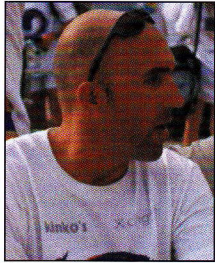


News & Snippets

Under 35's MS Society Conference -15th September 2001

By Sylvia Brown



This was a day with a very full schedule. Julie Howell from Jooly's Joint (www.ms-webpals.org) did a marvellous job as host for the entire day.

For me, the highlight of the day was 'Living Your Life', involving a panel of four young people living their lives to the full despite MS. Particularly impressive were Mike Taylor and Camilla Veale, both with great attitudes and far too busy getting on with

life to feel sorry for themselves.

Mike (a big New Pathways fan) runs his own Graphic Design business. He uses a wheelchair but that doesn't stop him at all. A keen swimmer (see page 22), people were amazed how he did this. Mike just laughed and said 'well, I just swim and my legs tend to follow!' He also mentioned how diet helps him to live with MS and said that since he'd sorted out his diet his MS has not got any worse.

Camilla was equally motivating. She is completely open about being a lesbian, works full-time and is a keen sailor. Her positive attitudes and zest for life were a great inspiration to many young people there. This session (which was only allocated 20 minutes) overran as people wanted to know more, ask the panel questions, and relate their attitude and experiences to their own lives.

Above all what came across throughout the day was how young people simply wanted to meet others like themselves. Unfortunately we didn't get much chance to do this due to the day's full agenda. Next time I hope that there would be opportunity for splitting into smaller groups for meeting or discussions.

Jubilee Sailing Trust Programme

The Jubilee Sailing Trust, the charity which owns and operates the tall ships LORD NELSON and TENACIOUS, has its winter programme in full swing. These vessels are purpose-built to enable able-bodied and physically disabled people to share the challenge of crewing a tall ship at sea.

The LORD NELSON and TENACIOUS sail in and around the UK from April to October, but sail to sunnier climes in the winter. Both ships will be sailing in and around the Canary Islands between November and March.



On the LORD NELSON and TENACIOUS 20 disabled crew members work side by side with 20 able-bodied people under the watchful eye of the 10 permanent crew. No experience is necessary.

The special facilities on board both ships include: Flat, wide decks, low level fittings for wheelchair users, lifts between decks and power-assisted hydraulic steering so everyone can take the helm.

To book a berth on the LORD NELSON or TENACIOUS call the Jubilee Sailing Trust on 02380 449138 email: becky@jst.org.uk

Voyages are open to anyone from the age of 16 - 70+.

What is MBP8298?

MBP is myelin basic protein. 8298 is the natural sequence of amino acids in the molecule. It is intended as a treatment for people with chronic progressive MS. It works by inhibiting the progress of MS, but does not reverse the condition.

It was invented by neurology professor Ken Warren MD and researcher Ingrid Catz of the University of Alberta, Canada.

Since 1992 it has been used on more than 100 patients. It is injected intravenously, without any untoward side effects.

Clinical trials are in progress in Canada, and they are still enrolling participants. The company behind the trial, BioMS Medical, are accepting names of interested people on a confidential basis.

www.biomsmedical.com

Art4MS

This striking seasonal greetings card by Chrissy Elia, 21, from Colchester, Vermont, USA has won first prize in the Art 4 MS competition.



Art 4 MS is a non-profit organisation based in the USA that works with artists and designers to help raise money and awareness for Multiple Sclerosis research and support.

They write: "We will be hosting several art and design contests throughout the year designed to promote artists and their work."

Contact:
Art4MS,
22 Church St. Unit 2-1
Burlington, Vermont 05401
USA

www.art4ms.org

You can buy the winning card from:
www.art4ms.org/gallery/greetings.htm