

MNDA SW Surrey Branch

Newsletter May 2014

Thanks to all who attended the AGM last month. It was a momentous occasion, celebrating the Silver Anniversary of the Branch, and dealing with the news that Sallie Bushen (Chair), Ros Bennett (Secretary) and Ray Corver (Treasurer) were all standing down from the roles they have filled so successfully for many, many years. We were sorry to hear their news, but understand they all have good reasons for having to call it a day, and bid them farewell with immense gratitude and our best wishes for the future.

Fortunately, we had enough volunteers to join the management committee to ensure that we can continue as a branch. Joining us are Joan Hornett, who has served many years as an Association Visitor, and will be acting as branch Secretary, and Alvin Hale, who is a recent carer and has experience in the financial world, which qualifies him beautifully to take over the role of Treasurer. Lucia Woodward, also an experienced AV, was unable to be present at the AGM (she was in Nepal where she is doing great work setting up MND services from scratch!), but had expressed an interest in joining the committee, and she has now been co-opted.

Also joining us is Alison Husaunndee, who is another recent carer. Many of us remember her late husband Ahmed who used to attend branch meetings for many years.

The committee has decided that I should attempt to act as Chair, certainly for the time being. By way of introduction; my wife and brother-in-law were both lost to familial MND, so for the sake of the rest of the family, I am pretty motivated to see the end of this cursed disease. Branch Chair is not a position I have sought, but somebody's got to do it! I certainly don't regard myself as being an adequate replacement for Sallie, but I'll try to learn the ropes as fast as possible, using her as my consultant I suspect quite a lot!

So: the SW Surrey Branch continues, and your new committee intends to keep all the activities going as before for the foreseeable future. MND has not yet been defeated, and our 'customers' still need our help. Please continue to support the Branch; turn up to events and meetings, buy raffle tickets, stand on street corners with collecting tins, join the Thumbs-up Club (which Sallie will continue to run), spread the word, and do whatever you can to help us continue the work which Sallie, Ros, Ray and all the pioneers started a quarter of a century ago.

See you at the next meeting!

Best Wishes,

Bob