



**MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION**  
**NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH NEWLETTER**

Branch Helpline - (028) 933 42040  
NI Website [www.mndani.com](http://www.mndani.com)  
NI email [MNDANI@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:MNDANI@hotmail.co.uk)  
National Website [www.mndassociation.org](http://www.mndassociation.org)

A warm welcome to you all. This is the first newsletter published by the MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH. My name is Stephen Thompson and the reason for this newsletter is to keep you informed as to the happenings and activities of the Branch and its supporters.

Firstly let me tell you a bit about the branch, the branch exists to ensure that all persons with MND in NI get the best care and support possible, we help to ensure that the Care Centre is adequately financed and we also support as much research into the causes and cures of MND as we can.

So how do we do this? Well we have a small committee, of which I am honoured to be Chairman, who all try to coordinate these activities. We work with fund raising groups to gather funds to support our work, and of course we have our Regional Care Development Advisor Helen McLean, who has contact with anyone who needs specialist advice or help, she works closely with Alison Dick in the Care Centre. If you need help you can rely on these ladies to do all they can or you can contact me directly on the Branch Helpline - (028) 933 42040.

## So who are the MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH?

Stephen Thompson, Margaret McElfatrick, John Hurson, June Duddy, Geraldine McWilliams and Darren Cheevers. There will be more on them in the coming newsletters.

Now we cannot do all we do without money and we are eternally grateful to all the individuals and groups who do all manner of things to raise funds, we have had walkers, swimmers, dancers, divers, vintage tractor shows and various car clubs, party organisers, play producers and many more things bringing in the cash.

We are always in need of help, and you may feel you can do something however small to help us, there are lots of ways.

1. Join the Association, if you are a person with MND it is free, otherwise the membership fee is an annual fee of £12. If you require a form please contact us directly.
2. Come along to a meeting like the AGM which is @ Belfast Castle on Sunday 30th March in the Ashley Room starting at 4pm. Don't worry you won't get a job unless you really want one!! Although we do have need for a treasurer at the moment, it's not too onerous a task.
3. Have one of our collecting boxes for your loose change or better still ask your friends, local shop, workplace, pub or wherever to take one. If you want one Ring Darren on 07871957278.
4. Support a fund raising event in your area, we have shown some later in this newsletter. Or better still run an event yourselves, it doesn't have to be big, a coffee morning, sponsored walk anything.

We are here to help and advise, get you T shirts etc. Ring the branch helpline - (028) 933 42040. So why not give us a little support.



Also we have our own Website which is in its infancy but over the coming months it will provide all the details and activities from the NI branch.

So why not have a look - NI Website [www.mndani.com](http://www.mndani.com)

You can also contact us via email at [MNDANI@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:MNDANI@hotmail.co.uk)

### Details of 2008 Events

The Branch is very happy to be linked with Mr Davy Boyle from Coleraine for 2008. Davy may not be a name known to all but in the Northwest he is widely known for his charity work. This year along with 3 other charities the MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH will benefit from Davys hard work. So take a look below and if you are in the area or wish to take part contact us at the branch for more details

- 15th March Tesco Coleraine 9-6.
- 20th March Bag pack in Tesco Ballymoney.
- 24th March B+Q Coleraine TBC.
- 3rd May Jail Break - details TBC.
- 30th May British Legion Ballymoney Dance - details TBC.
- 7th June Tesco Ballymoney 9-6.
- 28th June Sainsburys Coleraine 8-6.
- 26th July Asda Coleraine 9- 6.
- 25th September Railway Arms Pub Quiz - details TBC.
- 27th September sponsored walk - Coleraine to Portrush and Portstewart and back.
- Friday 3rd Oct Concert in the Town Hall by the 7 Towers Choir - £6 per ticket, hall holds 360.
- 8th - 24th December Sit out - Coleraine Town Centre



**Committee Member Darren Cheevers**  
**does his bit for the Fight against MND**

This year I will be taking part in 3 events to help raise awareness of MND. It's a lot in terms of pushing myself but the end result for outweighs the downsides.

The events are:

1. Belfast Marathon - May 08
2. Ballyronan Triathlon - date TBC
3. Sponsored Cycle London to the champagne district, Reims - September 08

If you're interested in either joining me or giving up some of the hard earned cash for a good cause then drop me a mail at the MND email address [MNDANI@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:MNDANI@hotmail.co.uk), check out my blog on how it's all going [www.bebo.com/cheekyboy9](http://www.bebo.com/cheekyboy9) or you can contact me on 07871957278.

**Committee Member John Hurson and the**  
**WALK TO d'feet MND**

Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> June is the date set for our "Walk To D'feet MND". This year, the location is Stormont, where we will walk from the gates to the steps of Stormont Parliament. This will take place at 3pm.

This popular event will be an easy and enjoyable way for anyone to play a part in raising funds and awareness towards taking a step closer to realising our vision - A World Free of MND!

For further information, and to receive a sponsorship form, contact John Hurson on (028) 877 29997, or 07875 396 335. You can also request a sponsorship form through our web site [www.mndni.com](http://www.mndni.com)



We will be joined on the walk by our branch Patrons, Conor Grimes and Alan McKee, stars of the BBC 1 "Tractor Show". Each registered walker will receive a Walk To D'feet T shirt, and a certificate on the day.

So dust off the walking shoes and join us for a fantastic event.

### **So up for a challenge?**

Then get involved with Davy, Darren, John and the MOTOR NEURONE DISEASE ASSOCIATION NORTHERN IRELAND BRANCH and help in the fight against MND.

Please note

If you would not like to receive this quarterly newsletter in the future then please reply to the MND team on our hotmail address.

If you received this by post and would like to receive it by email please contact the MND team on our hotmail address.