

# MS Society Foyle Branch

## Development Officer Report to AGM 25 May 2010

### Information and Advice

I have dealt with 1,705 enquiries at the Foyle Branch office in the last year. Enquiries range from information on Multiple Sclerosis and MS literature, to Foyle Branch services, social services and benefits. I carried out a total of 89 home visits during this period and I have included a breakdown of the enquiries is listed below.

MS Information	300
MSS Information	418
Branch Services	341
Social Services	143
Benefits	116
Education/Training	20
Transport	143
MSS Belfast	103
Home Visits	89
Other	32
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<b>Total</b>	<b>1705</b>

### Support

We have continued providing support in various ways to people affected by MS. Home-visits to those who find it difficult to get to our office, our mini-bus being used to support both individual and group outings, including our Tuesday Club. My working relationship with Fiona and Carol (MS Nurses) and the local Health and Social Care staff continues to benefit people affected by MS in our own area and other Branch areas.

Our yoga, physiotherapy and counselling services continue to offer support and remain in demand. Regular yoga and physiotherapy group sessions are held at venues in Derry, Limavady and Claudy with physiotherapy and counselling home visits being provided if necessary.

The annual Christmas dinner was well attended with 86 people attending as we returned to the Waterfoot Hotel and the Committee have agreed to continue providing Sky TV for residents of Spruce House for another year.

## Awareness

Local media coverage has been very positive and I continue to work with other like minded organisations to raise awareness and the concerns of people affected by MS. Our Webmaster has included a “blog” as part of our website [www.msfoyle.org.uk](http://www.msfoyle.org.uk) and does fantastic work in keeping surfers updated about our work and various aspects of MS.

## Fundraising

Fundraising is so important to our Branch and again our supporters have been fantastic. Individual members, non-members and local businesses have helped us through what has been a tough year for most organisations. I have listed some of our supporters and amounts received below and would like to mention three people whose commitment in supporting our Branch has been tremendous.

Willie Coyle, Trust Care and Nursing Agency who has helped fund some of our ongoing physiotherapy costs.

Michael Henry, who has pushed himself to the limit by completing his second London marathon to raise funds for our Branch.

Nelson McGonagle of Roe Valley Golf Club who again raised over £20,000 and selected Foyle Branch, for the third time in 5 years to receive a share of the money.

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| • Nelson McGonagle/Roe Valley Golf Day                   | £6,675 |
| • The Park Bar   | £4,648 |
| • Redcastle Golf Club                                    | €630   |
| • Victoria Line Dancers                                  | £1,450 |
| • Derry Mid-week Cricket League                          | £300   |
| • Patrons of the Beechtree Bar                           | £830   |
| • Mary-Beth King Cake bake                               | £600   |
| • Mr & Mrs McAnee’s 50 <sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary | £1,040 |

The above is only an example of fundraising over the last year, Damien, our Treasurer will give a full financial report at the AGM.

## Our Volunteers

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the volunteers who have helped over the last year. Without our volunteers the Foyle Branch would not exist.

Terry McNamee  
Development Officer