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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.

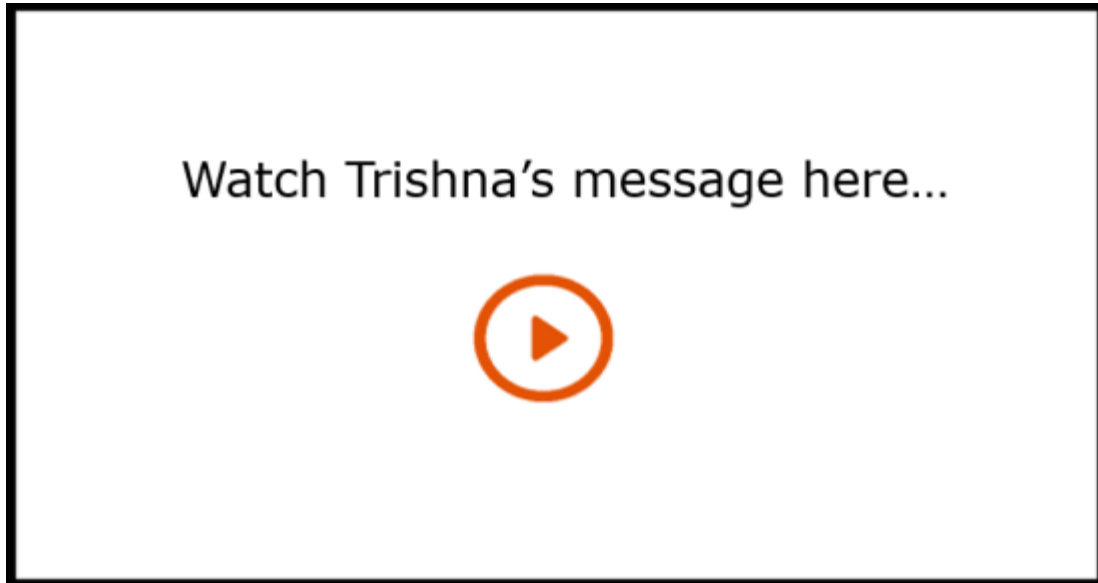
It's been a busy lead up to the festive season. I hope you could join us for our Volunteer Impact Awards on 30 November, where we recognised the commitment, achievements, and successes of our volunteers. You'll find more about this below.

Last weekend was also celebratory, seeing us mark **70 years of the MS Society**. I've heard many of our groups will be tying their annual get-togethers in with this milestone, and I hope it gives you a chance to reflect on the year's highlights, achievements and challenges. Please do share any photos of your 70th themed parties on social media using the hashtag **#MSSocietyTurns70** — we'd love to see them!

For me, highlights this year included the launch of Octopus, our new multi-arm, multi-stage (MAMS) platform trial, designed to develop treatments more efficiently than traditional trials. And cheering our supporters and volunteers on at the London Marathon.

I want to say thank you for the time you dedicate to volunteering and

your perseverance to improve the lives of people with MS. No matter what your volunteering role, your contribution is important, and I think our Ambassador, Trishna Bharadia, sums it up perfectly in this short video.



I wish everyone a restful and enjoyable festive period with friends and family.

Best wishes,



Nick



General updates



Catch up on our Volunteer Impact Awards event

If you missed our livestreamed event last week, it's still available on YouTube. Congratulations again to all our finalists and winners. It was a lovely evening.

[Find out more](#) 



Face-to-face fundraising pilot launched

For the next four months, we'll be trialling the use of paid professional fundraisers. They'll fundraise door to door and also on private sites, such as supermarkets and train stations.

[Find out more](#) 



Potential myelin repair therapies

Dr Nick Cunniffe tells us about testing two drugs in combination to see whether they can kickstart the body's natural myelin repair process.



Carols by Candlelight next week

Tickets are still available for our festive celebration on **Thursday 14 December at 7pm**. If you can't get to London, we now have a link for you to enjoy a live stream of the event on

YouTube.

[Find out more](#)

[Find out more](#)

Other news...

Research Reporter - Find out what's happening in the world of MS science — as compiled by our Research Team!



Volunteering in action



A volunteering journey across the decades

Mike's been volunteering with us for almost 40 years, but will be stepping down next spring. As we celebrate the MS Society's 70th anniversary, he reflects on the changes he's seen and why he'd do it all again.



Growing with the MS Society

Pat's also been volunteering with us for almost 40 years. She tells us about how she's grown with our charity and how things have changed for the better.

[Read Mike's blog here](#) □

[Read Pat'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



Finance Year End is coming

If you're involved in your group's Finance Year-End process, our new training module explains responsibilities, forms, policies, and where to find support.

[Access the training](#) □



Accessing contact details - Portal update

Please continue to request contact data from the Volunteer Support Team (closed between 23 Dec and 2 Jan). We'll now launch the new process in the new year.

[Find out more](#) □



Group fundraising drop-ins are back

If you need advice or help with anything related to group fundraising, Molly is hosting an informal drop in on the **first Wednesday of each month at 2pm.**

[Register here](#) □



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](#) □

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.

If your group would like to contribute to research, it's important that you do so via our central Finance Team, who will allocate the funds for you. You can [find details here of how to do this.](#)

A lot of detailed evaluation by the Research Team is required to ensure that a research project remains a good use of our funds. So groups should never attempt to send funding directly to researchers or universities.



Events

Events for all volunteers

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)

Carols by Candlelight: Thursday 14 December at 6.30pm

Training troubleshooting session: Various dates available

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

Coffee & Chat: Various dates available

Portal support session: Various dates available

Enthuse onboarding training: Various dates available

Monthly fundraising drop-in: First Wednesday of every month at 2pm

Let's stop MS together



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