

## Isle of Wight Branch

Charity No: 294354

Spring 2017

### *New President For the Isle of Wight Branch*



Our new President, Gioia Minghella-Giddens, is the eldest daughter of Edward and Gloria Minghella, our much-missed former President, who died in 2014. Born on the Isle of Wight, Gioia had what she recalls a very happy childhood, centred around her parents' thriving business in Ryde and with a close family bond that extended to her aunts, uncles and cousins, who were very important figures in her life.

When Gioia's beloved "Auntie Nora" (Leonora Verrecchia) was diagnosed with MND at the age of 29, it was an enormous blow to the whole family and Gioia describes how the experience of accompanying her aunt on the 20-year journey of her life with MND had an enormous impact on them all. They resolved to do whatever they could, in their own small way, to help other families in the same situation. Islanders will remember how Anthony Minghella, Gioia's brother, the celebrated Film Director, would bring home his films (including his Oscar-winning epic, *The English Patient*) for special fund-raising Gala screenings organised by his mother in memory of Leonora. Other special events organised by Gloria and supported by Anthony included a memorable outing, attended by some 50 Islanders, to see his highly-acclaimed production of *Madam Butterfly* at the English National Opera in London, with a private reception attended by Jude Law, amongst others. These occasions were joyful celebrations that gave the family enormous pride, the audiences much pleasure, and raised large sums of money for MND Association funds.

Gioia, who is married and a former teacher, now runs the family ice cream business with her husband, Richard. Like her mother, she is also President of the IW Festival of Music, Dance and Drama as well as Ryde Historic Society. She readily admits that her

mother is 'a very hard act to follow' and says: 'I was so proud to be asked by our wonderful Committee to become President of the IW Branch of MND Association. It's a real honour to be part of such a committed, hard-working and selfless group of people whose extraordinary efforts make such a difference to Island people living with MND and their families, as well as helping to fund vital research into what causes MND and, indeed, the hope of a possible treatment for it.'

### *Isle of Wight Council Vote Unanimously To Adopt MND Charter*

On 18<sup>th</sup> January 2017 members of the Isle of Wight Branch of the MND Association attended a full Council meeting to request that the Isle of Wight Council vote to adopt the MND Charter.

The meeting was the culmination of many months of work to raise awareness among members of the council as to the challenges faced by people living with MND and their carers. Below is what we asked:

*The Isle of Wight Branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association would like to request that the Isle of Wight Council adopt the MND Charter in order to positively influence the lives of people living with MND and their loved ones within the local community.*

*While the much needed research is carried out to find treatment and eventually a cure for MND, in the meantime we must focus on the support those suffering with MND receive, which should be the right care, in a setting of their choice, and in the best possible timescales.*

*The MND Charter is made up of 5 points:*

- 1. The right to an early diagnosis and information.***
- 2. The right to access quality care and treatments.***
- 3. The right to be treated as individuals and with dignity and respect.***
- 4. The right to maximise their quality of life.***
- 5. Carers of people with MND have the right to be valued, respected, listened to and well-supported.***

*While councils aren't responsible for everything outlined in the MND Charter, they are a vital part of the jigsaw. Various decisions made by local councillors can have significant impact regarding the services and*

*care available for people with MND, such as social care, housing adaptations and support for carers.*

*When services are provided in a timely person-centred way, this has a hugely positive impact on the person with MND and their family.*

We are thrilled to say that Councillors voted unanimously to adopt the Charter. This brings the Isle of Wight in line with other Councils along the south coast. Now that the Charter has been adopted the Branch will work hard to develop and maintain links with those responsible for making decisions.

What a fantastic result!



**MND Members in the Public Gallery at the Meeting**

### *Dinner/Dance At The Lakeside Hotel*

As previously reported, the East Medina Lodge No 175 held a Dinner & Dance in November 2015 at The Lakeside Country Park Hotel, Wootton in the Kingfisher Suite in aid of the MND Association, Isle of Wight Branch.

We are delighted to say that during the year East Medina Lodge raised the fantastic sum of £2,304.00 which has enabled us to purchase one Day Care Couch and two Heavy Duty Recliner Chairs, already being used at the Earl Mountbatten Hospice, John Cheverton Centre.

