

MS Society



9th Annual General Meeting

Saturday 21 September



Dear Member

I'm delighted to be sending you information about our 2019 Annual General Meeting. The AGM is your opportunity to have your say on important issues and to influence the future priorities and activities of the MS Society.

With our dedicated MS community, we've continued to make a real difference to the lives of people living with MS. In 2018 we started to recruit for a landmark clinical trial we're proud to co-fund, MS STAT2, which will involve over 1,000 people with secondary progressive MS, testing whether high dose simvastatin can slow progression. We're co-funding the trial with the National Institute of Health Research and the National MS Society. Our Helpline answered over 16,800 enquires and won Helpline of the Year for the vital support that it provides to people across the UK. We also launched new services and tools to help people living with MS stay physically active and improve their overall wellbeing. These new services add to all the outstanding support and friendship that our volunteers and local groups provide people living with MS across the UK. We continued speaking up on key issues important to our community, which includes legalisation of cannabis for medicinal use, changes to the 20-metre rule for PIP, and ensuring Ocrelizumab is available on the NHS.

This year, as well as asking you to vote on two standard resolutions – receiving the Annual Report and Accounts and appointing auditors – the Board is asking you to support one additional significant resolution. In particular this year we are setting out, and asking you for support for, our strategy for the next five years.

The proposed strategy has been developed by our Chief Executive Nick Moberly, and his team in consultation with many in the MS Community, and has the full support of the Board of Trustees. This strategy is summarised on pages 7 and 8 of this booklet. This outlines what we hope to achieve over the next five years, but as importantly, how we will go about it.

Later in this booklet, you'll find important information about the four different ways you can vote, which we hope will make it easy for everyone to participate. We will again broadcast the AGM to ensure you can follow the proceedings as they happen, or watch them at a later date.

The AGM is your chance to hear more about what we have been doing and to have your say – please use your vote.



Nick Winser
Chair
MS Society



Notice

The Multiple Sclerosis Society's 9th Annual General Meeting

MS National Centre, 372 Edgware Road, London, NW2 6ND on Saturday, 21 September 2019 at 11am

The business that will be carried out at this AGM is:

- Review of 2018
- New strategy
- Receipt of Annual Report and Accounts 2018
- Appointment of auditors
- Elections

You can watch this meeting live on our website, and after the event, at: www.mssociety.org.uk/agm-2019.

Please note that by attending the meeting, you are consenting to being filmed.

Our MS National Centre provides a welcoming and accessible environment for all. Our facilities include: designated disabled parking spaces, stair free access to all areas of the building, accessible toilets with access to fixed or mobile hoists, automatic and button operated doors, induction loop, and a room where you can rest.

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Read the booklet and still have questions?

If you have any remaining questions about the AGM or have any questions for the Board, please contact the Governance team by phoning **020 8827 0470**, emailing governance@mssociety.org.uk or writing to the Governance team at MS National Centre, 372 Edgware Road, London, NW2 6ND.

If you have any questions that are not related to the AGM or to the governance of the MS Society please email supportercare@mssociety.org.uk.

All about voting

The AGM is your opportunity, as a member, to influence our activities and the way we are run. You can also decide who should be elected to the Board of Trustees and National Councils. Each member has a vote.

If you were a paid up member on 22 June 2019 you are able to vote.

Your voting form

Your voting form is enclosed with this booklet. It shows your membership number and your two part security code, which you will need for online voting. There are sections for voting on resolutions, on electing Trustees and, in many parts of the United Kingdom, for voting in National Council elections.

This year we are asking you to vote on three resolutions:

1. **New strategy**
2. **The Annual Report and Accounts 2018**
3. **Appointment of auditors**

In addition to this, you will be voting for Trustees. These are senior volunteers who, with others, will help lead the MS Society in the coming years. The Board undertakes a rigorous process to identify and recommend those candidates who have the skills the Board needs and who will contribute at the highest level. This year we have three vacancies and five candidates. Information about them can be found on pages 10 to 12. Trustees who are elected will serve a three year period starting from 1 January 2020.

This is also your chance to vote for National Council members for England, Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales. Information about each candidate for election to the National Councils can be found on pages 14 to 26. Council members who are elected will serve a three year period starting from 1 January 2020.

If you live in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales, you can vote in the election for your National Council.

If you live in one of the following regions of England you can vote in the relevant election for a member of the England National Council:

- Yorkshire
- South West
- East Anglia
- North of England
- Wessex and West
- Thames Valley

If you live in other regions of England you do not have a vote in the elections to the England National Council this year (either because there is no candidate standing for election in your region or because there was no vacancy) so there will not be a section about National Council elections on your voting form.

Voting timetable

Thursday 1 August

Voting opens

3pm Monday 9 September

Nomination forms returned to MS Society (if you are sending another person to the AGM to vote on your behalf)

11am Thursday 19 September

Online and postal voting closes

Saturday 21 September

AGM and announcement of results

How to vote

You can vote on the resolutions and in the elections for Trustees and Council Members in one of four ways:

- Online
- By post
- In person at the AGM
- By proxy at the AGM

Online

You will have received an email with a link to the voting site if we have an email address for you.

Even if we didn't have a contact email address, you can still go to www.mssociety.org.uk/agm-2019 and follow instructions to the voting site from there, or ask a trusted person to do this for you. You will need to use your two part security code which is on the voting form that accompanies this booklet.

Don't worry if you can't find this – please contact Electoral Reform Services on **020 8889 9203** or by emailing customerservices@electoralreform.co.uk.

Voting online is quick and convenient. It also saves us money on postage, which can then be spent on our work.

Please submit your vote online by **11am** on **Thursday 19 September 2019**.

By post

You can complete the enclosed voting form, or ask a trusted person to do this for you under your instruction.

You can return the completed form using the freepost envelope enclosed or by sending it to Electoral Reform Services at:

**The Election Centre
33 Clarendon Road
London
N8 ONW**

If you can, please use your own envelope and stamp, as it saves us money on postage, which can then be spent on our work.

Please ensure that you post your form in good time to reach Electoral Reform Services by **11am** on **Thursday 19 September 2019**.

Your vote will not count if it has not been signed by you (or by the trusted individual stating that they are doing so on your behalf).

In person at the AGM

If you want to join us for the AGM and vote on the day, please complete the registration form at www.mssociety.org.uk/agm-2019 or call **0300 500 8084 (option 5)**.

This year the AGM is being held at MS National Centre in London (address at the top of page 3 of this booklet). Please bring your voting papers with you to the AGM. You can ask another person to help you complete these papers if you need to.

Vote by proxy at the AGM

You can appoint a proxy to vote at the AGM. A proxy is somebody who can attend, speak and vote on your behalf at a meeting. The person you appoint does not need to be a member of the MS Society.

If you would like to do this, please fill out a nomination form to let us know who is coming in your place. To get a nomination form, please email governance@mssociety.org.uk, phone us on **020 8827 0470** or download the form at www.mssociety.org.uk/agm-2019.

Email your completed form to governance@mssociety.org.uk or post it to the Governance Manager at MS National Centre by **3pm** on **9 September 2019**.

The resolutions

This year we have three resolutions from the Board of Trustees, which are listed below.

A Trustee will introduce each resolution and members present at the AGM are invited to contribute or ask questions.

Following discussion, members at the AGM will be asked to vote for or against the resolutions and the results will be announced on the day (other members will already have voted by post or online).

The Board of Trustees recommends that you vote “For” all three resolutions.

Resolution 1

The MS Society’s strategy for 2020 to 2024

This AGM endorses the MS Society’s strategy for 2020 to 2024.

