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# Volunteer update

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



## General updates




**My time on the Assemble Volunteer User Panel**



**MS-STAT2 trial results released at ECTRIMS**

Our Assemble User Panel member, Susannah Robinson, tells us how she thinks the new system will benefit you. And, as volunteers will need to access it soon, what you can do to prepare for the launch.

[Find out more](#) 

The MS-STAT2 trial has shown that simvastatin is not an effective treatment for secondary progressive MS. The results were announced at the ECTRIMS research conference in Copenhagen in September.

[Find out more](#) 

## Requesting your patience in the next few months

As you know, we're working hard on the upcoming launch of our new volunteer management system, Assemble. It's part of Project Sage, a major transformation project to overhaul how we use data and systems at the MS Society.

Another key element of Project Sage is moving our huge organisation-wide database to a new platform.

This means that, over the next couple of months, teams across the organisation will be focusing on making all this happen as smoothly as possible. This may mean response times are slower than usual, so please bear with us and we'll get back to you as quickly as we can.

Many thanks in advance for your understanding.




**Sharing sensitive personal information**



**Giving in other ways to stop MS**

Do you know what 'sensitive information' about someone is? Such information requires extra protection, so you can only share it if you have explicit permission to do so.

[Find out more](#) 

Whether you're shopping online, or having a clear-out at home, there are lots of ways to fundraise to stop MS — and some of them won't cost you a penny.

[Find out more](#) 

## Making history this winter!

This winter, join the history makers to help stop MS. From scientists, to volunteers, to all those living with MS — we all have a chance to make history.

We're on the cusp of a revolution in how MS is treated. Thirty years ago, there were no treatments for MS. Now there are more than a dozen that can help reduce MS attacks. But these don't work for everyone and they're not enough to stop MS.

We're launching the History Makers Appeal to support our research to stop MS. This is history in the making. For research. For science. For people living with MS. Will you make history by helping us stop MS? Find out more [www.mssociety.org.uk/history-makers](http://www.mssociety.org.uk/history-makers).



### A star-studded turnout for SMS Battles

Our star-studded 2024 event has




### Genetically engineered human cells can repair myelin in mice

raised over an impressive £220,000 for our Stop MS Appeal, supporting significant advancements in our research.

[Find out more](#) 

Scientists at our Edinburgh Centre for MS Research have used a gene-editing technique to boost myelin repair.

[Find out more](#) 

## Other news...

**Christmas Raffle now live:** Enter today for the chance to win £6,000 as well as over 20 other great prizes, and support the MS Community. Play until Tuesday 17 December. [Enter here](#).

**Carols by Candlelight:** Bookings are open for our annual evening of festive music and celebrity readings in aid of our Stop MS Appeal. Join us at Westminster Chapel on Thursday 12 December at 7pm. [Book here](#).

**Our 2025 to 2029 strategy needs you!** Join one of our online engagement sessions to [help us decide what we should focus on](#) in the next five years to achieve maximum impact for the MS community. [Sign up here](#).

## Support's always on hand

We know that volunteering can have its ups and downs. If you'd like a confidential chat about anything that's worrying you in your role, please contact Barbara on [supportwellbeing@mssociety.org.uk](mailto:supportwellbeing@mssociety.org.uk)



# Volunteering in action



## Volunteering opens your brain and heart to different things

Margaret tells us about some of the creative ways her group has fundraised, and shares some of the personal lessons and volunteering challenges she's faced along the way.

[Read Margaret's blog here](#) □



## I'm proud to lead a dedicated group of volunteers who make a difference

Matt's been Chair of our England Council since the start of 2024. He tells us about his journey from diagnosis to advocacy.

[Read Matt'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



## Digesting the facts about MS

Our face-to-face Digesting Science workshops help children understand the MS symptoms a relative might be living with. And we're now extending our reach with a digital version, funded by our Cambridge Group.

[Find out more](#) 



## Want to offer Cost of Living Grants?

We've been rolling out a new process to groups interested in offering Cost of Living Grants locally. Whether you're new to grants or you'd like to add to your existing offer, join one of our online sessions to 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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If you're uncertain where to post a transaction on Branch Accounting Online, please use 'I1 General Donations' for a receipt (income) and 'E26 Other costs' for a payment (expense).

If you subsequently receive extra information that enables you to analyse the transaction more specifically, please contact [financesupport@mssociety.org.uk](mailto:financesupport@mssociety.org.uk) to have the transaction recoded. Let us know the date of the transaction, the code used, the amount, and the nominal code you'd like the transaction reallocated to.



## 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 and skills sessions for different stages of the MS journey (including Staying Active with MS)

**2024 fundraising events calendar**

### Events for group volunteers

**Cost of Living Grants information sessions:** Friday 18 October at 11am – 12pm, Monday 28 October at 2pm – 3pm, Thursday 7 November, 4pm – 5pm

**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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