



Parkinson's UK

For every Parkinson's journey

Barnsley & District Branch



Annual Report 2025

REVIEW of 2025

Throughout 2025, the branch organised a variety of engaging activities, meetings, and events for its members. Highlights include annual reviews, entertaining guest speakers, and monthly meetings featuring discussions on topics such as exercise, health services, and personal experiences. Members participated in fundraising initiatives, awareness stands, summer walks, and outings to local parks and venues. Special events like ten-pin bowling, afternoon tea, and Carers' Pamper Day fostered community spirit.

The year concluded with a festive Christmas party attended by the Mayor and featuring musical entertainment courtesy of Cawthorne Brass Band. Overall, 2025 was marked by strong community involvement, informative sessions, and enjoyable social gatherings.

Financial

Our financial position remains strong thanks to the wonderful support from the Shaw Lands Trust, the Community National Lottery, Parkinson's UK, Friendly Masonic Lodge and one anonymous donor.

Fundraising

There were three supermarket collections during the year. Regrettably, we had no success in gaining permission to have a collection day at Barnsley Football Club. To all other people and 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 2025. The exercise

class, respite care, Natter Café, summer walks and annual outing. Also the annual Carers' Pamper Day provided relaxation and a choice of spa treatment for our hard working carers. The boxercise class, and golf driving range activity continue to be well supported.

Ken Booth, our Webmaster, has continued to keep our webpage an easily accessible resource for keeping members informed and up to date on our activities and available services. Similarly, our Facebook page has proved to be very popular, particularly in providing a weekly schedule of upcoming events and posting photographs of our activities.

People

During the year we mourned the loss of Judith White and Eric Evans.

The committee reluctantly accepted the resignation of George Spencer and Kathie Sharman. We appreciate the significant contribution both George (one of our founder members) and Kathie (our treasurer) have made to the branch. George and his late wife, Grace, formed the branch in 2002. Kathie has been 'the keeper of our purse' since 2011. We welcomed two new volunteers to committee - Barrie and Jan Cooper.

We also thank Carolyn Arnott, our designated Clinical Nurse Specialist, for her continued non-monetary support.

With sincere gratitude, we bid farewell to Rose Crawley who is retiring from her role as our Parkinson's UK Local Volunteer Officer. Rose's unwavering support, assistance, and guidance to the committee over many years have been truly invaluable. Her commitment has ensured that our branch has consistently adhered to the rules of governance set forth by Parkinson's UK, helping us to maintain the highest standards in all that we do. On behalf of the committee and all members, we extend our heartfelt thanks and best wishes to Rose for the future.

Terry Kendall
Branch Chair

2025 Month by Month

January

An annual review was conducted with Healthy Bones, who continued to deliver expert, fun loving and enjoyable exercise classes. Christine Van Morrison regaled us with tales of her adventures in Zimbabwe at our monthly branch meeting.

February

In February we held our AGM, officiated by Rose Crawley, Parkinsons UK Local Volunteer Officer, and Tracy Westgarth, Parkinson's UK Regional Lead (North & East Yorkshire) in attendance. Philip and Rona Thompson were presented with a hamper of goodies as a thank you for all their hard work and dedication over many years of service to the branch. Six members of the branch who have Parkinson's were able to participate in a trial of augmented reality (AR) technology to ascertain if the use of AR could improve their gait, balance, cognitive skills and step length.

March

Caroline Russell, Parkinson's UK Chief Executive, came to our monthly branch meeting and gave a very interesting overview of the work of the charity. We held the first of our twice yearly ten-pin bowling events at the Metrodome.

April

We had a fundraising and awareness stand at Tesco Stairfoot. To celebrate World Parkinson's Day we held an awareness stand in Barnsley town centre on the same day as our regular monthly Natter Café at the Falco Lounge. The Management very generously provided us with a tapas brunch. Ian McMillan, our president, attended our branch meeting as guest speaker. The first of our summer walks programme was at Wentworth Woodhouse.

May

The speaker at our May branch meeting was Tracy Hughes from Barnsley Healthwatch. Also in attendance was Shani Iqbal who was visiting for the first time as our Parkinson's Local Adviser. Shani explained her role and was able to help some of our members navigate the minefield of claiming benefits. We had the second of our summer walks, this time to Cannon Hall. We had a fundraising coffee morning at Staincross Methodist Church.