Supporting statement

During 2019 the MS Society has been working to develop our strategy for the next five years – to set out our impact goals, aims, and how we want to work together to improve the lives of people affected by MS across the UK. Our strategy is the product of extensive engagement with people affected by MS, members, our volunteers, and our staff.

The proposed strategy and way in which we will describe our vision, mission and aspirations going forward appears on the next page. Your support will give us the mandate to drive forward with this ambitious plan. The Board of Trustees recommends that you vote ‘For’ this resolution.

Resolution 2

Annual Report and Accounts 2018

This AGM receives the Annual Report and Accounts of the MS Society 2018, following the audit by the MS Society’s auditors, Haysmacintyre.

Supporting statement

Receiving the Annual Report and Accounts is a formal part of every AGM.

To make the best use of our funds a complete version of the Annual Report and Accounts has not been included in this booklet but extracts from the accounts have been printed on pages 30 and 31. The full Annual Report and Accounts can be downloaded from www.mssociety.org.uk/agm-2019 or please ask for a printed copy by emailing governance@mssociety.org.uk, calling **020 8827 0470** or writing to MS National Centre (the address can be found at the top of page 3).

Resolution 3

Appointment of Auditors

The AGM appoints Haysmacintyre as the MS Society’s auditors for the 2019 Annual Report and Accounts.

Supporting statement

The appointment of auditors is a formal part of every AGM. The Board of Trustees recommends that Haysmacintyre be appointed as the MS Society’s auditors for the 2019 Annual Report and Accounts.

Our New Strategy

Our current five year strategy Together to Beat MS, which was endorsed by Members in 2014, comes to an end this year. Since the MS Society was founded in 1953, we've seen, and been part of, some remarkable developments that have led to big improvements in the quality of life for people living with MS, but we know there is still much more to do. Our volunteers and local groups help make sure no-one has to face MS alone, providing an incredible range of activities, emotional support, and friendship.

Through our next strategy, we want to continue to strengthen our community, build on the progress we've made, and better achieve the impact people living with MS have told us are important to them. The refreshed strategy for 2020 to 2024 sets out how we will focus our energies for the next five years. Members of the MS Society are asked at Resolution 1 to endorse our strategy for 2020 to 2024, which is set out below.

Strategy for 2020 to 2024

Our Vision

A world free from the effects of MS.

Our Mission

Transforming lives, stopping MS.

Our long term goals

Based on extensive consultation with people affected by MS, in 2014 we developed seven impact goals for the MS Society. As part of the strategy refresh we have combined these goals into three (while remaining faithful to the breadth and depth of the original seven goals):

- Effective treatments and preventing MS
- People living well with MS
- Connected communities, powerful voices

These goals are intended to be long-term and aspirational, providing a leading-light for all our work.

What we will do

During 2020-24, we will make progress towards the three impact goals by:

Effective treatments and Preventing MS

- **Deepening our understanding of progression**
Working with UK and international partners, we will improve our understanding of progression (the accumulation of disability) in MS.
- **Accelerating clinical trials**
Fund, launch and deliver a large-scale efficient clinical trials programme aimed at slowing, stopping or reversing accumulation of disability in MS.
- **Improving our understanding of risk factors**
Develop a better understanding of how risk factors could relate to prevention so that one day we can develop prevention strategies.

People living well

- **Empowering and supporting people living with MS**
Develop an integrated range of services that empower people with MS to understand their rights, manage their condition and achieve their goals
- **Ensuring everyone can access responsive treatments, care, and support**
Seek to improve access to MS treatments, care and support across the UK and ensure policy and practice reflect the reality of living with MS.
- **Supporting carers, families, and friends**
Support carers, families and friends affected by MS to understand MS and maintain their own health and wellbeing.

Connected communities, powerful voices

- **Connecting the MS communities**
Support people affected by MS to connect to one another through our local groups and in other ways, enabling them to foster friendships, share experiences, tackle common issues together, build confidence and reduce isolation.
- **People affected by MS leading change**
Support MS communities to become movements for change on issues which affect them. We will nurture campaigning and support people living with MS to develop skills and confidence to speak up on issues important to them.
- **Improving society's understanding of MS**
Raise awareness of MS and seek to increase public and political understanding of the realities of MS.

How we will work

The world has changed a lot over the last five years and we know that if we want to be effective and efficient we need to adapt. So we are committing to making sure we are:

- Led by insights from people affected by MS
- Valuing and inspiring our volunteers and staff
- Putting diversity, equality, and inclusion front and centre
- Creating new ways of engaging and involving MS communities
- Making the most of digital, data, and technology
- Forging creative strategic partnerships
- Fostering innovation and effectiveness

Trustee elections

Members from across the MS Society were given the opportunity to put themselves forward as a Trustee candidate. To do this they had to complete an application form and a supporting statement explaining what contribution they could make. This information was reviewed against criteria based on the Trustee role description and person specification and the current needs of the charity and of the Board. Those shortlisted were interviewed by a panel of Trustees which included the Chair.

The panel assessed the shortlisted applicants on the same basis and then decided whether to propose that the Board recommends that applicant.

The role description sets out duties and responsibilities, such as:

- setting the MS Society's strategy and monitoring performance,
- agreeing the business plan and performance targets on an annual basis,
- approving the year's budget and monitoring financial performance
- compliance with relevant legislation.

The person specification sets out the skills, abilities and personal qualities required, for example:

- strategic vision,
- an understanding of the role of Trustees and company directors
- an understanding of MS
- the ability to act as an ambassador for the MS Society.

We have many projects that are focused on supporting all those with and affected by MS, and are committed to delivering more

support and more research. As we continue to change and move forwards, the Board must be experienced in strategy, with good financial rigour, and mindful of the risks. We were therefore looking for people with sufficient experience, gained either at Board level in public or private organisations or in other ways. We were looking for people who also had one or more of the following characteristics:

- Fundraising
- Marketing / communications
- Digital transformation
- Mobilisation / Campaigning / movement building
- Policy & advocacy
- People affected by MS and those who would add to the Board's diversity – particularly individuals from under-represented socio-economic backgrounds, those under 35 years of age and individuals who would broaden the Board's diversity in terms of ethnicity and geography.

There are three vacancies and you are able to vote for up to **3 (Three)** candidates. There are five candidates, all of whom are recommended by the Board. They are recommended for the reasons given against each individual. In the case of Ceri Smith, Dowshan Humzah and Karen Jones, who are already Trustees, the reasons for the Board's recommendations are supported by the Board's experience of their current contribution.

The candidates' details are printed in a randomly selected order. Please consider both the candidates' statements, in their own words, and the Board's recommendations carefully before voting.

Trustee candidates

Emily Reves



I am passionate about supporting the MS Society to develop a truly inclusive community where the organisation can help realise the potential of individuals

and improve the society we live in.

As a 27 year old female candidate, I would bring an alternative perspective to the Board of Trustees and be a strong advocate for those living with MS at different points in their lives. I know first hand just how challenging it can be living with a hidden disability and I hope to help the MS Society ensure that everyone can live well and thrive with MS.

I believe I am uniquely placed to support the Board of Trustees given my professional skills in policy, campaigning and communications and my personal experience living with MS.

I currently work in the Prime Minister's Office and Cabinet Office, where I help build partnerships between business and government to tackle the UK's biggest social and economic challenges. I am also an experienced campaigner and public speaker on social impact issues and have been recognised and awarded for my voluntary work with issue-based campaigns, charities and political parties.

► In addition to the explanation given above, the Board specifically **recommends** this candidate because of her experience in campaigning, communications, policy & advocacy, combined with her experience of living with MS.

