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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



### Assemble launch delayed


We'd hoped to start rolling out



### Join us for Volunteer Voice

Thursday 28 November at 11am is

Assemble, our new volunteer management system (VMS) this autumn. We wanted to share the reasons behind the decision to delay the launch, and what this means for the volunteer systems you use.

[Find out more](#) 


the last Volunteer Voice session of the year. Join us for a look back at 2024 and an update on strategy development. Plus the usual opportunity to ask questions about whatever's on your mind.

[Register here](#) 

## Take our survey on employment

We want to hear about your experiences of employment as a person with MS. Whether you're currently employed, looking for work or have had to give up work because of your MS, we want to hear from you.

We're partnering with the Work Foundation for this research to better understand how employment needs to change for people with MS.

[Take our survey here](#) 



## Moving to Universal Credit

Do you still receive a legacy benefit? If so, we have important advice on what you'll need to do when you're asked to move to Universal Credit.



## Working together to shape our future

We're looking for Co-production Volunteers to help shape our future services and support options for people affected by MS. Whether you


can give a few hours, or more, we want to hear from you.

[Find out more](#) 

[Find out more](#) 

## Promoting the winter vaccine programme

A reminder that people with MS across the UK are eligible for COVID-19 and flu boosters or vaccinations this winter because MS is in the clinical risk group. Main carers of people with MS are also eligible for flu vaccinations. People should be invited for these, but can otherwise contact their GP. Do ensure those you support are aware of this.

[Find out more](#) 



## Disclosure & Barring Service


### Change to DBS update renewal process

If you've been registered with the DBS update service after a DBS check for your role, you'll need to take prompt action to renew this annually. The email you'll receive, with a link to click, is not a scam.



### Community Connections: Volunteers needed

Could you, or someone you know, be an MS Awareness Volunteer for our new Community Connections project in Wales and the South West of England?

[Find out more](#) 

[Find out more](#)

## Join our annual evening of festive music and readings

Tickets are still on sale for Carols by Candlelight at Westminster Chapel on **Thursday 12 December at 7pm** — with celebrities Rose Leslie, Sophie McShera, Laurence Llewelyn-Bowen, Jackie Bowen, Andy Serkis and Lorraine Ashbourne. But don't worry if you can't get to London. We'll be streaming it live on our [YouTube channel](#) so you can enjoy it from your sofa.

[Buy tickets here](#)


## Face-to-face fundraising

Thanks for all the helpful feedback we've received. If your group has any festive fundraising planned, let us know the details so we can avoid location clashes.

[Find out more](#)


## LivingWell programme for 2025

We're pleased to share our LivingWell programme of events coming up in 2025 — as chosen by our MS community.

[Find out more](#)

## Other news...

**Safeguarding Adults Week (18-22 November)** - Protecting others is the

responsibility of us all. For a refresher on the different types of abuse, and how to report a concern, take a look at our [safeguarding guidance module](#).

**History makers** - Last month we launched 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.

## 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



### I want to raise as much money as I can

June's been fundraising for MS since 2014, by creating and selling calendars featuring her own photographs, mostly of Scotland. All the profits come to us. Can you help



### I'm proud of keeping our group going

Rebecca's been volunteering for us for 13 years. She tells us what she enjoys about her many roles and about some of her achievements, including securing £50,000 in grants

promote her 2025 calendar?

[Read June's blog here](#)

for her group.

[Read Rebecca'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's approaching

If you're involved in the Finance Year-End process, we've got a reminder of the steps you need to take between now and the end of January. Plus Zoom drop-in sessions and a video to support you.

[Find out more](#)



### Coffee and Chats are back for December

Meet other group volunteers from across the UK and the Chair of our England Council, pose any questions to the Volunteer Support Team, and find out about the Finance Year-End process.

[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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A quick reminder that you must send any emails containing personal data (related to group contacts, grant applications, etc) from your MS Society email address — not personal email accounts.

And, if you're sending an email to multiple recipients, do remember to put your own email address in the 'To' field and then all the recipients in the 'BCC' (NOT 'CC') field. This ensures that nobody can see anybody else's email address, and keeps personal data safe.

If you have any problems accessing or using your MS Society email account, the Volunteer Support Team will be happy to help.

## 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

**Volunteer Voice:** Thursday 28 November at 11am

**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

**Coffee and Chats:** Tuesday 3 December at 2pm, Wednesday 4 December at 6pm, Thursday 5 December at 11am

**Finance Year-End support drop-ins:** Various dates in November and December

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

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

Let's stop MS together



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