

### MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRMAN



It is sad to recall it was only in the last issue of Chatter that I thanked Peter for all he had done to help me with the handover in taking over from him as Chairman. A fitting tribute to Peter follows this message.

Much has been said and written about Kevin Sinfield's astonishing effort in running seven marathons in seven days to raise funds for Rob Burrow and his family, and MNDA. Kevin participated in a web chat following each run and Jenn invited me to take part in one of those. It was a privilege to be able to talk at some length about the work of the Branch and explain our role. Jenn attended all the web chats and it was clear she has developed a great rapport with Kevin and Rob and all the support team. It was wonderful to see, as the week progressed, how Kevin and Rob have embraced the work of MNDA. Kevin said again and again how proud he was to run in the MNDA vest, and wear a MNDA snood. Money is still coming in, and as a result of all the publicity many more people are now interested in and better informed about MND, and want to help. The task now is to engage with these people, and find ways in which we can keep them interested and utilise their enthusiasm. As you will read later, some people have been inspired to take on challenges of their own.

The Branch Constitution provides our AGM should be held by the end of February. Last year MNDA advised branches to cancel their AGM. This year branches have been given a discretion to decide when and how and if an AGM should be held. The Branch Committee favours holding an AGM, but later in the year when hopefully it will be possible for members to meet together. An online meeting by Zoom would be impracticable for some members. The situation will be kept under review in the knowledge that the vaccine programme offers hope of a new normality. I look forward to meeting members in person later in the year.

### A TRIBUTE TO PETER THOMPSON BY FELLOW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

As many of you will know our previous Chairman Peter Thompson died in mid December 2020. We felt this edition of Chatter – one of his passions as Chair – could not be sent out without a mention of his service to the Association. Peter joined Yorkshire Dales Branch around 1995 after an initial diagnosis of MND, which was later reviewed and altered. He was Chair of the Branch from 1997/98 until 2004 and then again from 2015 until 2020.

One of our AVs Libby writes "Peter was chairman of the Branch when I joined in 2005 and it was immediately obvious how dedicated he was to the cause of the Yorkshire Dales Branch. He was very organised and involved in everything the Branch did to raise money for the Branch and raise awareness of MND. His enthusiasm didn't waiver even when he wasn't chairman, but stayed on the committee. He was always very welcoming to everyone whether it was new committee members or people and their families with MND. A devoted family man, with three grandchildren, Peter's other passions were cricket and Harrogate Choral society. Anyone trying to fix a date in the diary had to work round the dates of cricket matches and Choral concerts!"

Our Treasurer Geoff wholeheartedly endorses Libby's words and adds "He had a terrific sense of humour and was always ready to have a laugh, but woe betide anyone presenting a document with punctuation, grammatical or other errors – he was a stickler for detail, especially capital letters in all the right places!"

And finally from Sal Hastings MNDA Service Development Manager "Peter's strength lay in forging links with others, whether it was event organisers, staff or with new members of the committee who came on board, Peter inspired collaborations that were loyal and long lasting. He was a gentleman. Seeing him in action, one was initially struck by how very organised and efficient he was, but as time went on one saw his gentle, irreverent humour and the easy rapport he enjoyed with his wife Margaret and the rest of the committee. He was a loyal and true supporter of the work of the MND Association and a lovely, twinkly person. He will be much missed."





We watched the cash & miles grow. I had an online sale of cycling kit & bits that I would no longer need (had already raised £70 that way for a friend whose actual LEJOG was cancelled so she did the miles in daily rides in Yorkshire Dales) and so the summer passed. In other years the hot windless days would have been a dream but this year I was yearning for a breeze & shade !

In this 'COVID-19' era the virtual challenges are so good in many ways not least giving purpose to otherwise

solitary everyday activity & now it's nearly Christmas 2020 I look back on the Virtual LEJOG recalling the hot days searching for shade, no breeze on a static, watching the frogs for hours in our little pond, Maisie our Cockerpoo wondering why I was sat there not playing with her, the time I fell off because I had not clamped the rear wheel properly, the U tube music, cycle documentaries the epic grand tour stages all the while studying the numbers on the Garmin ( cycle computer) & the best the tea & cake & the satisfying ' buzz' of exercise! & Janet's "how many miles to day ? ....well done !"



## WINNERS OF RECENT 100 CLUB DRAWS

At our Branch Meeting held (online by Zoom) in December we drew three more winners and they are.

October – Orla Byrne / November – Jack Gilmartin / December – Jessica White



Well done all three, we will be drawing winners for January, February and March at our Branch Meeting on 9<sup>th</sup> March, then we will be starting a new season!

## FUNDRAISING UPDATE

You may recall in the last edition our Association fundraising lady Jenn Dodd was in the process of joining people around the country to run at least 125 miles finishing with a marathon around Ripon on 18<sup>th</sup> October. This was part of Mission 5000 and her miles were added into the national total, aiming for 5000 miles. Here are a few photos, Jenn raised £1375 for the Association - well done!



Photos include Jenn with running club mates, during and after and some loyal supporters from the Y Dales group

## BRANCH WEBSITE AND OTHER INFORMATION

Please let us know if you would like to publish something on either our facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/MNDYorkshiredales> or our website [www.mndyorkshiredales.co.uk](http://www.mndyorkshiredales.co.uk) . Or perhaps you might like to contribute to Chatter? It would be lovely to publish something from one of our members - just send your article to Ruth Pridmore

Can you help us save money by sending you paperwork by email instead of the Royal Mail?  
If you have an email address just let Ruth know and she will add it to the database.

### Branch Contacts

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