

# Parkinson's Halifax

## NEWSLETTER

Edited by Eileen Kenny  
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### Our Phil gets to question Matt Hancock, the Secretary of State for Health

The event had been organised by our local Member of Parliament, Craig Whittaker. When I arrived he was close to our table so I asked him about prescription charges for Parkinson's medication. In true politician style he said that he could do better than answer my question, because the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, Matt Hancock, a key member of the Cabinet, would be arriving shortly and he would bring him over and introduce us. As soon as Mr Hancock arrived, he was directed to speak to me. I told him about the inequitable way that people with Parkinson's under the age of sixty have to pay for each item on their prescription, whereas people with other long term conditions such as epilepsy or diabetes get their medication free of charge. His response was that he would "look into" the matter. I gave him my card with full contact details, which he accepted. I have yet to hear anything from Mr Hancock (surprise surprise!) so I will be following up this matter with him by letter. I am sending him 48 page report about this matter produced by organisations including Parkinson's UK. *By Phil Beckett*



### A notice from Janet Our PLA...

Janet Edmunds will be available for advice at the January meeting.

Anyone wanting a "quick, in-confidence chat", please contact her, in advance, on 03442 253 638.

Included with this newsletter is an Events sheet for 2020. The member's card will be produced after the AGM, in February, with the Events diary and details of committee members. It will be included with the next postal newsletter sent out to members in March /April 2020

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**PARKINSON'S UK**  
CHANGE ATTITUDES. FIND A CURE. JOIN US.

Need help? Call the Parkinson's UK confidential helpline for free on **0808 800 0303**

**Opening times:** Monday-Friday: 9am-7pm, Saturday: 10am-2pm (Closed Sundays / Bank Holidays)

"Trained advisers, can provide information and advice about all aspects of Parkinson's, such as:  
\*medical issues, including symptoms and treatments  
\*employment and benefits  
\*health and social care  
\*emotional support."

# Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



**Isabelle Klepacka**

It was a wonderful weekend on many levels:

Great venue, in Leeds, our room was clean and comfortable. The food and hospitality were very good.

The programme was action packed, it harmonised well between a nice mix of active sessions and more sedentary ones. All of the active sessions were brilliant - boxercize, dancing, PD power and singing. Really good

I think the Partner Wellbeing sessions could be explored and developed more. I got the impression that these sessions were invaluable to participants. I wonder if there's scope for an 'experienced' partner to come and give a presentation or Q&A session?



In future it might be nice to include some time for swimming, the pool looked amazing but unfortunately we didn't have the opportunity to use it.

I would especially like to applaud the organisers. I know it is hard work planning and executing this type of thing, you did an excellent job.

*Written by Isabelle Klepacka*

## Dates For Your Diary

**11th January 2020** 14:00 –16:00  
Speaker: Michael Astrop  
Subject: to be arranged

**8th February 2020** 14:00 - 16:00  
Annual General Meeting  
Plus, we will have a demonstration and tasting session from Wiltshire Farm Foods.