Karen Jones



I was inspired to volunteer for the MS Society as my closest friend lives with MS. As a volunteer for the MS Society for over 10 years in different roles I am currently

a Trustee. Talking and listening to people throughout the UK has given me clear insight into the challenges a diagnosis of MS brings for the person diagnosed, their family and friends.

My background is in law, governance and housing. Living and working in Wales I appreciate the difficulties for people who do not live in cities or large urban areas, in accessing health care, transport and other services.

I care passionately that people should not be disadvantaged by their life circumstances and am committed to making a difference and bringing about change.

In addition to sitting on the main Board contributing to the work of the Society in providing hope, help and a voice to people affected by MS I am a member of both the Governance and People Committees.

I feel honoured to be part of the MS Society working with amazing volunteers, dedicated staff and scientists. Together we are stronger.

If re-elected I will continue to do all I can towards our vision to Stop MS.

► In addition to the explanation given above, the Board specifically **recommends** this candidate because of her knowledge of governance and her experience of local groups and the National Council in Wales. She has served one term as a Trustee on our Board and is standing for re-election.

Dowshan Humzah



As an existing Trustee, I wish to further contribute to enable all affected by MS to live life to their full potential. Over the last year, I have learnt much about MS

primarily by visiting local groups and the scientific community. These insights have helped me to support the Board, campaigns and, in particular, the £100m Stop MS Appeal for the betterment of those living with MS.

I believe that a Trustee should be more than just being a strong advocate, but also involve extending networks and addressing the Board's blindspots. My cognitive diversity provides a different perspective to the Board especially for transferable learnings from my digital and marketing expertise – which would benefit all communities served by the MS Society.

My professional background of over 20 years is as a business transformation specialist who has delivered industry firsts, digital innovation and profitable growth in a range of markets, having held senior roles with RSA Insurance, Virgin Media, Orange, P&G and three start-ups. In addition, I have a passion for 'access to opportunity' for those under-estimated, which I have furthered through my work with UK Government. This all complements the MS Society – allowing us to better serve you.

► In addition to the explanation given above, the Board specifically **recommends** this candidate because of his experience in marketing and digital transformation. He has served for over a year as a co-opted Trustee on our Board.

Polly Williams



The MS community is hugely diverse with a range of lived experiences and needs. The MS Society needs to use innovative engagement methods to reach more people

with MS and increase its impact.

I was diagnosed with MS in 2015, and I found the MS Society's information and support invaluable during a time of uncertainty. I understand the impact of invisible symptoms and recognise the challenges faced by those with MS.

My background is in equality, diversity and inclusion. I have experience advising individuals on their rights, working with employers and developing strategies to promote diversity and inclusion, and engaging stakeholders in education, business and voluntary sectors. I currently work for the UK's national science academy so I understand the importance of funding high-quality research.

I have previous Trustee experience with Manchester Rape Crisis and as a steering group member for Women Against MS. I am a member of Parkrun for people with Multiple Sclerosis, a Facebook group supporting people with MS to walk, run or roll to keep active.

I want to offer my skills and experience to support the MS Society, to raise awareness and understanding of MS, get more research funded, and help stop MS for good.

► In addition to the explanation given above, the Board specifically **recommends** this candidate because of her experience in policy & advocacy and campaigning & movement building, combined with her experience of living with MS.

Trustee candidates

Ceri Smith



My diagnosis in 2005 (ten years after my first major symptoms) gave me a name and a reason for the things that had been happening to me.

Access to authoritative information from the Society was important for me and for my family. Along with hope that research will make a difference in my lifetime.

The Society can help people understand what a diagnosis might mean, along with some sense of what might lie ahead. But we must also reach beyond the membership to the tens of thousands with MS who are not members so they can benefit from what the Society offers.

After twenty years as a civil servant I have spent the last six years working with Boards of a range of government organisations, helping them deliver better services to the public. I am also a Non-Executive Director of the government's British Business Bank, and of Homes England.

I really want to continue as a Trustee – I have more to offer and am passionate about making a difference to the Society. I have seen what works well, and what works less well. I bring the governance, public policy and advocacy skills that the Trustees are looking for.

► In addition to the explanation given above, the Board specifically **recommends** this candidate because of his experience in campaigning, policy & advocacy and change management, combined with his experience of living with MS. He has served one term as a Trustee on our Board and is standing for re-election.

National Council elections

Council members are being elected within all four nations. Members who are resident in the regions where there were vacancies in England (Yorkshire; North of England; Kent; South West; Surrey & Sussex; West & Wessex; East Anglia; Thames Valley; and Cheshire and Merseyside) and members who are resident in Northern Ireland, Scotland or Wales were invited to apply to be a candidate for the National Council. To do this they were required to complete an application form and, if shortlisted by a panel of two existing Council members (including the Chair of the Council) and a Trustee, attend an interview.

Applicants were assessed through an interview process against criteria based on the Council member role description, after which the interview panel proposed to the Board whether a candidate should be recommended.

The role description sets out the skills, abilities and personal qualities required of a member of a National Council. These are particularly linked to the ability to support the Council in being a link between local groups, members and the wider community of people affected by MS and the Board.

Members resident in Wales and the following England regions (East Anglia, North of England, Wessex and West and Thames Valley) are invited to vote “for” or “against” each candidate.

Members resident in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and the following England regions (Yorkshire and South West) are invited to vote for as many candidates as there are vacancies.

In Northern Ireland there are five candidates for four vacancies. You are able to vote for up to 4 (Four).

In Scotland there are six candidates for four vacancies. You are able to vote for up to 4 (Four).

In England, in some regions there are more than one candidate for a vacancy. There are two candidates for Yorkshire and three candidates for South West. You can vote for 1 (One) candidate.

The rest of the regions (East Anglia, North of England, Wessex and West, and Thames Valley) have one candidate for each vacancy.

In Wales there are four candidates for four vacancies.

All candidates are recommended by the Board.

The candidates’ details are printed in a randomly selected order.

Please consider the statements, in their own words, of the candidates carefully before voting.

Cymru council candidates

Meg Kingston



I've been married for nearly thirty years and had MS for most of that time. Like many people, I continued working (in IT and Mobile Telecommunications)

for more than a decade with steadily worsening symptoms and have been working as a writer since "retiring" – with significant success. I believe it's important to recognise the achievements and variety of experiences that members have; and for the Society's Councils to involve a good cross-section of the MS community. We all have something to learn about living with our own individual MonSter, whatever it might throw at us, remembering that self-esteem and other less-measurable needs matter as much as DMTs and research. There is more to life than the MonSter and we need support in living with MS as best we can.

On a more practical note, I have twenty years of experience in working with others to plan, implement and document all sorts of projects, often without detailed instructions and with a limited budget.

I live near the Heads of the Valleys with my husband (who plays guitars and mandolin) and three assorted rescue cats (who don't).

▶ The Board **recommends** this candidate.

Susannah Robinson



I have been involved with the Gwynedd/ Ynys Mon Group of the MS Society for almost twenty years since a very good colleague was diagnosed with MS. I saw and felt

first-hand the huge impact this had not only on him but on family and friends too.

During my time with the group I have been, at various times, treasurer and co-ordinator as well as being heavily involved with support. I have led the development of the group from meeting just once a month to having activities three or four times a week.

While still wishing to remain active locally, the time is now right for me to take my volunteering a stage further and try and become a member of the MS Cymru Council, giving a voice, in particular, to those in north-west Wales while also being able to contribute to the development of services in Wales in general. Over the years in addition to my personal experience and contact with those with MS, I have worked closely with MS professionals, social workers, OTs and members of MS Cymru staff enabling me to see and work from many angles.

