

Parkinson's UK Edinburgh Branch 2004 AGM Presentation by Chairman, Ron Partington

The Chairman welcomed all of those present, with special reference to Teresa Mullen, Southern Development Worker, from Scottish Resource Centre, Perth, Gina Allen, Community Support Worker and Margaret Beard, Accounts Consultant.

The Chairman then introduced the committee members who were present, W. Allenby, (Treasurer) Pat Stewart, (Secretary) Liz McBain (Activities) P. Mark, (Trustee for Scotland) A Dunbar and M. Seager. One committee member has retired; G Fraser and the Chairman thanked him for his dedicated service over many years in several roles.

The Branch has had a busy year in developing services for members. After my introduction I will ask members of the committee to make reports on various aspects of our work.

A year ago we spoke about the Needs Analysis Project being undertaken by Paisley University, which had been initiated by the Branch and paid for by the Branch. This work has been completed and Patrick Mark will make comment on the outcome, together with the subsequent action taken to increase PDNS and CSW help in the area. In addition he will be commenting on the forward strategy for developing support for PWP's and carers in S.E. Scotland, which is one of the priorities of the Society in Scotland.

The Edinburgh Parkinson's Assessment Clinic

This continues to be funded by the Bertram Trust for running costs and by the Branch for other expenditure, such as small items of equipment. There have been a number of changes in personnel over the year and the new therapists have made a big effort to create an effective new team and to work with the Branch in our endeavours successfully.

The Activities Club

This continues to thrive under the direction of Liz and Bill McBain. An enormous amount of work has been done to organise the various activities, which have attracted good support from members. Liz will give shortly, an account of what has occurred and how she was able to secure some funding under the CREATE IT scheme, part of the Millennium Fund.

Two Life Style/Chronic illness courses have been run at the Thistle Foundation Centre. Both have been highly successful. Funding again has been secured under the CREATE IT scheme.

An 8 weeks course for carers was held in the autumn at the offices of VOCAL. Again we have been working in partnership with VOCAL to put on the course, which was rated beneficial for those able to attend. Gina Allen was much involved in the preparatory work and the delivery of the course contents. It is intended to have another similar course there in September. In addition we intend to have a one day seminar for new carers in East Lothian and West Lothian. A third one day meeting for longer term carers is being planned for Edinburgh.

Increasing Membership has been an on going priority and there has been modest success in that numbers have increased from 289 to 302 ie 4%.

STRATEGY for the BRANCH:

Patrick Mark outlined the Committees priorities for 2003-2004 and onwards. Following a review of the Paisley report, certain themes emerged:

A need to achieve a more integrated service structure for Parkinson's, with a clear pathway and proper access to services which people needed.

More attention to 'Non Motor' issues such as sleep, depression etc. The lifestyle course at the Thistle was an important resource to help with this.

Employment of a second CSW to share the load with Gina Allen.

Progress towards a further PDNS to spread the load carried by Alison Stewart.

Ensuring that the branch's activities were relevant and helpful to all of the Parkinson community – young and old, and people with different problems, different areas of need, etc.

Raising the profile of PD in the Health Board so as to attract resources and interest in the condition.

ACTIVITIES: The Activities Club continues to develop under the hard work of Liz and Bill McBain.

DROP-IN CENTRE: Report made by M Seager.

TREASURER' S REPORT.

ELECTION of OFFICE BEARERS:

Chairman; P Mark

Vice-Chairman: V.Young.

Secretary; P. Stewart.

Treasurer; R Marzec/W Allenby.

There being no other nominations the above were elected unanimously.

ELECTION of COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

L McBain, M. Seager, R Partington, H. Jamieson, A. Dunbar, Mrs C Quinn, Mrs D Harkiss were nominated for committee and as there were no other nominations they were duly elected. More committee members are still needed to have a balanced representation of the membership.

EVENTS PROGRAMME:

This runs from September to April and has had a number of interesting speakers and activities, including Dr Brian Pentland, Ross Grieve of the Thistle Foundation, the Mercators Drama Group, the International Rescue Corp and a presentation on 'Behind the Scenes at Holyrood Palace'. The programme will be continued in the future, but we want suggestions for speakers please.

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FUTURE POINTS;

Developing a closer working relationship with the Haddington Support Group and helping them with the purchase of a computer.

Educational seminar for representatives of Nursing and Residential Homes is planned.

AOCB: Thanks to helpers, Cathie Quinn now convenor of the Coffee morning and for the support of the Christmas carol service and party. Also to all those who give of their time in serving tea and biscuits at the events programme over the year, as well as supporting the coffee morning so competently. In addition, Elma Crosbie for the excellent job of selling Christmas cards and notelets.