

## HINTS AND TIPS DECEMBER 2012 from Roland Lewis Editor 01923 720198

### Items for sale from The News

We offer a free advertising service, but we cannot accept responsibility for the condition of the items advertised. Arrangements for collection of items for sale should be made directly between buyer and seller. Where specialised or lifting equipment is concerned, you are strongly advised to seek advice from your occupational therapist and the manufacturer as to suitability and health and safety requirements.

To advertise send details to Debbie Philip, on 01604 611874 or

[debbie.philip@mndassociation.org](mailto:debbie.philip@mndassociation.org)

Adverts will appear in one edition of The News. Please contact us if you would like your advert to re-appear.

- ACORN stair lift. Suits straight staircase. Good as new, bought in July 2011. Price: £900. This includes delivery and fitting by a trained Acorn installer. 3 months full warranty.
- Several metres outdoor ramps and rails. Price: £400. Area: Bristol area or buyer collects.
- Red, Taxi, four wheel, mobility scooter, Basket on the front, bag on the back, plus all over cape. Good, clean condition. Price: £175 ono. Proceeds to the MND Association. Area: Bexley, Kent for collection.
- Freerider Scooter (FR168-4A) for sale. Maximum speed 4MPH, range up to 10 miles. Easily dismantles to fit into the boot of a car. Price: £250 Area: Collection Northampton area
- Navigator for Sale. 2 in 1 walker and wheelchair. Easily collapses down to fit into back of car. Price: £60. Area: Collection Northampton area

Contact details for these items for sale are available from MND Connect

### New Care information

The Caring and MND: quick guide launches this month, as the second stage of our information for carers.

A summary version of the full carer's pack, the quick guide is designed to help people new to the caring role after someone close has been diagnosed with MND.

This lightweight A5 booklet explains what they may need to consider and the types of support available, with the focus on their needs as the carer. As the care demands increase and become more complex, the full pack Caring and MND: support for you provides more comprehensive support.

Various information sheets have also been revised:

7 – Motoring and MND

8 – Choosing the right vehicle for you

22A – Benefits and entitlements

11 – PEG and alternative feeding – making the decision.

The Respiratory Checklist card for health professionals has also been rebranded and revised to follow the NICE guidelines for NIV.

To order copies of our care information provision, contact

- regional admin 01604 611812 [regionaladminservices@mndassociation.org](mailto:regionaladminservices@mndassociation.org)
- or
- MND Connect 08457 626262 [mndconnect@mndassociation.org](mailto:mndconnect@mndassociation.org)

These items will also be available to view and download from our website [www.mndassociation.org](http://www.mndassociation.org)

### **There is an item in Disabled Motoring which might be of interest.**

A correspondent said: "On one of the rare sunny days this summer, I noticed that the transparent plastic of the wallet containing my Blue Badge had got extremely hot, which caused me to wonder whether this could adversely impact on the badge and its functions. Please can you let me know if this is likely to be the case?"

In reply, a Dept of Transport spokesman said: "The badge hasn't been designed to be put in those wallets.....We found out, however, last week that using them can damage the hologram on the new style badge.....We have amended the carrier letter that goes out with the badges to warn people not to use these wallets with the new style badges, or at least not to cover the hologram with any sort of plastic cover."

### **MND Association Clinical Research Fellowship awarded to Dr Cooper-Knock**

The fifth Lady Edith Wolfson Clinical Research Fellowship, jointly funded by the [Medical Research Council](http://www.mrc.ac.uk) (MRC) and the Motor Neurone Disease (MND) Association, has been awarded to Dr Johnathan Cooper-Knock for his research into MND.

The fellowship programme, aims to attract and develop outstanding young clinicians in MND research in order to create future scientific leaders in the field. Good researchers are fundamental to good research and developing the MND research workforce is a key element of the Association's research strategy.

Based at the Sheffield Institute for Translational Neuroscience (SITraN) at Sheffield University, Dr Cooper-Knock said: "I was over the moon to receive the fellowship; it is an internationally recognised award, which both as a scientist and a doctor of neurology will help me to progress significantly.

"I am passionate about MND patients and this fellowship will allow me to develop my research into the genetics of MND and work towards a cure for this terrible disease."

The MND Association's DNA bank is an essential part of Dr Cooper-Knock's project. The DNA Bank holds over 3,000 samples from people with MND, spouse or partner controls and family members collected from 2003 to 2011.

Using the Association's DNA bank, the fellowship programme will allow Dr Cooper-Knock to carry out cutting-edge genetic research over three years to learn more about how mistakes in a gene called C9ORF72 can cause MND.

Dr Cooper-Knock said: "Because of the large size of the DNA bank I have ready access to a significant number of samples from patients with the C9ORF72 mutation. This unique resource gives me the power to answer urgent questions about the disease mechanism which will help the whole field of MND research."

"By the end of my fellowship I aim to have contributed significantly to the understanding of disease mechanisms related to C9ORF72 dysfunction in MND. As a result I hope to have identified a number of therapeutic targets for development into new treatments by myself and others."

Dr Brian Dickie, the MND Association's Director of Research added: "The MND Association considers it a priority to attract, train and retain the brightest and best researchers. Dr Cooper-Knock becomes the fifth clinician supported through the Lady Edith Wolfson Fellowship programme and I have no doubt he will maintain the high standards of scientific excellence associated with the scheme. We look forward to following his progress in this project, as he establishes his career in MND research."