▶ The Board **recommends** this candidate.

David Roberts



I have lived with RRMS for 34 years and had a lengthy engineering career from plant electrician to Engineering Manager UK & India which I attributed to

adopting a positive mental attitude.

I am committed and have great drive to get things done, e.g. we had twins in 1989 and in 1991 to 1997 I took on a HNC and a Degree in Engineering. This commitment was very difficult, but with a positive mental attitude and family support I managed to achieve a HNC distinction and a 2:1 at Degree level.

I have given numerous talks from ground floor staff to board members as part of my working life, and also gave an impromptu speech at a MS newly diagnosed day in November 2018, and at a local school to assist Sian Dorward with fundraising.

Now retired, I have time to give something back so I volunteer at Torfaen Group with Health & Safety and am a Champion for the "STOP MS" campaign.

I want to help all people, specifically newly diagnosed using my experience to show that you can have a career if you adopt a positive mental attitude. I hope I can help the Council.

▶ The Board **recommends** this candidate.

Marion Davies



I was diagnosed with MS in 1997, and have lived since then with the intermittent problem of fatigue. I have developed a range of responses to well-meaning people

who say – oh yes, I get tired too. I use this as an opportunity to inform people about MS and the varied range of symptoms, and the work of the MS Society in helping people with MS and affected by MS.

My career was in town planning and economic development working for local authorities in South Wales, and the Welsh Assembly Government. I hope that the skills I have developed in research, public consultation and public speaking would be helpful to the work of the Cymru Council.

I have organised a number of small fund raising coffee mornings and a fashion show. I know how hard it is to raise every pound, and also how valuable every pound raised is to the work of the MS Society.

I am now happily retired and have the time to support and help causes that I feel passionately about. I would welcome the opportunity to join the Cymru Council and contribute in whatever way I can towards the vision of a world free from the effects of MS.

▶ The Board **recommends** this candidate.

England council candidates

Jackie Mumby – Yorkshire



I have been diagnosed with MS almost 9 years now, but have been fundraising for the society since I was a little girl. I was involved with the Hull group as a finance

volunteer and organised their satellite group meeting in Goole.

This is my third year on the council and my first year as vice chair. I have had the opportunity to be involved on a number of different committees and groups such as EDI reference group, campaigns group amongst others. I have also been involved in meetings with the CCG's and work undertaken by the RERO, and in the recruitment process of LNO's for my area on two occasions. I've acted as an liV ambassador and represented the MS Society at various events including NGS. I have also met with MP's with the MS Society, and participated in several media interviews involving local and national papers, local TV and radio. As a self-employed accountant and management consultant I feel I have even more to offer now than in my first term on the council.

Should I be lucky enough to be elected again I would seize every opportunity to get involved in all areas of the society.

▶ The Board **recommends** this candidate. This candidate has served one term as an England Council member and is standing for re-election.

Simon Cox – Yorkshire



I have had MS for 40 years. I worked as a Surveyor, management and Construction. My Volunteering for the Society started 25 years ago in a small

way. From branch member to Chair of the Yorkshire and Humber region I joined the England Council until 2016.

I work hard for PWMS having a fulfilled and active life, where possible, removing barriers and reinforcing the societies' strategy.

With MS I lost eyesight two decades ago. MS taught me to be positive and encourage others to gain the most from what life offers. We are a family that has to help each other and solve problems together.

I do connect with people at all levels, responding pro-actively to help PWMS and importantly, their carers. I've done positive psychology talks at "Living with MS" days, collecting valuable information from the grass roots. It's vital to feed back to the society from all areas for the MS Community.

As an England council member I would help shape the future of how services are provided, by the Society and Health and Social Care. Most importantly, working as a conduit between members and groups, passing views to the Council, remembering everyone involved with PWMS benefits from a positive advocate on their side.

▶ The Board **recommends** this candidate.

Mairi MacDonald – South West



Last year, I took medical retirement from work, due to my PPMS, I was diagnosed in October 2015. I spent most of my career in sales and marketing, in the

agricultural and pharmaceutical industries. It taught me so much, allowed me to travel, learn and work with a diverse and fascinating mixture of people.

I am keen to help fellow MS-ers deal with their daily lives, challenges, and the future. I also, as someone who has PPMS, find that the vast majority of information is aimed at someone with available treatments and RRMS which is frustrating. It seems, even with the best intentions, we are sometimes excluded in communications about MS. It is also apparent to me that it is sometimes assumed that everyone has someone that can be their carer to help as and when required. However, this is not always the case,

MS symptoms can be invisible but the effects are not- I feel it's important to raise awareness of this while offering support to those who are experiencing the condition. It's important for me to strive to help change the lives of others when volunteering.

► The Board **recommends** this candidate.

Helen Cherry – South West



I was diagnosed with MS 14 years ago whilst working as an Occupational Therapy Support Worker in a neurological unit specialising in acquired

brain and spinal injury and MS.

I had to take ill health retirement in 2011, so to continue my passion, I decided to volunteer for the MS Society and train to become Lead Support Volunteer. With this role I was able to use my professional skills, in a very rewarding way.

In January 2017 I became the Group Coordinator, and this has helped me to expand on the support we provide to those with MS in the local area. I am involved in various steering committees with the NHS and local authority, where I provide advice and guidance from an MS point of view.

I recently organised a Newly Diagnosed Event in collaboration with the MS Nurses and this proved to be a great success. I would like to expand this model across other areas. With more events like this, those living with MS would be more aware of what support and help is available to them. It will raise awareness of MS in the local community and help to engage people with the MS Society.

► The Board **recommends** this candidate.

England council candidates

Lynda Tubbs – South West



I have lived with relapsing and remitting MS for seventeen years and my employment background was in Education, as a Primary School

Teacher. I was granted early retirement due to ill health within two years of diagnosis. I took the opportunity to volunteer with my local MSS group and became Newsletter Editor for ten years. I was elected to the England Council 3 years ago.

People affected by MS have been facing many challenges in recent years and I believe that the ensuring the latest information about living with and managing MS is available to everyone affected is essential. This is especially the case for younger members of the MS community, which I see as one of our most important challenges to reach out to them.

As a member of the England Council I have been enthusiastic in raising awareness, fundraising both individually and with others and working with staff to provide input to the Society's policies and guidance. I have particularly enjoyed helping with the organisation of a 'My Walk' with my local group and organising a local quiz.

I would appreciate the opportunity to continue with this work as an England Council member for another three years.

▶ The Board **recommends** this candidate. This candidate has served one term as an England Council member and is standing for re-election.

Marie Cullen – East Anglia



Diagnosis with MS at 19, 30 years later I am still trying to understand what it's all about.

From the beginning I had just the one symptom and it's only

been in the last 10 years that I got drop foot and use a FES to help with the gait. I decided that it was time I showed the MS I was in control, just like in my Army Days.

I met with my local group after my two sons won "MS Carer" awards and I was just surprised at how it affects us all in such different ways. I became involved with the group organising fundraising and social events and signposting people to health professionals that have a great knowledge of MS.

Due to my past history in sport I set up an exercise group for people with MS, and I had 24 people attend the first class. Two and a half years later the class is stronger than ever.

I am a positive person and as there is no cure yet, I help people maintain what they have to keep the MS at bay, which keeps me working and active to help others to keep fighting.

▶ The Board **recommends** this candidate. This candidate has served one year as a co-opted England Council member.

