

Parkinson's UK Edinburgh Branch 2007 AGM Presentation by Hon Chair, Patrick Mark

STRATEGY for the BRANCH 2006-2007 was:

- Progress towards a further PDNS to spread the load carried by Alison Stewart.
- A need to achieve a more integrated service structure for Parkinson's, with a clear pathway and proper access to services which people needed. Eg SIGN Guidelines
- Raising the profile of PD in the Health Board so as to attract resources and interest in the condition.
- More attention to 'Non Motor' issues such as sleep, depression etc.
- Ensuring that the branch's activities are relevant and helpful to all of the Parkinson's community – young and old, and people with different problems, different areas etc.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported that the branch had had another busy and successful year.

- *Discussions had been held with Dr Maguire and NHS Lothian regarding additional PDNS, but no progress had been achieved to date.*
- *The PDS Mobile Resource unit had been used by the branch in the Edinburgh area for eight days during the year; over this period it was visited by over 100 people with Parkinson's or their family.*
- *Drop-in Centres at Royal Victoria and Drummond Grange continued to meet on a monthly basis, and were well attended.*
- *Two Life Style management courses, funded by the branch, were run by the Thistle Foundation for people with Parkinson's. The follow up maintenance group also continued to meet.*
- *The Edinburgh Parkinson's Assessment Clinic (E.P.A.C) at the RV, funded by the branch, continued to review people's therapy needs,*
- ***Activities Group***
This has continued to develop strongly, with bowling, swimming, Yoga and activity evenings all being popular activities. It is a key part of the branch philosophy of encouraging exercise – both physical and mental - as a way of improving personal wellbeing.

Donations

We are most grateful for all donations to help the Branch's work.

Membership

As there are probably more than 1,500 people with Parkinson's in the Lothian area we need to continue our efforts to encourage new members.

MRU project

In April and September 2006 the PDS Scotland Mobile Resource Unit visited Edinburgh for 8 days. It was manned by Gina Allen, the Edinburgh CSW, assisted by a team of branch members.

The aim was to reach those People with Parkinson's (PwPs) and their families who were not aware of the PDS.

Many people visited the unit and all obtained information about Parkinson's Disease and the work of PDS.

We plan to repeat the project in April and September 2007.

Newsletter

Thanks to the editorial work of Diana.

Drop-in Centre groups

The drop-ins at the **Royal Victoria Hospital** and **Drummond Grange** continue to be very successful and are very well attended.

RVH – Cathie Quinn, Betsy Brunton.

Drummond Grange – Dennis Arduis, Kate Mark.

The Edinburgh Parkinson's Assessment Clinic

Continues to be funded by the Bertram Trust for running costs and by the Branch for other expenditure, such as small items of equipment.

Dance

Possibility of setting up a dance group?

Thanks to Helpers:

Committee, Hon Treasurer, particularly Hon Secretary

Activity Organisers

Refreshment team

Probably well over 25 people involved in keeping branch going

Thank them all on your behalf

But we need more – activity limited by number of activists

Committee, activity organisers, administration, planning, publicity.....

Family & friends to help??

if you can help, please contact me or any member of the committee.

Volunteers needed to run

POSSIBLE FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Dance Class

Hydrotherapy sessions

Carer's course

Administration of St Cuthbert's Meetings: Correspondence with speakers and Church, booking and liaison with Church.

Publicity and Communications

Press, magazine and Radio contact
Advertising
Leaflet production
Write stories

Membership Development

Organise membership awareness campaigns

Welfare Co-ordinator

Liaison with Secretary and CSWs on welfare issues
Befriending policy

Transport Co-ordinator

Organise transport assistance for members to get to activities and meetings where there are difficulties.

Young Persons Activity Organiser

To identify young PWP in Lothian and discover what activities and help the Branch can provide for them