

# MND AWARENESS WEEK 18-26TH JUNE

**Newbury MP Richard Benyon kicked off MND Awareness Week in this area when he visited our display stand in the foyer of West Berks Community Hospital.**

The hospital is currently caring for popular Thatcham man, Graham Hodgetts, who is living with MND. Graham, who will be 60 next month (August) has inspired huge amounts of fund-raising for the charity.

He quickly became a popular figure at Newbury's Charles Clore Macmillan Day Unit and the Duchess of Kent House in Reading.

Now thanks to the West Berkshire Hospital's willingness in specially training staff to care appropriately for him – with help from Duchess of Kent House staff – he is able to be nearer his family and friends.

During the awareness week his grand-daughter, 17-year-old Laura Clintworth, donned a Star Wars costume for a charity day at Thatcham's Kennet School and sold our distinctive blue and red wristbands for branch funds.



Newbury MP Richard Benyon meets the team at the MND Awareness Week display stand at West Berks Community Hospital.

Laura, who raised our profile among staff and pupils, said: "People were really interested in MND and I was able to explain exactly what it is."

Mrs Anne Smith, who has MND, also gave a huge boost to our campaign when she joined the team of volunteers for the special day at West Berkshire Community Hospital.

Anne, aged 61, was well known at the hospital's former Newbury site where she was support services manager until she was forced to retire in 2003 following her diagnosis.

She toured the new hospital at Thatcham in her wheelchair and had an enjoyable time meeting up with friends and colleagues. Anne and Graham also met our national president Lady Hallifax, and Lady Howard de Walden, who is a patron of the Association. They are all pictured with Graham's wife

Princess Leia (aka Laura Clintworth), granddaughter of Graham Hodgetts

Maureen and volunteers Joanna Knott, Val Pearson and Jane Gilbert.

Visitors to the stand were given wristbands and thumbs up biscuits in return for a donation and by the end of the day £88 had been collected. Many people took away leaflets or read about the branch activities on the display board.

The hospital's Patient Information Point will now be displaying the newsletter and leaflets about MND and an article about the awareness week event is being published in the hospital's staff newsletter.

Richard Benyon pledged his support for the Association and to raise the issue in the House of Commons. His father, Sir William Benyon, is our branch patron, and his uncle, Admiral Sir David



Mrs Anne Smith meets Newbury MP Richard Benyon

Hallifax, died from MND.

## MARIAN GIVES £6000 TO CAUSE “CLOSE TO HER HEART”



Marian Hall (centre) presents the cheque to National President, Lady Hallifax.  
*Picture courtesy of Newbury Weekly News*

Hungerford’s Marian Hall has presented the branch with a cheque for £6,202.30 following the galloping success of her race night.

Marian organised the event at the town’s football club in April in memory of her husband Basil who died last year from MND.

She said she was thrilled to have raised so much for a cause very close to her heart.

“It was just great. I have to find something else to do now,” she added.

Marian’s monster cheque has given a huge boost to the branch’s Dr Monnica Stewart Neuro Nurse Appeal which now has just £4.6K to find.

The specialist community-based nurse post is being advertised by the West Berks

Neurological Alliance which is masterminding the pioneering project. We have pledged to find half the £90K needed to fund the post for two years and research its impact.

Marian presented her cheque to Lady Hallifax at the branch drop-in meeting held at the Charles Clore Day Unit in June.

Also present was Jim Smith of Hungerford Round Table, Kerrie Pearce and other friends who helped on the night which featured a raffle, auction and horse racing on a big screen. The proceeds were boosted by a £2,000 donation from the Vodafone UK Foundation.

*Contributed by Jane Gilbert*

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### HOLIDAY WORD SEARCH



Can you find 10  
biscuit types made by  
former Reading biscuit  
makers Huntley and  
Palmer’s?

- BRITANNIA
- DEMILUNE
- FANCYCRACKNEL
- GARIBALDI
- ICEDWAVE
- MARIE
- OVALRICHOSBORNE
- OVALTHINARROWROOT
- RATAFIA
- ROYALPUFF