David Kozlowski – North of England



I am 55 years old, married with two children and reside in Windermere, The Lake District. Prior to this, my family lived in Los Angeles and I was employed as

a Research Scientist in the Space/Aerospace industry. Originally diagnosed in 2008 RRMS this was transitioned to SPMS in 2013, at which point I retired. Originally from Kendal in Cumbria, our family moved back home to the UK in the summer of 2015.

Whilst in Los Angeles, I participated in many National MS Society, Neurology and Biokinesiology programs and during the last two years I ran a highly successful Mens MS group. Now back in the UK, I am currently a member of the MS Society Research Network and Experts-by-Experience Network.

I believe that as an England National Council member I can offer my professional expertise as well as the insight I have of the carer and how the family is impacted by MS. I understand, and have experienced, the impact disability can have on one's employability and the dramatic effect it can have on the family. I have a keen interest to fight for improvements in medicine, diagnostics, treatment and care of those affected directly or indirectly by MS.

► The Board **recommends** this candidate. This candidate has served one term as an England Council member and is standing for re-election.

Tamla Willie – Wessex and West



I have been an MSer with relapsing and remitting MS for over 16 years and have helped out in my local groups for the last 10 years.

I would be proud to remain an ambassador for the MS Society representing those affected by MS. This involves listening to people, as MS is unique to each individual, bringing these to the council and sharing information from National Centre with local MSers so that we're all informed of developments.

I believe the biggest challenge facing the MS Society is engagement, ensuring all those affected by MS are aware of the MS Society and can express their views to ensure their needs are met and find support.

In 2012, I set up with friends an MS group in Cardiff for younger people. We could see that the older branch structure was not working, or attracting younger people to volunteer. Since moving to Bristol I have set up a monthly meet-up where I, along with friends and family, have raised awareness of MS, including by wearing a bright wig. I also created games to help colleagues understand MS. Last year I rode from John O'Groats to Lands' End with "Bike the UK for MS" recording my journey through social media to raise awareness.

► The Board **recommends** this candidate. This candidate has served one year as a co-opted England Council member.

England council candidates

Ben Ajayi-Obe – Thames Valley



I have been aware of MS since my mum's diagnosis when I was 8 years old. Since then I have witnessed the incredible strength of the MS community and how they came

together to change an overwhelming situation into something much more manageable. I have been humbled by the tremendous courage demanded of my mum and the tireless work of the MS community. I believe in the importance of the services, supported by the MS Society, that make everyday life more practical for someone with MS.

I work in the media and broadcasting industry, as a data scientist, developing novel technological solutions to business problems. My work is focused on communicating with business stakeholders to understand their problems. I then plan, implement and measure the impact of the solution.

I am a very dedicated fundraiser for MS. I have taken on several fundraising challenges, such as running a half marathon while pushing my mum in a wheelchair and breaking a world record on an indoor rowing machine. Most recently, I co-founded a team of 4, who successfully rowed, 3000 nautical miles, across the Atlantic Ocean without the use of an engine or sail. This endeavour raised approximately £35,000 for MS.

▶ The Board **recommends** this candidate.

Northern Ireland council candidates

Tom Hunter



My name is Tom Hunter. I was diagnosed with relapsing remitting MS over 11 years ago.

I previously worked in London in the city as a broker which hopefully

gives me a good head for dealing with business matters and people.

After being diagnosed with MS I went back to college and retrained as a counsellor/ psychotherapist. After 3½ years I qualified and set up the volunteer counselling service for the MS Society Northern Ireland and I commit 14 hours a week to the service. The service receives referrals from MS consultants and MS nurses as well as self referrals.

In 2017 I was awarded the MS Society Volunteer of the Year which I feel very honoured to have won and endeavour to be a good ambassador for the MS Society in the different ways I represent them.

I have previously served on the Northern Ireland council for six years and found it extremely rewarding and I hope I made a difference in the MS community.

I see people with MS as my family and I will do everything I can to enable them to have a fulfilling life. I am passionate about the well-being of people affected by MS.

► The Board **recommends** this candidate.

Theresa McGlinchey



I was diagnosed with MS in 2005 and because of the aggressive nature of my MS, I was immediately started on disease modifying therapies.

Since diagnosis I have acted as a point of contact for people starting new treatments, sharing my experiences. I have a financial and administrative career background, and volunteer with a charity, as an adjudicator for nationwide school debates.

I am passionate about the work of the MS Society, and the links maintained with research fellows to keep members up to date with advances in MS treatments. I believe that someday, due to the immense work put into research, there will be a cure for MS and know that the MS Society will have played a vital role in helping to “Stop MS”.

Having been diagnosed with MS at early age, with a young family, I relied on my husband for everything. I am keen to encourage whatever support the MS Society can give to carers, particularly young carers. MS carers are invaluable in the support they provide.

It would be a privilege to serve on the Council and I believe that I can bring a new perspective, especially regarding younger people and how we can engage them with the MS Society.

► The Board **recommends** this candidate.

Northern Ireland council candidates

Simon Matchett



My name is Simon Matchett, I have Multiple Sclerosis and I am currently on the MS Society Northern Ireland Council. I wish to re-apply for another three year term. I feel

that my time thus far has been educational and insightful, as well as rewarding. I have been involved in many campaigns and have spoken on behalf of the MS Society at various fundraising events. The main campaign I was involved in was with PIP and the Department for Communities (DFC), helping to assist with the terrible difficulties faced by myself and many others when transferring from DLA to PIP, securing an MS Champion for benefits assessments. I was involved in the ideas for the 20 metre rule video, and the meetings regarding the requirement of more nurses and Neurologists.

I am also the Group Coordinator and lead Support Volunteer for the North Down and Ards group and keep information/ideas passing through to my local MS community.

I hope my input has been as valuable to the Council as it has been beneficial to me, and still I feel I could play an integral role in the upcoming campaigns.

Thanking you in advance for the consideration of my re-election.

► The Board **recommends** this candidate. This candidate has served one term as a Northern Ireland Council member and is standing for re-election.

Jennifer Coulter



Since being diagnosed with MS in October 2015, I have continuously educated myself in how to live with my condition in a positive way.

I actively manage my symptoms through diet, exercise, meditation, and instilling a positive mindset through hypnosis.

I have continuously volunteered for the MS Society. For the past three years I have served as a council member for the MS Society. I have been actively involved in fundraising. In 2016/17, and again in 2019, I was a key part of the organising committee for “Run for Research”, the first event of its kind in Belfast, which attracted almost 600 runners and raised considerable funds. As part of this, I managed the Facebook page for the event.

In February 2016, I spoke publicly on behalf of Disability Action at an event run in Belfast, promoting the idea of people with disabilities running their own businesses. I now plan to speak at the forthcoming “Living with MS” event in September about the challenges of raising a young family with MS. I gave birth to my first child last year.

Overall, I will continue to be a highly active, enthusiastic, and committed member of the MS Council if re-elected.

► The Board **recommends** this candidate. This candidate has served one term as a Northern Ireland Council member and is standing for re-election.

Lynne Armstrong



Having lived with MS for 51 years, I feel the importance of raising awareness of the reality of coping with MS every minute of every day. MS can be a lonely condition

where friends drift away and I speak from experience.

I have been a volunteer member of Northern Ireland MS Council for the past 3 years and have been an active campaigner for the “End the Wait” campaign, “Palliative Approach to MS: Benefits and Barriers to Care” and a NI representative on the National Campaign Advisory Group.

I was a primary school teacher for many years, despite having MS, and I feel the importance of doing what you can while you can. My husband and I travel to visit our grown up children in Canada and Australia despite the difficulties of being permanently in a wheelchair.

