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Volunteer update

Welcome to your monthly newsletter — keeping you updated with news relevant to all volunteers, as well as key group-specific news.



General updates



Website functionality improvements



Campaign win: PIP changes scrapped!

As part of our transformation project to improve our services, we've overhauled the search function on the MS Society website — making it easier for anyone to find the activities or support they're seeking.

[Find out more →](#)

The proposed changes to PIP risked pushing people with MS into poverty and worsening health outcomes. But together, we've stopped them in their tracks.

[Find out more →](#)



Volunteer Voice - 6pm Tuesday 22 July

Join us for an update on our services transformation project, Project Mead. And find out who the provider of our new contactless devices for fundraising will be! Plus the usual opportunity to ask about whatever's on your mind.

[Register to attend →](#)



Watch our Annual Lecture for Stop MS

Did you miss the live stream of Professor Alan Thompson's wonderful lecture 'Mechanisms, milestones and momentum: the story of the Stop MS Appeal' last month? You can still catch up with it on our YouTube channel.

[Watch the lecture here →](#)



Breathing Space Project keeps going

The Breathing Space Project, providing short breaks for unpaid carers in Wales, has been extended for another year.

[Find out more →](#)

VOLUNTEERS' WEEK

Making the most of Volunteers' Week

It was Volunteers' Week 2-8 June, so we seized the opportunity to thank you for your dedication to our cause. We're grateful for everything you do to support the MS community.

[Find out more →](#)

Could you have the luck of the draw?

The MS Society Summer Raffle is here with a top prize of £4,000! For just £1 a ticket, you could win one of over 20 fantastic prizes.

Play until **Monday 15 September** by visiting the [£4,000 raffle web page](#) or calling our **ticket hotline** on 0330 002 0267 (Monday to Friday 9am-5pm).

The
Richmond
Group
of **Charities**



We've joined the Richmond Group of Charities!

This coalition of 15 charities works to influence decision makers to change the health system for the benefit of people with long-term or complex conditions.

[Find out more →](#)

Could MRIs replace lumbar punctures in MS diagnosis?

Researchers have found that a special type of MRI could in some cases provide an alternative to painful and invasive lumbar punctures.

[Find out more →](#)

Other news

- [Seeing MS differently](#): Riddhima Gautam on her work and the role eyes play in MS research.
- [Northern Ireland MS Research Hub](#): Lead researcher Professor Denise Fitzgerald on her hopes for the hub.

Support's always on hand

We know volunteering can have its ups and downs. If you'd like a confidential chat about anything that's worrying you in your role, please contact Barbara on supportwellbeing@mssociety.org.uk



Volunteering in action



Everyone contributes in different ways

Dom is the Admin Volunteer for our East Berkshire Group. He tells us about keeping the group going, and the sense of purpose this has given him.

[Read Dom's blog here →](#)



A 'novel' way of fundraising

Sam and Mae are Fundraising Volunteers at our Larne and East Antrim Group. They're also raising money for MS research through a commemorative project.

[Read Sam and Mae's blog here →](#)

***** If you'd like to share your own experiences of volunteering, please let us know by completing the [online form here](#) *****



Updates for groups



New solution for access to group contact lists

We're pleased to announce that the new process for accessing group contact lists is finally ready. If you're a Group Coordinator, Comms Volunteer or Admin Volunteer, you'll be able to access yours on SharePoint very soon.

[Find out more →](#)



New Public Liability Insurance certificate now in place

We apologise for the delay in updating our Public Liability Insurance (PLI) certificate. The new version (valid until 24 May 2026) is now available to download when needed. Thank you for bearing with us!

[Download PLI certificate →](#)

New contactless devices for fundraising

We're really excited that we're now in the final stages of preparing the new rollout of contactless devices. We're working hard to make sure everything's as straightforward and user-friendly as possible for everyone involved.

Join us at **Volunteer Voice on 22 July at 6pm**, where we'll tell you about the product we'll be using and give you more information about the rollout plan. We'll include an update in next month's newsletter for anyone who can't attend.

[Sign up for Volunteer Voice →](#)

This month's Top Tips!

Welcome to our 'Top Tips' section. Every month we'll share useful ideas and/or 'how to' hints to help you carry out your volunteering role.

When **asking for donations**, please remind your supporters to use your group name, so their gift goes directly to the group and not the MS Society. You can also encourage supporters who raise money for your group to set up their own fundraising pages on [Enthuse](#).

Local group donations

A continuing thank you to all our groups that have generously donated to support our research projects and UK-wide services.

[Find out more →](#)



Events

Events for all volunteers

Volunteer Voice: Tuesday 22 July at 6pm

Fundraising Events Calendar 2025

Virtual support events: Information and skills sessions for different stages of the MS journey (including Staying Active with MS)

Events for group volunteers

Weekly drop-in with Volunteer Support Team: Every Tuesday at 2pm

Monthly Health and Safety drop-in: First Tuesday of every month at 3pm

Let's stop MS together



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