



# NEWSLETTER

## Alison Dick Retires

In December 2015 Alison Dick, MND Care Centre Co-ordinator, retired and the Northern Ireland Branch of the MND Association made a presentation to her in recognition of her service to people living with MND, their carers and their families. The position of NI Care Centre Co-ordinator was first established in 2004 and for the first three years was funded by the MND Association and subsequently she was employed by the Belfast Trust.



Alison held the position for nearly twelve years and during this time she has had contact with people who had been diagnosed with MND. Her lovely manner, knowledge of the disease and advice to people with MND, their carers and families was always very much appreciated by everyone who had contact with her.

## School Focus

In recent months a number of schools in NI have been fundraising and raising awareness. At Erne Integrated College, Enniskillen members of the Learning Together Programme from Year 12 participated in a Personal Well-Being and Enrichment Activity raising Awareness and Funds for MND. They held a Quiz, Bake Sale and Penalty Shootout Competition. Students at St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena selected MND Association for their presentation as part of the Youth & Philanthropy Project and won £3,000 for the NI Branch. Photograph from YPI.



Oakgrove Integrated Primary School held a Christmas Fair.



Barbour Nursery School, Lisburn held a sponsored cycle.



St Anne's Primary School, Derry held a Christmas Fair.

How about keeping SSShhhhh in your school? This year the MND Association is continuing with the Silence Speaks challenge and there will be a schools' pack available though the website [www.mndassociation.org](http://www.mndassociation.org)

## Message from our chairman

Welcome to yet another edition of our newsletter. Since I last wrote there have been more great fundraising and support events too many to list but I want to thank all those who have supported us. Unfortunately, we are losing two people from our organisation both of whom have made massive contributions to the cause of MND. Both ladies have decided to retire and we wish them a long and happy retirement.

The first is Alison Dick who has been with the Care Centre since its inception and has stamped her character upon the centre and will be a hard act to follow. Secondly, Helen McClean who has been

the Association's Regional Care Development Advisor for 18 years and was the driving force in not only the development of the Branch but also the establishment of the strong links with the statutory authorities and health care professionals. Recruitment for both positions are underway and we hope soon to welcome their replacements. Now to the future, we need more help to run the branch, there would be no major drain on your time but if you think that you could help email our secretary [marie@mndani.com](mailto:marie@mndani.com)

*Stephen*

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**0808 8026262**  
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## Campaign Update

I was excited to take on the role of Campaign Contact for the NI Branch last year, particularly as I was eager to be involved during the upcoming Assembly elections. We are lucky here that we have greater access to our politicians, and that healthcare is a devolved issue we can approach them about. 'If opportunity doesn't knock, build a door' – the policy makers won't know what we need until we ask them, and if we don't ask we won't get!

Join our Campaign Network at:  
<http://www.mndassociation.org/get-involved/campaigning-influencing/campaign-network/>



### **Every breath counts in Northern Ireland**

Ask your Assembly candidates to champion MND!

Take action from March 9th 2016 at [www.mndassociation.org/everybreath](http://www.mndassociation.org/everybreath)

In the upcoming Assembly election, we are highlighting the need for respiratory care for patients with MND, and asking election candidates to be champions for the cause. With your support we could really be heard at Stormont, and I would encourage anyone who can to get involved. You can give as little or as much of your time, but you'll definitely be making a difference!

*Alana Hughes*

NI Branch Campaign Contact



*Say 'Cheese'!*

# Photo Gallery



Stephen Thompson receives donation from Autoline's '£40K for 40 charities' challenge.



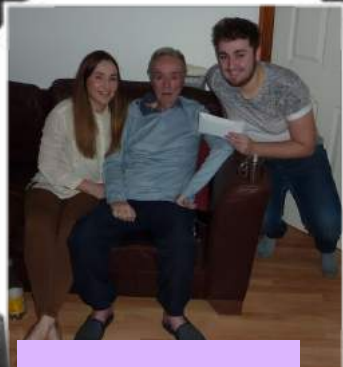
Angeline Rees abseiled at Croke Park in memory of her father Eamon McAnuff



Ballycastle Annual Santa Pony Ride



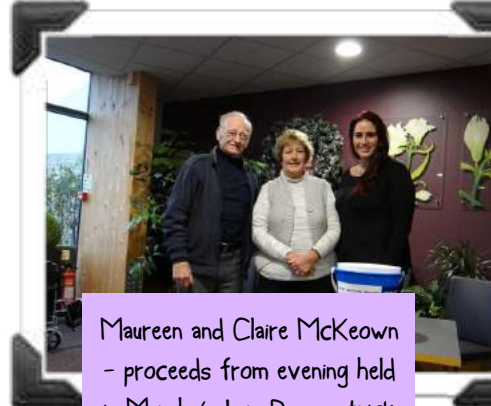
Ann Henning held a coffee day in her home



Cassidy family who took part in Belfast marathon



Mother's Union from Branry, Caledon and Killylea proceeds from Christmas Fair



Maureen and Claire McKeown - proceeds from evening held in Murphy's bar, Downpatrick



Anne Sleith who completed the 'Lap the Lough'



Dobbies Afternoon Tea

**GOLFING MATTERS**

Thank you to various captains in Clondeboy Golf Club (Ladies), Donaghadee Golf Club (Ladies) and Kilkeel Golf Club who have chosen MNDA NI as their charity for the year.

**BELFAST MARATHON**

Belfast Marathon on Monday 2nd May 2016  
 A number of people have already informed us they are planning to take part including two brothers and two sisters of the McCamphill family along with Darren McMillan and Pauline Blaney.

Ask Arthur...

**Fancy being involved in research?**

The Association has created a list of people with MND who are interested in taking part in research. Inclusion in this list is optional and does not guarantee that you will be included in future research projects.

Please note: Very few researchers will be looking for people to take part in clinical trials of potential new treatments. If you join the MND Research List, you are most likely to be invited to participate in studies that aim to improve understanding of the disease or generate evidence to help raise standards of care. For more information go to the MND Association website [www.mndassociation.org](http://www.mndassociation.org) and click on the link 'research'.



**AFTERNOON TEAS**

This year we are continuing with our Afternoon Tea meetings but we are starting a new group for past carers.

**Have you cared for someone with MND?**

The first meeting is in **Dobbies Garden Centre** in **Tuesday 19th April at 2.30pm** and we hope anyone who has cared for someone with MND will come along and join us for a lovely Afternoon Tea and a chat.

Email [marie@mndani.com](mailto:marie@mndani.com) or call 07561 361556 to let us know if you are planning to attend.



**Contact us...**



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NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH  
of the MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE  
ASSOCIATION

invites you to the

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

which will be held on

**Wednesday 6th April 2016** in the

Lagan Valley Island Centre, Lisburn

at 7.30 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKER: **Sally Light**, Chief Executive MND Association.

RSVP to [marie@mndani.com](mailto:marie@mndani.com)

**Become a member**

You can join online at [www.mndassociation.org/membership](http://www.mndassociation.org/membership) or contact out branch secretary, Marie Holmes, for an application form on 07561361556 or email [marie@mndani.com](mailto:marie@mndani.com)

Remember membership is **free** for people living with MND and their carers.

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)



@mndani\_ni



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