Through my links with the MS Society and activities like Seated Pilates, I have gained confidence and discovered true camaraderie and support. I have served on several committees in the past, but now concentrate my efforts on raising awareness of this, as yet, incurable condition.

I should consider it a privilege to be re-elected to NI MS Council.

► The Board **recommends** this candidate. This candidate has served one term as a Northern Ireland Council member and is standing for re-election.

Scotland council candidates

Keith Dryburgh



For the last three years, I have had the opportunity to represent people with MS on the Scotland Council. I've seen, first hand, the wonderful hard work and

dedication that the MS Society and the Council show in supporting people with MS.

I've now had MS for ten years and have experienced many of the highs and lows that this entails. One of the highs has been meeting many people with MS, all of whom challenge MS in their own way. Challenging my own MS has since become a mantra for me, whether it has been running challenges, organising bake sales, or simply speaking in public about my diagnosis.

My professional background lies in challenging policy makers and campaigning for change. For eleven years, I led a policy and research team at a national charity, working to improve the lives of our clients. Speaking up for those who may struggle to be heard, and working to achieve positive change, are goals that I share with the MS Society.

My experience of MS has been positive and I want to contribute towards the MS Society's work in ensuring everybody's experience of MS is as positive as it can be.

► The Board **recommends** this candidate. This candidate has served one term as a Scotland Council member and is standing for re-election.

June Nicol



My sister was diagnosed with MS in 2011 and I've supported her through the challenges, attending all of her consultant appointments.

Since 2014, I've raised £3,400 for the MS Society by producing a calendar every year.

I retired from the civil service in 2016 having gained a variety of experience. I developed valuable skills in team leading and participation, management, training, budget and project management.

In November 2016, I started volunteering with the MS Society Self-Management Team, using my research skills to provide service mapping information for Scotland. I also contributed to the group looking at how to support people who are newly diagnosed.

I now work with the staff in fundraising/ comms, taking photographs at marathons, Zip slide and Scottish Parliament receptions. Currently I am working in the MS office on horizon scanning, providing specific information on which trusts might support the Society.

Recently, to highlight MS Awareness week 2019, I approached local businesses and persuaded them to display MS bunting/ collecting tins. I successfully persuaded 16 businesses and achieved local and national press/internet coverage.

My energy, enthusiasm and the ability to communicate on different levels will work well with Council, and I'd be thrilled to continue my MS volunteering adventure.

► The Board **recommends** this candidate.

Maxine Thompson



I was diagnosed with MS in my mid-thirties. Currently I am studying Senior Honours in Social Sciences at the University of Glasgow. Post-diagnosis,

I was awarded a Policing West Mercia Performance Group Certificate of Achievement, for leadership work, coordinating the private, public and voluntary sectors to work together and support vulnerable people living in Herefordshire. Prior to this, I worked in the offshore finance industry and compliance sector in the Channel Islands.

I currently help with fundraising alongside other members of my local group. Also, I help the MS Society's PR with media to raise public awareness of MS issues. Additionally, I independently raised a question at Parliament about the draconian PIP assessment process.

A huge challenge facing our community is the benefit system for those living with MS. Prior to the Scottish replacement of PIP, due 2021, I would like to serve as a Council Member to champion the way society views our abilities, so that we can live fruitful lives without fear of financial discrimination. I believe in a future where people with MS are not penalised for their achievements.

► The Board **recommends** this candidate.

Elizabeth Byrne



I have recently been diagnosed with MS and have been living with symptoms since 2013. I am a mother of 3 and a qualified Children and Adolescent Counsellor.

I have worked in a variety of multi-disciplinary and multi-agency settings, working extensively with families, carers, kinship carers, children and young people. Previous to that I was an external communications officer for a small charity.

One of the challenges for the MS Society is to provide better support for families and carers. I would like to see better and more age appropriate support and advice for children and young people impacted by a family member living with MS.

I have recently attended the "Living Well with MS" programme and as a result we are setting up a local support group. I am looking forward to developing the group and facilitating a safe space where people living with MS can meet and feel supported. I passionately believe in engagement with and inclusion for the MS community.

As a council member I look forward to using my skill set to help further the aims of the Council. It would be a huge privilege to serve as a council member for the MS Society Scotland.

► The Board **recommends** this candidate.

Scotland council candidates

Steven Tait



The MS Society's aim is to beat MS, to beat MS now and in the future. To beat MS now we need to have provision for the best medication, care and support. To beat MS

in the future we need to ensure support for world class research and endeavours towards treatment, cure and prevention.

My background is in the development of new therapeutics from the academic sphere and directing these to industry. I worked on MS research in Edinburgh funded by the MS Society Scotland. My background in therapeutics development, communication of science and business to many audiences; and my work in MS together with management experience in a senior position will allow me to make a valuable contribution to the MS Society. I am a volunteer in my local group in Lothian.

Two childhood friends' lives have been severely impacted by MS. This and the support I received from the MS Society Scotland makes me enthusiastic, motivated and determined to provide the support I believe I can provide to the MS Society through the council. I look forward to another term with the Council and making a difference to the lives of people with MS.

▶ The Board **recommends** this candidate. This candidate has served one term as a Scotland Council member and is standing for re-election.

Robin Briggs



I first started volunteering with the MS Society when I was 21 after being diagnosed with relapsing remitting MS. Since then I have graduated university

and got my first job, become group coordinator of the Lothian-wide MS group and become vice chair of the national council. Now at 25 I believe I still provide a much-needed voice in the society for younger people, those who are still trying to figure their life out and build a career while also dealing with the challenges that MS brings.

I believe my coordinator role allows me the chance to hear many other people's views on their MS journey, which I can bring back to council along with my own. This included with my knowledge of what local volunteers are doing and my IT literacy are some of my main strengths. With these skills I can help champion young people and volunteers in the Society as well as aid the Society as it tries to increase its digital reach.

I have really enjoyed my 3 years as part of the council and would love to continue.

▶ The Board **recommends** this candidate, This candidate has served one term as a Scotland Council member and is standing for re-election.

On the day

Refreshments from 10.30am

Agenda

11.00am

The Multiple Sclerosis Society's Annual General Meeting 2019

- Chair's welcome
- Apologies
- Procedural arrangements
- Appointment of tellers
- Minutes of the AGM 2018 and matters arising
- Resolutions
- Review of the year
- Report on election to the Board of Trustees and National Councils
- Vote of thanks, and acceptance of retirement from outgoing Trustees
- Close of meeting

An opportunity for members to ask questions will follow.

Lunch will follow at around 12.30pm.

Chair's welcome

Nick Winsor, our Chair, will welcome members attending and watching online to the MS Society's 9th Annual General Meeting.

Apologies for absence

Members can send apologies for the AGM by calling **020 8827 0470**, emailing **governance@mssociety.org.uk** or writing to the Governance team (address at the top of page 3).

Procedural arrangements for the Annual General Meeting

All contributions to the meeting must be directed to the Chair and speeches kept to the matter under discussion. Members can participate in debate and discussion only after being called on by the Chair.

Procedural issues will be decided by the Chair. Examples of procedural issues are:

- that a resolution be withdrawn
- that the vote be taken immediately
- that debate on a resolution be adjourned
- that the matter be referred to the MS Society's Board.

Resolutions must be formally proposed at the meeting. Proposers and responders may make supporting speeches of up to three minutes. Contributions from members will be invited in support of and against resolutions. In general these contributions should be limited to a maximum of two minutes.

In accordance with article 34 of the MS Society's constitution, the Chair has exercised his right to decide that voting on resolutions will be cast by poll, and does not need to be by a show of hands.

