

MEETINGS

Because of the coronavirus restrictions all planned and one off meetings are indefinitely postponed except for those activities that are proceeding on-line like Parkinsons Dance, Branch Committee meetings etc.

REGULAR MEETINGS

Parkinson's Dance

Every Tuesday 3pm to 4.30pm, in normal times at the Dorchester Corn Exchange but currently only on-line via Zoom.

Yoga for Parkinson's

Normally every Thursday, 10am to 11am but currently postponed Ring 07742 821937 or email scoxbutton@gmail.com for more info.

Carers Meeting

Normally every 2nd Thursday of the month, 10:30 to 12 noon at Rembrandt Hotel - currently postponed

BRANCH MEETINGS

Group meetings

Normally every 3rd Monday of the month 2.30pm to 4pm at the Upwey & Broadway Memorial Hall, Victoria Avenue DT3 5NG but currently postponed

Committee meetings

Normally every 2nd Monday of the month 2pm at the Upwey and Broadway memorial hall but currently on-line via Zoom

USEFUL CONTACTS

National Parkinson's Free Helpline for help with benefits and services:

0808 800 0303

Local Parkinson's Nurse Specialists,
Hazel Coleman & Liza Rowley

tel: 01305 254789

Parkinson's Local Advisor: Mon-Thurs

Lorraine Bilton: 0344 225 9828

email: lbilton@parkinsons.org.uk

Dorset Adult Social Care Services:

for self referral for new enquirers

tel: 01305 221016

AGE UK help for older people:

tel: 01305 269444

LOCAL BRANCH CONTACTS

Chairman:

Secretary: Jim Bayliss 01305 457505

email: jimbay930@gmail.com

Treasurer: Dave Clegg 01305 835108

Email: daveclegg49@gmail.com

Carer's Contact:

Events: Jo Galley 01305853312

Outings: Pat Pollard 01305 264471

Fund Raising:

Newsletter: Jim Bayliss 01305 457505

email: jimbay930@gmail.com

Branch Website:

weymouthdorchesterparkinsons.org.uk



PARKINSON'S NEWS

Weymouth & Dorchester

Branch Newsletter

September 2020

COVID-19 AND ALL THAT

This newsletter was supposed to inform you how 'in person' meetings could gradually be re-started as Head Office have done a lot of work investigating how to bring us all together and I attended a national meeting on-line on September 4th when these new measures were introduced.

However this all has become academic. The resurgence in the virus has forced the government to introduce the new 'Rule of Six' that makes it illegal to hold gatherings of more than six people either in or outdoors.

So, for the time being, all in person meetings have to be postponed.

We will of course continue to keep the membership updated through the medium of these newsletters.

The charity Chairman, Steve Ford, (see picture overleaf) closed the national meeting by reminding us that in spite of the restrictions, the charity continues to work on your behalf and some news about current finances, research and the charity's intention to partner with other groups is provided elsewhere in this newsletter

PARKINSON'S NATIONAL



Stephen Hooper is the Parkinson's UK finance director and during the national meeting he advised us of the charities financial situation.

It was expected that the charity's reserves would fall heavily due to the pandemic but due to some successful fund raising and wise investments the charity's finances remain healthy. The position is summarised below.

Update on our reserves



NATIONAL contd

- We'll operate within our reserves of £20 million - £27.5 million
- We're currently at £24.5 million, down £500k from June
- We're managing our finances in line with the revised forecast
- Our investments increased in value again, and we've recovered to our pre crisis level
- We're starting to see the predicted dip in reserves as we head into the second half of 2020

Steve Ford told us that in order to strengthen our voice with government and other bodies the charity intends to form partnerships with other groups with which Parkinson's UK has some synergy. These include pharmaceutical companies, research groups—particularly Brain Bank— and the MS Society which has very similar aims and structure to our own.

RESEARCH

Parkinson's UK's mission is to develop better treatments and a cure for Parkinson's quickly. In the past 50 years we've made vital discoveries and revolutionised our understanding of Parkinson's and the brain. We have a better understanding of the influence of genetic factors. We are beginning to map the complex chain of events that leads to damage and loss of precious brain cells. We know that, although people with Parkinson's share symptoms, each person's experience and response to treatment is different. Armed with this hard-won knowledge, we now believe the science is ready for us to develop the new treatments and cure that people with Parkinson's so desperately need.

How long this will take depends upon funding. The more we are able to invest in developing these new and better treatments, the faster we'll get there. Given the right investment, we believe improved treatments are possible in years. Now new treatments are being tested in clinical trials that have the potential to slow, stop or even reverse Parkinson's. These include: Stem cell therapies which aim to use healthy, living cells to replace or repair the damage in the brains of people with Parkinson's.

Repurposed drugs - that are already approved to treat other conditions like diabetes, cancer and high blood pressure - are being investigated to understand their potential benefits for Parkinson's. Gene therapies which use the power of genetics to reprogram cells and change their behaviour to help them stay healthy and work better for longer. Growth factors, naturally occurring molecules (like GDNF) that support the growth, development and survival of brain cells.

There are also treatments being developed that aim to improve life with the condition, including new drugs that can reduce dyskinesia and tackle hallucinations.