

“I HAVE had MS for six years now, have learned a lot about the condition and found my own ways of living with it. At first, it was awful, though. I just wanted to run away.”

For Sylvia the last few years have been full of challenges and her latest focus is to help set up a new group in Sheffield for MS patients under the age of 35.

“Discovering you have MS can come as a devastating blow and young people especially often do not know where to turn for information and support,” she said.

“At first I wasn’t ready to contact the local MS groups but the existence of a Young MS group without any pressure would have been really helpful,” said Sylvia.

“That is why I want to help set one up now. I hope that this group will offer young people with MS both support and encouragement to make informed decisions about how they can best live with MS because, although there is no cure for MS, there really is so much that you can do to help yourself.”

The group is being set up in Sheffield in conjunction with the Sheffield MS Society and MS Therapy Centre, and it also involves MS specialist nurse Adrienne Cox from the Royal Hallamshire.

Adrienne said the group is in the very early stages. News letters are being sent out and they are looking for sponsorship and a suitable venue for meetings.

For Sylvia, getting involved with the group is another positive step forward. Her story is an inspiring one of courage and hope.

Two-and-a-half years ago she went public on her condition by jumping out of an aeroplane at 13,000 feet and raising £2,000 for MS charities.

“Looking back, my tandem skydive was a turning point for me. I

that I had to start trying to take control of MS myself.”

The internet opened up a whole new world, as she was able to get in touch with people with the condition from across the world.

“It was wonderful, suddenly I was no longer alone,” said Sylvia. “Immediately I started changing my life. I went to see a good nutrition consultant, Brian Hampton of the Caring Clinic and together we set out a supplemented dietary programme to try to stabilise my aggressive condition. I felt like I had nothing to lose by trying and only my life to gain.”

Since this time two years ago, there have been good times and bad times.

“Overall, the MS has not progressed at all. I am gaining in strength and can even walk short distances with just a stick.”

“After a relapse, I bounced back and recovered naturally, so, although I still have MS, I no longer live with the fear of MS,” said Sylvia.

“I firmly believe there are answers out there for everyone, provided they are prepared to search and never give up.”

Her go-getting attitude has also found love – in the shape of her very own “Mr Wright.”

She recalled “Through the skydiver publicity, I made friends with former pop star from ABC, Stephen Singleton.

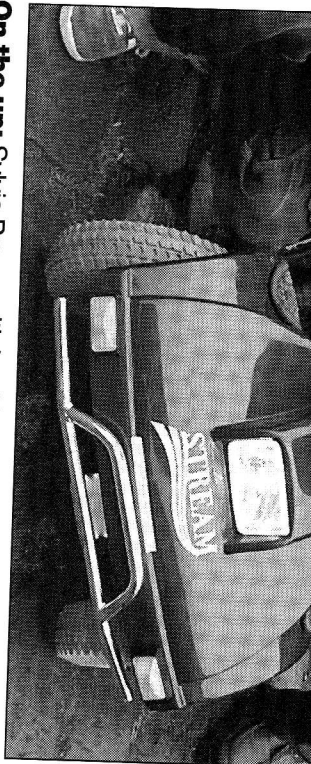
“Stephen and his family have played a crucial role in helping me to get my life back on track in many ways, including taking me swimming at Upperthorpe Baths every week ever since.”

When Sylvia decided to purchase a mobility scooter, Stephen introduced her to his uncle, Steve Wright, who sells them through his company ‘Fair Price Mobility, and this led to romance.

Last winter the couple enjoyed a holiday in the Florida Keys where Sylvia was able to swim with dolphins.

Looking back over the last few years Sylvia is surprised at the experiences she has been through.

“I am so glad that I had the courage to jump out of that plane! It just shows you never know what might happen if you reach for the skies!” she added.



On the up: Sylvia Brown with boyfriend Steve Wright, right, and former ABC man Stephen Singleton

Urinary Incontinence?

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A new medication is being investigated for the treatment of urinary incontinence (sometimes called overactive bladder).

You may be able to take part in this research study if you are over 18 and have suffered from all of the following symptoms for at least 6 months:

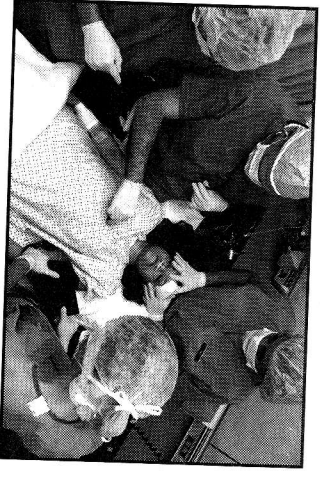
- Regularly need to rush to the toilet
- Suffer embarrassing urine leaks
- Pass water more than 8 times per day

If you wish to find out more, please contact:

The National Study Coordinator
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Travelling expenses will be refunded.

units work and the second is the introduction of new rules for Conditional Fee Agreements which means that the success fee paid to the lawyers and the insurance premium are paid by the other side and do not come out of the patient's damages. Coupled with this are new insurance products available to specialist solicitors which mean that cases can be run with little or no outlay for the client.

As specialist solicitors we can act with Legal Aid or on Conditional Fee in appropriate cases.



Andrea's Case

Andrea is a client who came to us after seeing one of our Star articles. She had gone into hospital for an operation to remove her gall bladder. During the operation her bile duct was injured and bile leaked into her abdomen causing peritonitis. This was not picked up whilst Andrea was in hospital and she was sent home. Andrea was in excruciating pain and had to be taken back into hospital. The problem was then recognised and she had to have another operation. Andrea took some time to recover and eventually, four years after she had had the operation and after seeing our article about keyhole surgery, she came to see us. We were able to negotiate a settlement of Andrea's claim with the hospitals solicitors and she recovered damages of £30,000.00.

FREE first interview

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