This equipment, and in particular the Day Care Couch, will be invaluable to our patients with motor neurone disease. Thank you so very much Paul St John Jacobs and everyone at East Medina Lodge for choosing us as your charity for the year

### *West Wight Team*



Joyce Rice and her invaluable team of volunteers (photo left) raise money for MND three times a year in Freshwater and Yarmouth (see back page for 2017 dates). Last year they amassed the fantastic sum of £2,530.00 to help people living on the Isle of Wight with this devastating disease. Thank you so very much the West Wight Team.

### *Spinnaker Tower Abseil*

Rosemary Richens who abseiled the Spinnaker Tower on Fathers Day last June in memory of her Dad, who she lost to MND, has fond memories of the 'Day' and 'would do it all again' she said, although will probably undertake a new challenge when next raising funds for the Isle of Wight Branch. Well done Rosemary, we are most grateful to you for the £1,072.88 raised and we wish you a very happy retirement.



**Smiling Rosemary descending the Tower**

### *Wolverton Manor Garden Fair*

On 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> September 2016 the Isle of Wight Branch Committee decided to take a stall at the ever popular Wolverton Manor Garden Fair in Shorwell to help raise awareness of MND in that area of the Island. We couldn't have picked a worse weekend 'weather-wise'! Our Gazebo was erected on Friday but required anchoring down to make sure the wind didn't whisk it away – others were not so lucky. The two-day event opened on the Saturday and although there were a few showers, overall the crowds were not deterred. The show continued on Sunday with a few hints of sunshine.

We had some plants, various lovely crafts handmade by our Treasurer and Association Visitor, Ann Marchant, and a nice selection of bunting made by another committee member, Linda Griffiths. Our most popular attraction was the water and wine area of our stall where full bottles of wine and empty wine bottles filled with water are wrapped in newspaper and visitors invited to take their pick for a £2.00 donation in the hope of picking a full bottle of wine!

All in all it was a very successful weekend raising £373.38 to help local people living with MND on the Isle of Wight.

## *Race Night in Memory of Roger*

In October a Race Night was held in memory of Roger Griffiths who died from MND 10 years ago.

Roger's wife and daughter wanted to hold an event to mark the anniversary and felt it should be a fun evening which would raise money for the Branch and also be something Roger would have enjoyed very much. They decided a Race Night would be a fitting tribute.

The evening was brilliantly hosted by Keith Lane. It was very well attended by friends, family, branch members and supporters. Everyone quickly got into the swing of buying horses, placing bets, cheering on the runners and most importantly collecting their winnings!

The evening was a great success and people's generosity raised a fabulous £632.55! It was so much fun that Linda and Ali have decided that it will become an annual event. They hope to see you all in October 2017.

## *Boxing Day Swim!*

Duncan from Ryde has MND. Family members Georgia, Anoushka, Norma and Ed (pictured below) wanted to raise money to support the Isle of Wight Branch and were courageous enough to take on the Boxing Day Swim in Ventnor.

Luckily it was a mild sunny day last December, but that made it no less of a challenge. At midday they bravely held hands and ran into the cold water. After a brief dip they soon ran out of the freezing cold water and with this great effort raised £447 in sponsorship. We thank you all so very much – a family in a million!



## *13<sup>th</sup> Antiques Fair Northwood House*

The 13<sup>th</sup> annual charity Antiques Fair, held to raise vital funds for the Isle of Wight Branch of the Motor Neurone Disease Association was hailed a great success by sisters Doreen Gant and Jennie Lewis who organise the Fair in loving memory of their Mum who died of MND in 2002.

A total of £1,615.13 was raised and this sum will remain on the Island to support local people. A record number of people came through the door – over 500 –

which helped to contribute to the funds raised, along with generous donations from Cowes Employees Charity Fund at Bae Systems and Vectis Sunrise Rotary Club – the latter also provided help on the day by taking entrance money.