Members with a financial or material interest (actual or perceived) in any item of business discussed at a general meeting

are not permitted to vote on any resolution concerning that item, and if they speak must declare an interest.

Appointment of tellers

All voting will be conducted by Electoral Reform Services (ERS) who act as an independent scrutineer. All votes cast are done so in confidence. Members of staff are appointed as tellers to assist with the counting of votes cast in person at the AGM.

Minutes of the AGM 2018

The meeting will be asked to approve the minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting of the Multiple Sclerosis Society as an accurate record of the meeting. The minutes of the 2018 AGM are at the back of this booklet on pages 32 to 35.

Matters arising from the minutes of the AGM 2018

Resolution 1 – Stop MS Appeal

Last year, we told you about our plans to launch the Stop MS Appeal to the general public in 2019. We're delighted to confirm that our appeal will launch at the beginning of October with a creative advertising and PR campaign, and we're hoping to inspire all our supporters to get involved, and encourage their families and friends involvement too.

Thanks to pro bono support from our creative agency Publicis, we're making a campaign video, featuring four people living with MS, to raise awareness and encourage donations. Our friends at MediaCom will help us to get it seen and shared by as many people as possible to spread the word. And beyond the advertising campaign, many of our groups and supporters are getting excited about putting on their own events and MS Walks in aid of the Stop MS Appeal.

Our website is getting a makeover in time for the appeal and will have lots of information about Stop MS – why we think we can do it, how we're going to do it and, crucially, how people can help. Our social media channels and magazines will also have special Stop MS Appeal stories and features.

We hope our members will want to get involved in our biggest, most important appeal ever. If you'd like to find out how we can support you to fundraise for the appeal, email challenge@mssociety.org.uk and one of our friendly fundraisers will be in touch.

Together, we can Stop MS!

Resolution 2 – Growing the MS Society's community

Last year you gave us the green light to consider how we could transform our membership model to grow our community of people living with or affected by MS. In the last year we have listened to what members – and non-members – would like, learnt from other charities who have taken a similar approach, and started work on what a free model could look like.

Over the next six months we will test ideas to improve how we engage with you, in a more personalised way, both online and for those who prefer it, offline too. The Governance Committee will also be working through different options for a future governance model. We aim to present the outcome of all this work at the AGM 2020. We always seek and welcome advice and guidance from members. If you have feedback or want to get involved, please contact us on membership@mssociety.org.uk.

Resolutions 2019

Resolutions are listed on page 6.

Review of the year

A presentation by the Chief Executive will highlight our work in 2018, and to date in 2019.

Report on Election of Board of Trustees

Members are invited to elect candidates to the available Trustee positions.

Candidate profiles are on pages 10 to 12.

Report on Election of members of National Councils

Members are invited to elect candidates to the available National Council positions.

Candidate profiles are on pages 14 to 26.

Vote of thanks

A member of the MS Society will be invited to conclude the meeting with a vote of thanks.

There will be an opportunity to thank Trustees whose terms are ending in 2019.

The meeting will accept the retirement of outgoing Trustees.

Close of AGM

Questions from members

There will be an opportunity for members present to ask questions of the Board.

Consolidated Statement of Financial Activities (SOFA) (incorporating an income and expenditure statement)

Year ended 31 December 2018	Unrestricted funds	Restricted funds	2018 Total	2017 Total
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Income from:				
Donations	9,373	3,860	13,233	13,426
Legacies receivable	9,685	2,258	11,943	11,545
Charitable activities	437	652	1,089	950
Other trading activities	1,504	571	2,075	2,603
Investment income	201	2	203	207
Other income	232	–	232	121
Total income	21,432	7,343	28,775	28,852
Expenditure on:				
Raising funds				
Raising funds – Ongoing	5,114	1,668	6,782	6,819
Raising funds – New donor acquisition	1,015	–	1,015	588
Total raising funds expenditure	6,129	1,668	7,797	7,407
Charitable activities				
Goal 1 – Effective treatments	1,074	2,942	4,016	4,436
Goal 2 – Responsive care and support	3,472	1,029	4,501	4,745
Goal 3 – Preventing MS	(11)	905	894	815
Goal 4 – Quality information	3,006	804	3,810	3,794
Goal 5 – A strong community, independent lives	4,960	1,197	6,157	5,663
Goal 6 – Supporting families and carers	1,134	230	1,364	1,403
Goal 7 – Greater certainty about the future	93	424	517	539
Total expenditure	19,857	9,199	29,056	28,802
Net income/(expenditure) before investments	1,575	(1,856)	(281)	50
Net gains on investments	(1,052)	(28)	(1,080)	1,801
Net income/(expenditure)	523	(1,884)	(1,361)	1,851
Transfers				
Other recognised gains and losses	4	–	4	(7)
Net movement in funds	527	(1,884)	(1,357)	1,844
Reconciliation of Funds				
Total funds brought forward	19,152	61	19,213	17,369
Total funds carried forward	19,679	(1,823)	17,856	19,213

Restricted funds includes endowment funds of £280k (2017: £308k).
All activities above were from continuing activities.

Consolidated Balance Sheet

31 December 2018

	Consolidated		Charity	
	2018	2017	2018	2017
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
Fixed assets				
Intangible assets	430	467	430	467
Tangible assets	4,747	5,282	4,747	5,282
Investments	14,622	16,288	14,622	16,288
Total fixed assets	19,799	22,037	19,799	22,037
Current assets				
Debtors	5,647	3,770	5,542	3,799
Investments	50	2,000	50	2,000
Cash at bank and in hand	955	1,886	897	1,804
Total current assets	6,652	7,656	6,489	7,603
Liabilities:				
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	7,895	9,570	7,846	9,517
Net current liabilities	(1,243)	(1,914)	(1,357)	(1,914)
Total assets less current liabilities	18,556	20,123	18,442	20,123
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year	700	910	700	910
Total net assets	17,856	19,213	17,742	19,213
Funds				
Endowment funds	280	308	280	308
Restricted income funds	(2,103)	(247)	(2,103)	(247)
Unrestricted funds				
– Designated for intangible & tangible fixed assets	4,948	5,453	4,948	5,453
– Designated for research (Stop MS Appeal)	7,966	5,877	7,966	5,877
– General funds	6,765	7,822	6,651	7,822
Total unrestricted funds	19,679	19,152	19,565	19,152
Total charity funds	17,856	19,213	17,742	19,213

AGM minutes 2018

Minutes of the 8th Annual General Meeting of the Multiple Sclerosis Society

held at 11.00am on 22 September 2018
at MS National Centre, London

Chair's welcome

The Chair of the MS Society, Nick Winsler, welcomed members, staff and guests present and viewing via webcast to the eighth AGM of the Multiple Sclerosis Society (the MS Society) since its incorporation as a charitable company.

Apologies

Apologies were received from:

Jason Atkinson
Peter Blake
Sara Cormack
Marsali Craig
Catherine Doran
Esther Foreman
Christine Gibbons
Patricia Gordon
John Grosvenor
Lynne Hughes
Marion King
Susan Kohlhaas
David Kozlowski
Margaret Michael
Rufus Olins
Ian Parkinson
Jayne Parkinson
Sarah Schol
Gideon Schulman
Anne Shinkwin
Morna Simpkins
Beth Svarovska
Sandy Thomson
Clive Whiteside

Procedural arrangements for the meeting

The Chair drew members' attention to the procedural arrangements for the AGM, making reference to these on pages 28-29 of the AGM booklet.

Appointment of tellers

The Chair notified members that Electoral Reform Services were the independent scrutineers for the AGM ensuring all voting on resolutions, the election of Trustees and the election of members of National Councils was conducted in a fair and accurate manner.

