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



## General updates



### Opening two new MS Society shops

Read about our plans to open two



### The MS Society turns 70!

With a milestone anniversary

new charity shops in Greater Manchester, and what we're hoping they'll help us to achieve.

[Find out more](#) 



## Taking stock of our EDI progress

We're looking at how our plans to make the MS Society more inclusive are going. Could you share your thoughts on this for our progress audit?

[Find out more](#) 

approaching, we look back at some of our achievements. And give a heads-up on what'll be available to help our groups celebrate.

[Find out more](#) 



## Marking Black History Month

October is Black History Month. A time for us to recognise and celebrate our Black community, to share their stories and amplify their voices.

[Find out more](#) 



## Volunteer Impact Awards – thoughts from our Panel

We've spoken to some of our Panel members about their role in the awards, and what it is that makes MS Society volunteers so special. Don't forget to nominate an outstanding volunteer by **Saturday 30 September!**

[Find out more](#) □



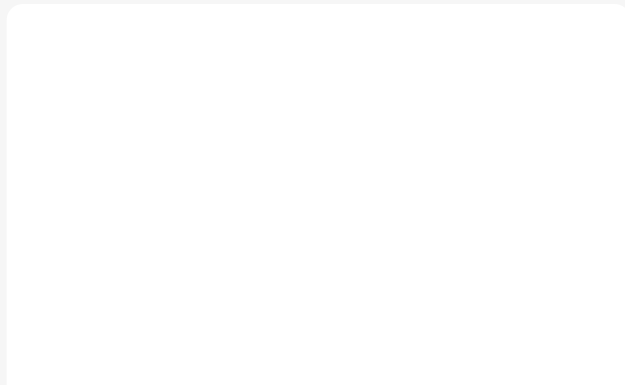
## Join us for Carols by Candlelight

Booking's now open for our annual evening of uplifting festive music and celebrity readings! So join us at Westminster Chapel on **Thursday 14 December**. As a volunteer, you can use the code **EARLYBIRD** for £10 off Ground Floor tickets — subject to availability.

[Book your tickets here](#) □



## Volunteering in action





## Bringing a younger approach to my local group

Kirsty tells us what her role as a Communications Volunteer entails. And how she's encouraged younger people to join her group.

[Read Kirsty's blog here](#) □



## Getting involved in science in a new way

Mike tells us about using his lived experience to review research grant applications, as a member of our Expert Research Network.

[Read Mike'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

### Your new fundraising support contact

We welcome Molly Deakin (replacing Gus Fraser) to the Community Fundraising Team — to help you with all things 'group fundraising'. Molly brings lots of experience supporting local groups and is excited to join such a successful group network. She'll be supporting you with fundraising queries and ideas, and hosting monthly [Enthuse](#) training sessions to help you get the most of this great fundraising tool. You can contact Molly at [fundraising@mssociety.org.uk](mailto:fundraising@mssociety.org.uk).

## This month's Top Tips!

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

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The MS Society website is one of the main ways people find out about their local group and the activities and opportunities on offer. So do check that your group's contact details there are up to date. Our Helpline sometimes receives calls from people trying to get in touch with local contacts. If your group doesn't have a phone, consider purchasing a Pay As You Go phone so that we can advertise the number on the website.

To update or add the main group contact number, please contact Volunteer Support (volunteersupport@mssociety.org.uk or 0300 500 8084 #3) with the details. To update contact numbers for particular activities and events, just edit the listing on the Portal. But remember that any changes made on the Portal won't appear on the website until the following morning.

## Group donations

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

[See group donations](#) 



## Events

### Events for all volunteers

**HOLD THE DATE!** Live stream of **2023 Volunteer Impact Awards ceremony:**  
Thursday 30 November at 7pm

**Training troubleshooting:** Various dates available

**Virtual support events:** Information webinars, skills sessions, Conversation Caf  s and Wellbeing courses for different stages of the MS journey

### **Fundraising Events Calendar 2023**

**Living Well Team events** (including Staying Active with MS)

**Volunteer Welcome event:** Thursday 9 November at 9.30am

**Carols by Candlelight:** Thursday 14 December at 6.30pm

## **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

**Portal support session:** Various dates available

**Grants Get-together drop-in:** Friday 22 September at 3pm

**MS Society Designs drop-in:** Various dates available

**Enthuse onboarding training:** Various dates available

Let's stop MS together



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