The Antiques Fair was once again sponsored by Hose Rhodes Dickson who in the run up to the Fair, not only provided financial support to help with running costs, but also paid for advertising, posters and banners.



Rex Gully, a respected auctioneer with Hose Rhodes Dickson, gave freely of his time to come along and carry out free valuations with some high-ticket items being valued.

Marks and Spencer in Cowes made a generous donation of Tea/Coffee and biscuits which all helped to keep stallholders and visitors alike going during the Fair. Also, the staff and volunteers at Northwood House provided a first class service as usual, and bent over backwards to cope with our usual changing requirements.

Doreen and Jennie were supported by committee members Trisha Jepson and Linda Griffiths and our President, Gioia Minghella-Giddens, attended with her husband to show support. One special mention must go to Doreen's youngest son Ellis Gant, who was an absolute stalwart on the day and performed any task asked of him by his Mum and Auntie.

Doreen proudly noted 'there are not many young boys of Ellis' age who have such a passion for such a worthy cause, and he is always keen to help with our fundraising events and raising awareness. Doreen added that as MND receives more publicity, people are becoming more aware of this awful disease and how indiscriminately it affects people from all walks of life. We continue to be so very grateful for all the support we receive'.

## *Isle of Wight Festival Tickets*

The Island Branch of the MND Association was selected as a chosen charity to receive two free Weekend Tickets for the 2017 Isle of Wight Festival in June. These will be used to raise vital funds for the Branch.

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2017 **MND Association AGM** - Newclose Cricket Ground – 6.30–9.30pm  
Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June 2017 **Co-op Store Collection** - Shanklin  
Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> June 2017 **Co-op Store Collection** - Shanklin  
Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> June 2017 **MND Summer Fayre** - Northwood Primary School – 12.00-4.00pm  
Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2017 **Morrisons Store Collection** - Lake  
Friday 7<sup>th</sup> July 2017 **Sainsbury's Store Collection** - Cowes  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> July 2017 **Sainsbury's Store Collection** - Cowes  
Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> July - Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> August 2017 **Cowes Week Street Collection**  
Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> August 2017 **Table Top Sale** - Yarmouth Town Hall - 10.00am – 1.00pm  
Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>/3<sup>rd</sup> September 2017 **Wolverton Manor Garden Fair** - Shorwell - 10.00am – 4.00pm  
Saturday October 2017 Date/Time to be Advised **Race Night** – East Cowes  
Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 2017 **Christmas Fair** – Memorial Hall, Freshwater - 10.00am – 1.00pm  
December 2017 **Brighstone Christmas Tree Festival** - Date to be Advised  
December 2017 EMH/JCC **Christmas Fayre** – Date/Time to be Advised

### Fundraising And Donations

Doreen and Jacq Gant Spinnaker Tower abseil	£943.75
Lucy Keyzor and Team Great South Run	£400.00
Jose Browning and Team	£340.00
Store Collections	£1,313.39
Cowes Week Street Collection	£933.44
EMH John Cheverton Centre Xmas Fair	£191.50
Daisy Rich Trust	£1,000.00
Edgar Ralph Dore	£200.00
Island Keep Fit Club	£607.07
Chillerton Community Sale	£428.70
Lilian's Open Garden Freshwater	£232.35
Brighstone Tree Festival	£185.44
Hunnyhill School Silence Speaks	£188.00
Mr Baker's Dozen Morris Dancers	£200.00

**With grateful thanks to all donors and fundraisers**

### MND Association

#### Isle of Wight Branch Committee

##### President

Gioia Minghella-Giddens

##### Chair

Jennie Lewis

##### Vice Chair

Alison Griffiths

##### Treasurer

Ann Marchant

##### Secretary

April Gaden

##### Committee Members

Pam Crouch

Doreen Gant

Linda Griffiths

Tricia Jepson

Maureen Martinez

Joyce Rice

**Association Visitors:** Ann Marchant  
Maureen Martinez

**Branch Contact:** Maureen Martinez  
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**IW Website:** [www.mndiw.org.uk](http://www.mndiw.org.uk)

##### National Office MND Connect

Tel: 0808 802 6262

Website: [www.mndassociation.org](http://www.mndassociation.org)