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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



### Introducing Project Mead

Over the next two years, Project Mead



### Our new Volunteer Management System

We're introducing a new way for

will transform the services and support we provide to the MS community and our delivery across the nations. We want to offer more choice and reach more people.

[Find out more](#) □

volunteers to manage their own data, and access and upload information about their volunteering — through a Volunteer Management System called Assemble.

[Find out more](#) □

## Can we help you celebrate Pride this summer?

With Pride events ahead across the nations, are you thinking of taking part in your local one? Would you like some MS Society resources to help you celebrate and share information about living with MS?

This year we're thinking of producing a Pride resource pack with lots of lovely things that you can use at your Pride events. Is this something you'd like? Would it be helpful to support your events? Let us know on [edi@mssociety.org.uk](mailto:edi@mssociety.org.uk).



## Referencing changes to our Privacy Notice

Our Privacy Notice has changed. Until July, you'll need to reference this in the data statements you use on forms to collect personal information, so people know how we may use their data.



## Out and about with MS nurses

March saw two of our colleagues at the annual MS Trust conference for MS nurses. Spreading the word about the MS Society to over 300 nurses, they gave out nearly 4,000 information resources and promotional items!

[Find out more](#)[Find out more](#)

## GDPR eLearning refresher

If you're **in a role which requires GDPR training**, and/or you have access to MS Society systems or email, you need to refresh your data-protection knowledge every two years. When your previous GDPR training expires, we'll email you a link to our refresher eLearning 'Handling data safely'. This is shorter than the previous version, and can be done in more than one sitting.

Please complete your GDPR refresher as soon as you can when you receive it. If life circumstances will cause a significant delay, just let us know. Thank you for helping us to keep everyone's data safe.



## Our new MS Society shop is now open!

Last year we shared an update about our exciting plans to open two new shops in Greater Manchester. We're now delighted to share the news that our shop in Altrincham is now open to the public!

[Find out more](#)

## New rights for carer's leave

Until recently, unpaid carers didn't have a right to time off from work for caring. The Carer's Leave Act now gives them the right to up to five days' unpaid leave from work for their caring responsibilities.

[Find out more](#)

## Other news...

**MS Awareness Week - 22 to 29 April:** Keep an eye on this page for resources you can use. Coming soon!

**Research Reporter April 2024:** Find out what's happening in the world of MS science - as compiled by our Research Team.

**Volunteer at an MS Walk:** If you live near Manchester, Birmingham, London or Cardiff, we'd love your support — with local promotion and/or helping on the day. And we can help local groups build new connections and fundraise at our events.

**MS Society £4,000 Raffle 2024:** Support our work for the chance to win one of over 20 prizes. £1 tickets are available until **Thursday 9 May**.



## Volunteering in action



### Giving is in my DNA

Nikki has been volunteering with us since 2019. She tells us how she's used her professional and personal experience to give back to others.

[Read Nikki's blog here](#) 



### It's nice to feel part of a community

Yasmin is a Support Volunteer in our West Central London Group. She tells us about helping the group to organise and run a Living Well with MS Day.



Read Yasmin'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

### Reach recruitment platform change

Reach ATS will be closing an older version of their website. The old website <https://recruiter.mssociety.org.uk/> will be replaced by <https://admin.reach-ats.com/> on **12 April**. Your log-in will remain your email address, but you may need to change your password. Please contact Simon Moran at [volunteerrecruitment@mssociety.org.uk](mailto:volunteerrecruitment@mssociety.org.uk) with any questions.



### Cost of Living Grants rollout

Last year we ran a small pilot to test a new process for groups to offer Cost of Living Grants to people living with MS. Now we're preparing to roll out the scheme to all groups that would



### Applying for funding from trusts and foundations

Funding from trusts can be a great source of income for groups. So we've put together a quick reminder about these opportunities, and what you need to do to apply.

like to offer them.

[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.

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Please remember to add a voicemail message to your group phone number. This should let callers know that the messages are monitored and indicate when someone will reply.

Similarly, your group email address should also carry an out-of-office reply. You can arrange this by contacting [volunteersupport@mssociety.org.uk](mailto:volunteersupport@mssociety.org.uk) .

## 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](#) □



## 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

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

**Training troubleshooting session:** Various dates available

**2024 fundraising events calendar**

## Events for group volunteers

**Cost of Living Grants information session:** Friday 3 May at 2pm, Tuesday 7 May at 6.30pm, Thursday 9 May at 11.30am

**Spring Support Volunteer Forum:** Tuesday 21 May at 10am, Wednesday 22 May at 2pm, Thursday 23 May at 11am

**Weekly drop-in with Volunteer Support Team:** Every Tuesday at 2pm

**Monthly Health and Safety drop-in:** First Tuesday of every month at 3pm

**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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