

PARKINSON'S^{UK} CHANGE ATTITUDES. FIND A CURE. JOIN US.

Barnsley & District Branch



Annual Report 2023

REVIEW of 2023

Sadly the headline comment to this year's report must be the passing of Susan Grant, one of our longest serving branch members who joined us in 2004. Throughout this time Susan was very enthusiastic and readily participated in our many activities. As a committee member she took on the roles of minute taker and Research Champion. Susan's enthusiasm was infectious and inspirational to us all and she is sadly missed.

A mere glance at the month by month events will show just how busy 2023 has been for the branch. This has placed a great strain on our resources and emphasises the importance of recruiting additional volunteers if this level of activity is to be sustainable.

Following several complaints from our members about not receiving their medication on time whilst in hospital, we have embarked on a collaborative project with Barnsley hospital management to improve the situation through staff training, awareness sessions and the development of protocols. This work is ongoing.

Financial

Our financial position remains strong, in large part due to the legacy received from the late Eileen Slack. The cash pooling scheme continues to prove beneficial. Since joining the Parkinson's UK scheme last year, we have been able to introduce online banking which has enabled us to dispense with the use of cheques.

Fundraising

There have been several fundraising events during the year. These included two supermarket collections and one at Barnsley Football Club. We have also raised funds at two events at Locke Park - the classic car event and the Gala; Staincross Methodist Church Coffee

morning and the Penistone Agricultural show. We are also deeply indebted to those who have lost love ones in 2023 and have arranged for donations to be made to the branch in lieu of flowers. Our "Just Giving" page on the website continues to be an added source of income. To all the other organisations not mentioned who have raised money for us, we offer our sincere and grateful thanks.

Services

All the Branch's core services have been maintained during 2023 - the exercise class, respite care, natter café, counselling service, summer walks and visits. Also the annual Pamper Day provided relaxation and a choice of spa treatments for our hard working carers.

The idea of introducing other activities was explored i.e. a singing group, a dance class and participating in a broad range of organised activities at the Shaw Lane Sports club, but sadly there was little interest shown. These suggestions have been sidelined for the time being.

We have set up a Facebook page (Parkinson's Barnsley) to promote the branch and provide regular updates about our activities and events.

People

The committee has worked extra hard this year as many members have taken on additional roles left vacant by Susan Grant's passing and Sheila Ireland's move to Cumbria. Unfortunately, with George Spencer's health declining during the year, this has meant some of his duties have been taken over by others.

Following Rona Thompson's decision to take a step back, Maxine Mellor has taken on the role of Meeter & Greeter at our branch meetings. Ken Booth is now our Research Champion and, in 2024, Alyson Francis will become responsible for Service Development.

George Spencer was nominated for the Proud of Barnsley award in recognition of his 20 years long service and devotion to the branch. George's nomination was accepted, he was placed in the final three of his group, but regrettably did not win the award. The publicity surrounding the event resulted in increased awareness of the Barnsley & District branch and its activities.

Terry Kendall

2023 Month by Month

January

Mid-term reviews were held with the branch's service providers – Crossroads Care and Healthy Bones. A tin collection took place at Barnsley Football ground.

February

In February we held our AGM, officiated by Tracy Westgarth, Parkinson's UK Senior Area Development Manager.

March

Dedicated Nurse Practitioner, Carolyn Turton attended the branch meeting and held out-of-clinic consultations during the refreshment break. Through our link with Barnsley Carers Service, Graham Rushforth attended the meeting to give members advice on making benefit claims. We held our ever popular bowling event at the Metrodome.

April

To mark World Parkinson's Day on the 11th the Town Hall was illuminated at night with Parkinson's corporate colour. We also had an awareness stand in the town centre and, at the same time, we joined up with the physio team in the emergency department at the hospital to get members of the public to participate in a "sit to stand" challenge. The first of our summer walks was held in Locke Park.

May

The second of our walks took place around Worsbrough reservoir. A tin collection took place in Tesco store Penistone.

Professor Heather Mortiboys attended our monthly branch meeting to discuss the latest developments in Parkinson's research.

June

The Branch had a plant sale at the classic car rally in Locke Park. Our annual day trip was to Cleethorpes. The venue for the month's walk was Cannon Hall.

July

The venue for this month's walk was the Dearne Valley Park. A fundraising event took place in the Staincross Methodist church.

August

Our monthly walk was to Newmillerdam. The branch had an awareness stall at Locke Park gala.

September

The last of our summer walks took place at the RSPB Old Moor Wetlands. We had an awareness stand at the Penistone Agricultural show. Juliett Tizzard (Parkinson's Director of External Relations) and Kim Snape (Parkinson's Senior Local Campaign Officer) attended the branch meeting.



Continued

2023 October to December

October

Our annual outing for afternoon tea to the White Bull restaurant was as popular as ever.

November

The annual Carers Pamper Day was held at Bannatynes Spa. We held another awareness stand at the Mapplewell Village Hall. There was a second visit to the Metrodome for ten pin bowling followed by lunch.

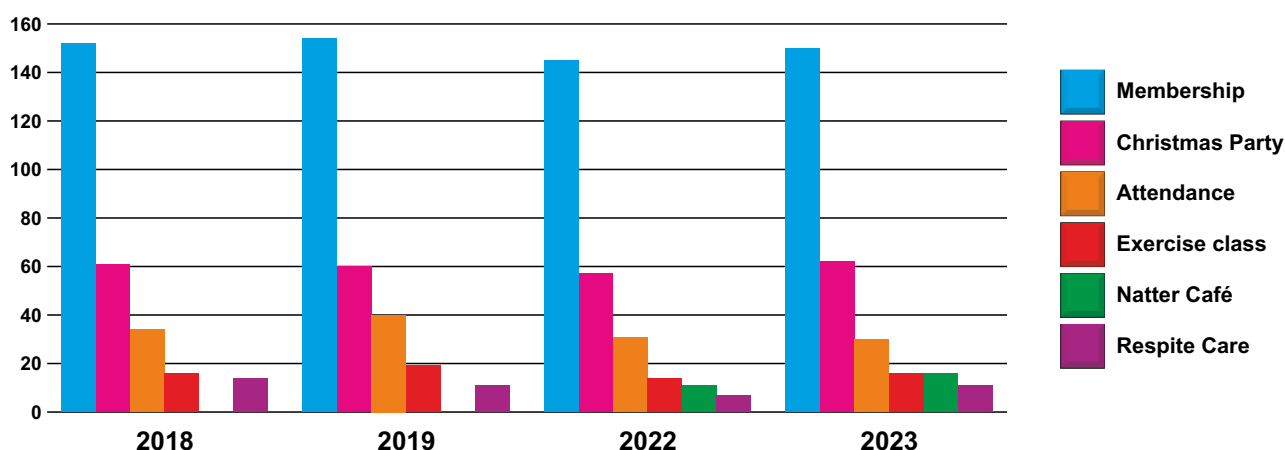
December

The annual Christmas party was attended by the Mayor and Mayoress. In a departure from our usual enjoyment of the U3A choir, we were entertained by a singer who was very well received.

We had a tin collection at Tesco Stairfoot store.

BRANCH INDICATORS 2023

	Membership	Christmas Party	Attendance	Exercise Class	Natter Café	Respite Care
2023	150	62	30	16	16	11
2022	145	57	31	13	11	7
2019	154	60	40	19	-	11
2018	152	61	34	16	-	14



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Photographs by Branch Members

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