

Parkinson's Awareness Week 2005

11th-17th April

The focus of Parkinson's Awareness Week this year is "FOR EVERY AGE AND AT EVERY STAGE".

We want to highlight that the Parkinson's Disease Society is here for everyone with Parkinson's and their family and friends.

To help get this message across, there are five new posters that reflect this theme and introduce some new faces. There will also be a host of activities up and down the UK, as well as the presentation of new research on the impact of Parkinson's on family life.

Please put up posters for Parkinson's Awareness Week!

Our new posters feature five very different people whose lives have been changed by Parkinson's. They are:



- **Trevor Mills** who worked as a postman in London until he was diagnosed with Parkinson's. He has now fulfilled a lifetime's ambition and become a DJ.
- **Charlotte Johnson Wahl** is an established painter who continues to lead a very full life in spite of her Parkinson's.
- **Sumit Bose**, whose father had Parkinson's, is a presenter and reporter at the BBC.
- **Chloe Phillips** (left) from Bridgend in South Wales, became a fundraiser for the Society when her Grandad got Parkinson's.
- **Professor Nick Wood** and his team at the Institute of Neurology discovered a gene that helps us understand Parkinson's.

"We run Parkinson's Awareness Week to raise awareness of the condition and the work we do. This year the Society wants to reach out to all people affected by Parkinson's. We are highlighting how the Society is there for anyone affected, including friends and family."

Linda Kelly, Chief Executive of the Parkinson's Disease Society

To order a set of posters please contact Sharward Services on 01473 212115.

Please help to make sure our posters get seen by as many people as possible by putting them up everywhere in your area – in shops, leisure centres, doctors' waiting rooms and anywhere else you can think of. Many places will agree to take a poster if someone approaches them personally. This will help raise the profile of the Parkinson's Disease Society and help us to reach more people.

Family Life and Parkinson's Research

During Parkinson's Awareness Week we will be launching new findings on the effect of Parkinson's on family life undertaken by The Institute of Neurology and funded by the Society. The study has looked at how children cope when a parent has Parkinson's and what support they need.

Parkinson's Disease Society Tissue Bank Open Day 11th April

See where human brain tissue is stored, and how it is used ethically for vital research. You will have a chance look around the labs and examine brain tissue under a microscope. There will also be an opportunity to find out about research and meet people involved. For more information and to reserve a place please call 020 8383 4917.

Party for Parkinson's

The Society is encouraging supporters to have a party to raise funds. This could be a coffee morning, black-tie dinner, children's party or even a karaoke evening, as Sherborne supporters did (right). Contact the Events team (details below) and we will send you a party pack containing balloons, badges and posters.



Supporters in Sherborne, Dorset (left and below) have already raised £385 by partying for Parkinson's.

Parachute Jump

If you are feeling adventurous why not take part in a sponsored sky dive during Parkinson's Awareness Week? You could follow Ralph Mills' (right) example by wearing the Parkinson's Tulip, the international emblem for Parkinson's while you jump!



Flora London Marathon

Parkinson's Awareness Week ends on Sunday 17th April with the Flora London Marathon. This year over 140 runners are hoping to raise a quarter of a million pounds for the Society. Terry Kavanagh (left) is training for his 12th London Marathon, and along with many others, will be wearing a Parkinson's pink tulip.

To find out more about events during Parkinson's Awareness Week and for 2005, please email events@parkinsons.org.uk or phone 020 7932 1347.

Talking to your MP

During the election campaign we will be asking members to lobby politicians for a better deal for people with Parkinson's. Why not ask candidates their views on our main campaign issues? These are: access to specialist nursing, exemption from prescription charges, improved support for carers and implementing the government's national service framework for long-term conditions.



Sweet Tooth?

Pupils at Oundle School, Northamptonshire (right), are aiming to raise £5,000 for the Society by selling specially packaged fudge. During Parkinson's Awareness Week they hope to sell it in their local Co-op store. If any readers are shopkeepers or are having an event where you can sell large quantities of fudge (100 or more boxes) please contact the PR office on 020 7932 1335.

Do you want to join the Parkinson's Disease Society?

Membership is open to anyone with an interest in Parkinson's and we currently have more than 30,000 members. The more members we have, the louder we can campaign on behalf of people affected by Parkinson's. UK membership is £4 a year.

Would you like advice or information?

For general enquiries, please phone 020 7931 8080. The Society also runs a free helpline offering advice from a specially trained nurse. Call 0808 800 0303.

Our website www.parkinsons.org.uk has information about all aspects Parkinson's.
