that we would like to do more for those with MND and at last things are beginning to fall into place as we are having afternoon tea in Dobbies Garden Centre on Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> April 2015 and we hope as many of you as can will come along. We are grateful to Dobbies for making the premises available to us. Please see the advert in the newsletter for more details. We hope to do more of these in other areas later.

It is also AGM time again and we invite you all along to hear what is going on, don't worry you will not get a job unless you volunteer.

We also have plans to strengthen our presence in the North West so watch out if that is your patch for a series of meetings there.

Remember this is your Association we need your feedback to allow us to deliver the services you need.

Stephen



## Autoline's 40th Anniversary Fund

Autoline Insurance Group have launched a year-long series of fundraising initiatives and customer reward promotions to celebrate their milestone fortieth year in business. The independent broker, headquartered in Newry with branches across Northern Ireland invited charities from all different sectors to apply to receive £1,000 each from the 40th anniversary charity fund. With an overwhelming response, the Northern Ireland Branch of the MND Association are delighted to have been selected at random as one of those to benefit.

## Photo Gallery



The Chambers Family present funds raised from the sale of 'The Adventures of Henry'



Mrs Millar presents funds raised by her grandson Darren at a music festival in Enniskillen



Gelvin Community Group raised funds at Forsythe Bros. Open Day at their new hydroelectric plant

The Smith Family of Armagh who took part in a sponsored walk

Limavady Lions, Rugby, and Cricket Clubs present their donations



Members attend Belfast City Council





## Fancy a cuppa?

We have often been asked if there any opportunities to meet with others and when Dobbies at Lisburn offered us an area where we could meet for tea and a chat, we jumped at the chance to offer Afternoon Tea to people with MND, their family and carers.

We would love to see you at this first Afternoon Tea if you live close enough to attend. However we are hoping to provide similar opportunities in other parts of Northern Ireland.

**See the enclosed flyer for further details or visit our website**

[www.mndani.com](http://www.mndani.com)

**Please let Marie know if you plan to attend:**  
[marie@mndani.com](mailto:marie@mndani.com)

We invite you to join us for  
**Afternoon Tea**  
 at  
**Dobbies Garden Centre, Lisburn**  
*courtesy of the NI Branch*

Open to those with MND, families and carers  
 on  
 Tuesday 21st April 2:30pm  
 Finishing around 4pm



"There are few hours in life more agreeable than the ceremony known as **Afternoon Tea**"  
 — Henry James

## **Don't let these excuses stop you from going!**

1. I don't want to meet people worse than me - although if they are on the same journey who better to learn from, who knows maybe we could both gain!
2. I don't like formal meetings - to be fair the branch is planning Afternoon Tea and a chat.
3. They are only aimed at carers – they are actually aimed at helping carers, persons with MND, their families or anyone who has been affected by MND.
4. I'm too busy looking after someone to go to a meeting – talk to the branch, we may be able to help with this.
5. They are not held in a convenient location – the branch will try to hold them wherever there is a need, talk to the branch and we will do our best to get you there or come along and suggest a better location or time!
6. I'm washing my hair that day – This is not a one off chat, if this date does not suit then we intend to hold "chats" every two months.
7. They are a waste of time – yes, they may be but if they help anyone it will be worthwhile – what have you got to lose?



## GETTING MUDDY FOR MNDA!

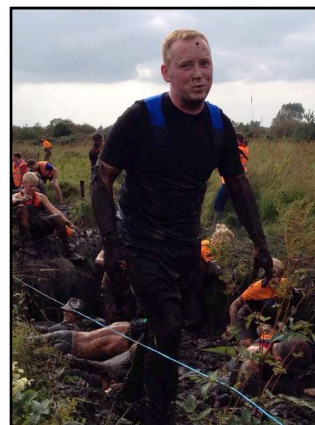
The NI Committee are always impressed at what our supporters will do to raise funds to support people living with MND but in recent months a number of people have got into the mud in the process.

**Dean Neeson** took part in Mud Madness to raise money for MNDA as well as two other charities.

**Eva Wilkinson** decided to have a go at the Tough Mudder in Dublin.

**Norah Gildernew, family and friends** took part in the 'Mud, Sweat & Tears' Challenge.

Also **Orlagh Cunningham** is planning to enter the Run Mucker Run event in April. We wish her luck!





## Christmas Fun at the North Coast



The annual festive fancy dress event organised by Ballycastle and Rural Riding Community saw over 30 horses and ponies take to the streets to raise money for MNDA NI.



On Christmas Day, Kate O'Loan accompanied by the rest of her family and the McElhone and O'Connor clans, took to the sea at Portstewart Strand to raise over £4,000. Kate's father passed away from MND ten years ago and her uncle has been diagnosed with the disease.

### MNDA Regional Conference

Sunday 19th April 2015

Radisson Blu Hotel, Manchester Airport

The new Regional Conferences replace the spring conferences of recent years and the programme this year includes:

- How we work to improve care.
- How we campaign for better services and raise awareness of MND.
- Latest developments in research.

There will also be exhibitions and the opportunity to meet and chat with other members.

If you are a person living with MND or their carer and are interested in attending please contact our secretary, Marie Holmes, who will help you make arrangements to attend.

[marie@mndani.com](mailto:marie@mndani.com) or 02892 699231

### Gospel Concert

**When?** 25th April 2015

**Where?** Elim Complex, Bangor  
Featuring Dana (Eurovision winner), Live Issue, and Karen Marsden. All proceeds to MNDANI.

Tickets can be purchased from:

- Bangor Faith Mission
- Ards Evangelical Book Shop
- Visitors Information Centre, Bangor

### MND Fun Day

Raising money and awareness of MND by having a day of fun adventures including Zip Lining and Paint balling!

**When?** May 2015

**Where?** Todd's Leap, Ballygawley

Contact Edel Fearon on 07794 433571 or visit

[www.toddsleap.com](http://www.toddsleap.com) for details

### MNDA NI Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 31st March

Lagan Valley Island Centre, Lisburn

7.30pm

Guest speaker Chris Wade  
(Director of Engagement)



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This is your newsletter so please let us have your contributions. These can be about fundraising, personal experiences; photographs of events and any other information that you think might be of interest to our members.

**Email:** [mndani@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:mndani@hotmail.co.uk)



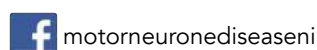
#### Need a Will?

**Andrew Taylor**, Solicitor, has offered to donate his fee to MNDA NI for every Will he writes if you mention MNDANI.

Contact his offices at:

Murphy Irwin & Co (Solicitors) Ltd, 14 Victoria Street, Ballymoney. BT53 6DW / 028 2766 2585

Anderson & Co, 2-4 Dunmore Street, Coleraine. BT52 1EL / 028 7034 3244



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The products and services mentioned or promoted should not be taken as recommendations by the Association, who cannot be held responsible should any complaint arise.

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