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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



Volunteer Voice returns for 2024

Join us on **Tuesday 30 January** at



Avoiding email slip-ups to protect data

Human error when sending emails can

11.30am for an update on what's ahead for volunteering this year — including the introduction of our new Volunteer Management System, which both staff and volunteers will be using. Plus a Q&A opportunity for anything which is on your mind.

[Register here to attend](#) □

cause anxiety to those whose data is shared by mistake, without their permission. Our handy checklist has reminders to help you avoid errors (such as forgetting to use the Blind Carbon Copy 'BCC' line) and keep data safe.

[Find out more](#) □



Face-to-face fundraising a success

Our pilot campaign is going well — with over 1600 new regular givers, against a target of 600. This will bring in an additional £200,000 each year. We'll evaluate the pilot when it finishes at the end of February, so please send any feedback to kate.chow@mssociety.org.uk.

[Find out more](#) □



Help us shape our EDI principles

Our EDI (Equality, Diversity and Inclusion) principles will help us ensure that everyone feels they can be themselves in their volunteer or staff role. If you'd like to take part in a workshop to develop these principles, please email volunteercomms@mssociety.org.uk.

[Find out more](#) □

Volunteer at an MS Walk in 2024

MS Walk returns this year to Cardiff, Glasgow, London and Manchester. Plus there's a new walk in Birmingham!

The walks couldn't happen without the generosity of our volunteers. If you can give some of your time to help at an MS Walk, we'd love to hear from you. We have various times and roles available throughout the day. There are no specific skills required — just enthusiasm and a can-do attitude.

Find out more and apply to volunteer at an MS Walk in **Birmingham**, **Cardiff**, **Glasgow**, **London** or **Manchester**.



Breathing Space Project starts in Wales

Our new project, funded by the Welsh Government to provide short breaks for unpaid carers, has now launched.

[Find out more](#) 



Research round-up 2023

We've been funding research towards our vision of a world without MS for 70 years. And 2023 was no different.

[Find out more](#) 



Updates for groups



Finance Year End - 31 January deadline!

Thanks to all our groups that are now completing the process. If you need a reminder of the steps to take, or how to access support, we've put together a round-up to help.

[Find out more](#) 



Changes to health and safety forms

Please make sure that you now use the new versions of the couple of forms we've updated. Plus a 2023 'thank you' from the Health and Safety Team.

[Find out more](#) 



Portal replacement update

We're in the final stages of testing the process that will replace the functionality previously held in the Portal for generating contact lists. We're looking to test this with



Local group donations

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

volunteers next week. We'll be in touch with further details when the new process is ready to be rolled out.

[Find out more](#) □

[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.

It's becoming increasingly difficult to make payments by cheques. So, we'd strongly encourage any groups that don't currently use Barclays.Net for internet banking to consider setting this up. Barclays requires two bank account signatories from the group, who will each receive a smart card, PIN and card reader. One signatory can then (as agreed by the Coordinating Team) set up a payment, and the other can authorise it. Funds are transferred to the payee via BACS.

To find out more about Barclays.Net contact Volunteer Support (volunteersupport@mssociety.org.uk) or Treasury Support (treasury.support@mssociety.org.uk).

[If your group's still making cheque payments, do check the payment terms with the payee beforehand, as some organisations no longer accept cheques.]



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 for 2024

Volunteer Voice: Tuesday 30 January at 11.30am

Living Well Team events (including Staying Active with MS)

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

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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