

The Multiple Sclerosis Society of Great Britain & Northern Ireland Foyle Branch

The 45th Annual Meeting of the Foyle Branch of the Multiple Sclerosis Society of Great Britain & Northern Ireland was held in Foyle Disability Resource Centre, Glen RD., Derry on Tuesday May 2006 at 3pm. Our chairman Peter Eakin welcomed the mayor Lynn Fleming, guest speaker Robert McConnell and visitors.

Apologies: Raymond McGinn, Cathal McElhatton.

The minutes of 44th AGM were circulated to members and were passed and proposed by Katie McAteer. Seconded by Eimear Cunningham. The mayor said she was delighted to attend AGM and spoke of the remarkable work that was done by the branch. She noted the dedication of the MS nurse and wished us every success in the future of the branch.

Development Officer: Terry McNamee gave an excellent report of the work of the branch. He said although the enquiries to the office were time-consuming they were necessary in the development of the branch. Membership grew last year. This was due to Terry's visits to new member's homes, our website and Newsletter. Terry thanked officers and volunteers for their support.

Treasurers Report: Damien emphasised the importance of fundraising and the continued support of everyone who have helped raise funds. Our bank balance is very healthy but we need on-going support to keep things going strong. Declan Kenny proposed Damien's report and this was seconded by Shauna Hutton.

Welfare Officer's Report: Moira reported that The Thursday group meetings were popular. We had a selection of speakers, Dietician, Speech therapist and Brendan Quinn, pharmacist, talking about LDN. Even Declan had contributed to the catering at these meetings. The Tuesday club had summer outings as usual. Physio, yoga and tai chi also continue to be a great success. Maggie set up a library where members can bring and buy books. This has brought in funds for which the branch is grateful. Teresa Kane proposed Moira's report and was seconded by Declan Kenny.

Guest Speaker: Robert McConnell congratulated the Foyle branch and said we were a role model for other branches. He paid tribute to Terry for his help and support. Robert spoke about research. He said there were 186 on the waiting list for Beta Interferon, 30 in the Foyle branch. He mentioned LDN and said as yet no trials have been done. He said Stem Cell treatment was controversial although when faced with MS people will try anything. Robert spoke of the Conference in Oct and thanked Terry for all his hard work. This was proposed by Mervyn Brown and seconded by Fred Kane.

MS Nurse report: Meeting members personally at the outpatients clinic allows Fiona to get to know everyone. From feedback people feel comfortable with her. Visiting members in their homes helps her to get a true picture of their problems. Fiona hoped we felt we got enough from her service. Proposed by Marie McGinn. Seconded by Moira Leitch

Any other business Peter asked Robert to supervise Office Bearers.

In conclusion: Peter thanked everyone present and said we would do our best as a committee to work for our members. He said words couldn't describe how grateful we are to Terry for his dedication to the branch. Peter asked everyone there present to come forward with any ideas they felt would help the branch.