

Halifax Branch News Bulletin

We are still living in very strange times, the outcome is uncertain and when it will end – nobody knows! Although we are unable to meet face to face, the Committee are still meeting as normal via Zoom and **we are all agreed that we will start our events as soon as it is safe to do so.**

Since we have had no fundraising opportunities we have taken the decision to stop sending Christmas cards and Birthday cards, in the future, to cut down on postal expenses. We have a number of events booked that are secured by deposits so we will endeavour to re book some of these events, hopefully in 2021, as soon as it is practical.

Annual General Meeting

It has been agreed by the Trustees of Parkinson's UK that we do not have to hold an AGM due to the continued threat from COVID19.

Certain criteria need to be observed and to fulfil these:

- A brief financial statement from Melanie, our new Treasurer is immediately below.
- A report from the chair which is enclosed separately
- The minutes from last year's AGM, also enclosed separately

A brief report from our new Treasurer: Melanie West

I have recently taken on the role of Treasurer at Parkinson's Halifax and District branch and would like to introduce myself. My name is Melanie West I am the daughter of Ken and Margaret Lambert who have been members of the Halifax branch for some years now. My Dad was diagnosed with Parkinson's Disease 8 years ago and has found the branch to be a great support. I have been keen to volunteer for quite some time seeing first hand the support and help this group gives to members of Calderdale coping with Parkinson's Disease. I have worked in finance for over 20 years so when the role of treasurer became available, I was glad to offer my services to support this busy Committee. The restrictions that Covid19 has placed on us all has meant that there have been no fundraising opportunities over the last few months and it looks as though it will be a while longer before we can operate as normal. Fortunately, some of the activities have still been able to operate via Zoom, providing support to some of our members.

(Continued overleaf)

(Continued)

Last year we estimated that our expenses would be £36k but due to lockdown and uncertainty we have only spent £15K. This lack of spending together with some In- Memoriam donations has enabled us to maintain a healthy bank balance. We have budgeted to hold a number of events in the new year, once restrictions have been lifted, which were previously not able to go ahead. The events co-ordinator Sue Morris will organise the calendar as soon as it is clear what is safe and legal.

RETURNING TO NORMAL

We are hoping to return to normal eventually, though it may be some time off! To advise you when our meetings will re-commence:

- We will send an email to those members with an email address
- For those that do not receive emails, we will try to contact you by phone
Inevitably, someone will be missed, so please ensure that you ring us before travelling (committee members telephone numbers are below)
- Or ask someone to look at our website www.parkinsonshalifax.org.uk then go to the News page for the latest news.

OUR COMMITTEE

We have had 4 members of our Committee resign for various reasons over the last couple of months. We thank them all for their help over many years.

David Baldwin, our treasurer for over 6 years, has moved to Derbyshire to be closer to his family and will be able to follow his passion for walking. In recent years, he helped organise the Parkinson's UK walks from Mytholmroyd to Hollingworth Lake. We welcome **Melanie West**, (nee Lambert) who in the absence of an AGM in February, has already taken on this challenging position.

Elaine Uttley celebrated her 80th Birthday in November. Elaine will still sell raffle tickets and bingo tickets at Saturday Club but she has decided to give up attending committee meetings – Thanks Elaine, for over 12 years of hard work. Also, thanks to **Margaret Lambert** who has decided she needs to give more time to help and care for Ken.

Last but not least, thanks **Eileen Kenny**, our secretary for the past 4 years. Eileen has decided it would be a good time for her to take a break from the Committee.

WE DESPERATELY NEED A SECRETARY AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS TO SHARE THE WORKLOAD - ANY SUGGESTIONS or OFFERS WOULD BE WELCOME!

Ring any committee member listed below for details.

Sylvia	01422 884134	Ian	01422 256521
Sue Morris	01422 362303	Anne	01422 253368
Sue Crawshaw	01274 883113		