

AGM Chair Report – Feb 2017

This has been a very busy year. I think it could be referred to as The Year of the Concerts!

Starting in March with the Donkey House Band at S Hinksey Church then we moved to Dorchester Abbey in May for a magnificent concert with London Chorus and Instruments of Time and Truth. In Nov at the Sheldonian Theatre, Daniel Harding was conducting and Caroline Widman solo violinist. There was nothing that could surpass the Christmas Concert in the Cathedral. It was a year of planning but, boy, was it worth it!

It is with gratitude that we raise smaller sums through birthday gifts, grandchildren selling cakes in the street, plant stalls, coffee morning, community centre collections and a myriad of other ideas you have.

Our lunch last year was well attended and we all ate far too many chips and treacle pud, and the holiday was a happy occasion in the early autumn. Meeting up with Swindon Branch at Radcot House was a delightful afternoon and we have plans to repeat further meet ups with them and other branches. Our membership has grown considerably and I hope new members feel welcome.

Our speakers have been exceptionally high and we should feel well informed of current progress in the research into PD.

This branch supports the ENB classes. It also funds or subsidises the Big Bold and Balance classes around the county. Also PD Warrior and Active. The voice class is being planned to go to other venues too and it was esp good to include Parkinsingers into our Christmas Concert.

Our Respite Care initiative is going well with several people receiving the benefits of support.

This branch has some hidden heroes and I'd like to thank them....

Helen Warner and Wendy Benson – they greet us as we arrive at mtgs and run the raffle which makes over £1000 pa and the fund goes to pay for taxis for those who otherwise would be unable to come.

Helen Hamlett who arranges that tea and biscuits are here for mtgs,

Malcolm Benson – for sticking with and running the 200 club

Lin Byrne who arranges taxis for those who cannot get to mtgs

Our August and Sept mtgs each year are for discussions and for them to take place I ask for help from professionals and they give their time freely.

Chrystalina Antoniadis gives us immense support and I hope her latest study OxQuip is successful.

And now we say farewell to some cmt members

Caroline George who thought up the Pants for parkinson's slogan

Tom Collins who has contributed much to cmt discussions

Jim Sheridan who has kept us informed of research going on both near and far. his contribution has been magnificent.

Diane Pearson who has developed her role as secretary to supporting membership and respite care. We will miss you all and we thank you.

I'd like to thank PUK for the events they organise and the support they offer branches.

Looking ahead...We have a coach taking people to London for Symfunny. We may book a further concert in Wigmore Hall in aid of PUK in July. We have plans to create a dvd of exercises so we can continue to exercise. We hope to extend voice classes to other parts of the county. We are planning a Conference to commemorate the publication of the Essay by Parkinson for Sept 18 or 19,. We hope to meet with other branches at Blenheim Palace Park,

Deepest thanks to John Foster for creating and selling his Christmas Cracker Joke book.

Last but not least I thank Paul Mayhew Archer who has put Parkinson's into the public eye through his the Funny Side documentary.

Sally Bromley March 1 2017