June

Once again we attended Locke Park classic car event where we had our ever-popular fundraising plant sale. Our annual outing this year was to the Workhouse at Southwell, a National Trust property. The venue for the June walk was to Hemsworth Water Park.

July

The guest speaker at our monthly branch meeting was Amy Scott-Harper of the NHS Patient Services team. Amy explained that in-patients are encouraged to get out of bed, move around and to wear their normal clothes. Additionally, it is quite acceptable for food to be brought in for patients. Our monthly walk was around Manvers Lake.

August

We had an awareness stand at Locke Park gala and also attended the Bounce-into-Summer event in Goldthorpe in order to raise people's awareness of the existence of the branch and the many services and activities that we offer. At our branch meeting Barrie Cooper, our Research Champion, spoke to us about Deep Brain Stimulation. A local lady gave a first-hand account of her experience in having the procedure. The summer walk took us from Wentworth Garden Centre to the parish church.

Continued

2025 September to December

September

The guest speaker at our monthly branch meeting was Bhanu Ramaswamy, Physiotherapy Consultant, who explained the importance of exercise for people with Parkinson's and very quickly had members participating in a number of activities. The final walk of our summer programme was to Anglers Country Park, Winterset.

October

Our annual afternoon tea was held at Audrey's Coffee House and Deli in Darfield.

November

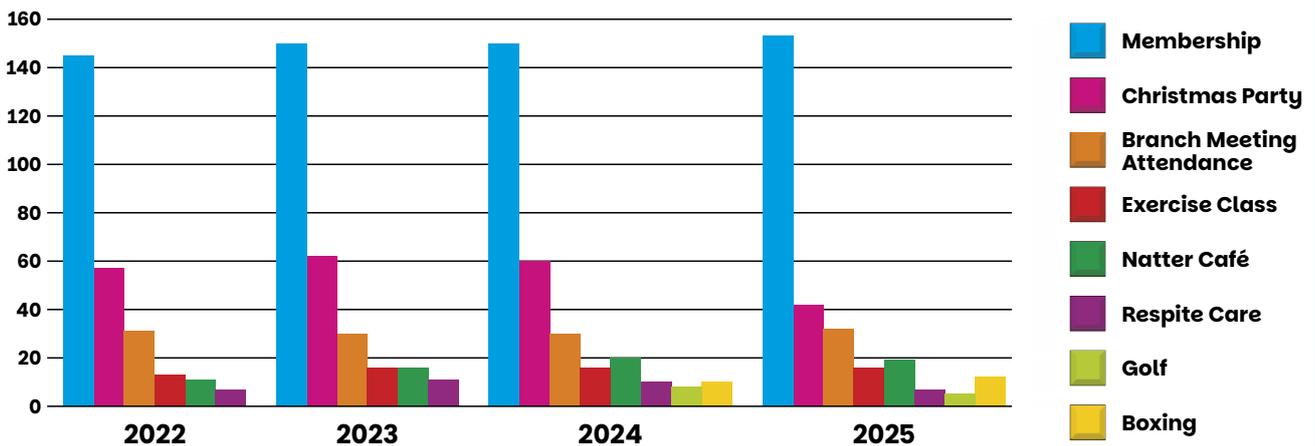
The second of our bi-annual ten-pin bowling events was held at the Barnsley Bowl, Carlton. We had our ever-popular Carers' Pamper Day at Bannatyne's Health Club and Spa followed by lunch at the Holiday Inn, Dodworth. The guest speaker at our monthly branch meeting was Marcus Dearn from Barnsley Hospital's Practice Educators Office.

December

We held our Christmas party with the Mayor of Barnsley in attendance. We were entertained afterwards by Cawthorne Brass Band.

BRANCH INDICATORS 2025

	Membership	Christmas Party	Branch Meeting Attendance	Exercise Class	Natter Café	Respite Care	Golf Driving Range	Non-Contact Boxing
2025	153	42	32	16	19	7	5	12
2024	150	60	30	16	20	10	8	10
2023	150	62	30	16	16	11	-	-
2022	145	57	31	13	11	7	-	-



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Photographs by Branch Members

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