Members were reminded that they had been able to vote in advance by post or online and could vote in person or by proxy at the AGM. The Chair identified the teller as Sorrel Bickley who would be collecting ballot papers during the AGM.

Minutes of the AGM 2017 and matters arising

The minutes were agreed to be a true record and signed by the Chair.

The only matter arising related to last year's "Celebrating our Volunteers" resolution. The Chair noted that the AGM booklet contained a fuller update on page 29. Drawing out the key points, the Chair gave both a personal thanks, and thanks on behalf of the Board, for the contributions of our volunteers, and spoke of Investing in Volunteers as a way in which we hope to further improve the support that we give to our volunteers.

Resolutions 2018

Resolution 1: This AGM endorses the ambitious plans to raise over £100 million for the Stop MS Appeal, to fund research to dramatically accelerate progress in developing treatments to slow and stop the progression of MS.

Ruth Hasnip introduced the first resolution for the Board, relating to the Stop MS Appeal, and recommended it to members. On behalf of the Board of Trustees she described the considerable success that we had seen in developing new treatments for MS in recent years, and the plan to develop a multi-arm trial to rapidly test several treatments at the same time which will be a world first in neurology. Although the Stop MS Appeal has been successful in its discreet phase in raising more than £30 million towards the total, we hope to move into the public phase in 2019 with a visible and creative marketing campaign. This would be the most ambitious fundraising campaign that we have ever planned.

The Chair invited questions from the floor on resolution 1. No questions were received.

The Chair thanked Ruth Hasnip.

Resolution 2: This AGM supports the Board in exploring the possible modernisation of our membership model.

Ceri Smith introduced the second resolution for the Board, Growing the MS Society's community, and recommended it to members on behalf of the Board of Trustees. He discussed the potential modernisation of our membership model, emphasising that we wish to be here for the whole community and not just part of it and that the Board is passionate about reaching out to more people. Although membership was the most powerful way of belonging that is no longer

the case, and that is why the community is growing but membership is decreasing.

Genevieve Edwards, the Director of External Affairs, provided further detail on this resolution and how we intend to achieve it. The goal is to build a strong MS community in a changing world by growing the numbers of people with MS who we currently connect with and provide improved better support to everyone living with MS.

The Chair invited questions from the floor on resolution 2.

Ann Wordingham, a member, stated that she had voted against this resolution as, at the local level, they had not understood exactly what they were voting for and this had caused real concern. However, she expressed that she wished she had heard the explanation, provided by the Director of External Affairs, prior to voting as this explanation has changed her views.

Resolution 3: This AGM receives the Annual Report and Accounts of the MS Society 2017, following the audit by the MS Society's auditors, haysmacintyre.

Resolution 4: The AGM appoints haysmacintyre as the MS Society's auditors for the 2018 Annual Report and Accounts.

The Chair informed members that these resolutions would be taken together as they were both linked to financial matters.

Stuart Secker, Treasurer of the MS Society, introduced both resolutions and recommended both resolutions on behalf of the Board.

Vicky Annis, Executive Director of Finance, Strategy and Impact, provided a brief financial review of 2017 and a summary of the results for the year, covering the charity's income, expenditure and balance sheet.

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The Chair invited questions from the floor on resolutions 3 and 4.

Denise Winser, a member, asked for an explanation of negative reserves. Vicky Annis, Executive Director of Finance, Strategy and Impact explained that it means that we haven't yet raised the funds for the work that will be funded from that reserve and we are spending on those projects knowing that over the lifetime of that project we will raise the funds required. However, until then it sits as a negative restricted reserve.

The Chair thanked both Stuart Secker and Vicky Annis.

Review of the year

Michelle Mitchell presented a review of the last year's activities.

Report on voting in relation to resolutions

Results of the ballot on Resolution 1 (Stop MS Appeal):

For: 3577 Against: 294

The resolution was **carried**.

Total number of votes cast: 3871
(13.4% of those eligible to vote).

Results of the ballot on Resolution 2 (Growing the MS Society's community):

For: 3776 Against: 106

The resolution was **carried**.

Total number of votes cast: 3882
(13.5% of those eligible to vote).

Results of the ballot on Resolution 3 (Annual Report and Accounts 2017):

For: 3787 Against: 30

The resolution was **carried**.

Total number of votes cast: 3817
(13.3% of those eligible to vote).

Results of the ballot on Resolution 4 (Appointment of Auditors):

For: 3797 Against: 31

The resolution was **carried**.

Total number of votes cast: 3828
(13.3% of those eligible to vote).

Report on election to the Board of Trustees & National Councils

Susan Crane (2698), Anne Shinkwin (2719) and Rufus Olins (2390) were elected to the Board of Trustees.

Jeanette Barton (146), Howard Bishop (129), Mark Carey (119), Kathryn Foot (152) and Glyn Jones (160) were elected to the Cymru National Council.

David Allen – Hertfordshire, Essex and Bedfordshire (228-2; 14.9%), Eve Darwood – East Midlands (208-1; 13.9%), Phillip Gamble – Lancashire, South Cumbria and Greater Manchester (223-1; 14.3%), Peter Hicks – Hants and Islands (135-3; 12.1%), and Dom Thorpe – London (278-4; 11.6%) were elected to the England National Council.

Catherine Doran (130-2; 12.4%), Theresa Leavy (132-2; 12.5%), Peter McReynolds (128-2; 12.2%), Ian Poultney (127-4; 12.3%), Ivan Prue (128-3; 12.3%), Andrew Taylor (126-3; 12.1%), and Philippa Watson (127-4; 12.3%) were elected to the Northern Ireland National Council.

Laura Beveridge (294-11; 11.8%), Jennifer Bryson (299-10; 12.0%), Linda Mason (288-26; 12.2%), and Dorothy Robertson (302-9; 12.1%) were elected to the Scotland National Council.

The numbers given, other than in relation to the elections for Trustees and the Cymru National Council members, are the total number of votes cast in favour and against, together with the proportion who voted of those eligible to vote. In relation to the election of Trustees the ballot was to elect three individuals from four candidates and the voting information is therefore provided in a different format – number of votes cast in favour of those individuals.

During this election three candidates withdrew from the Cymru National Council election. In reporting the results it was explained that we would normally have offered the choice to vote for or against candidates where the number of candidates corresponds with, or is less than, the number of vacancies, but the withdrawal of these candidates happened too late for this to be possible. The Board had therefore ratified a revised approach in which the voting numbers for the remaining Cymru candidates were declared based simply on the number of votes cast for each of those individuals.

Acceptance of retirement

The Chair accepted the retirement as from the end of December of John Grosvenor and Esther Foreman and commented that each would receive a shining star in recognition of their service to the MS Society.

Vote of thanks and close of meeting

The Chair thanked members of the MS Society for attending the AGM and Alex Lonie from Electoral Reform Services for conducting the ballot.

Huw Roberts, Chair of the Cymru National Council, concluded the AGM with a vote of thanks. He expressed his thanks to the Board of Trustees for their professionalism and leadership, to Michelle Mitchell, at her last AGM as Chief Executive, for her inspirational leadership moving the MS Society into this exciting period of change, to the staff team for their commitment, and finally to our members and friends who are an inspiration to us all.

Huw Roberts thanked those Trustees and National Council members whose terms would be coming to an end for their contributions, before warmly welcoming the incoming Trustees and National Council members.

The Chair thanked all present and formally declared the Multiple Sclerosis Society's Eighth Annual General Meeting closed at 12.30pm.

MS Society

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