

THE MASE NEWSLETTER

March 2013

Spring is here!!



March is the month when we see the Spring flowers beginning to peep through, and the nights start to draw out giving us longer days. We begin to feel we are finally heading out of the Winter and start looking forward to some better months and hopefully a little sunshine.

Also a reminder that **we leap forward into Spring** so don't forget to put your clocks **forward** on 31 of March.



Carers Health Respite Break Fund

Many carers simply do not recognise themselves as carers; seeing themselves as wives, husbands, sons, daughters or parents of someone who has a disability, illness or requires more help as they get older.

We all know how important it is to have a break, particularly a good night's sleep, especially when you are providing regular and substantial care to someone who needs your help. To help carers achieve this, money has been allocated by South Staffs Primary Care Trust to a Carers Health Respite Break Fund. This can help pay for overnight care in your own home or daytime or evening care in your home so you can have a social or leisure break.

This fund is available to carers living in Cannock Chase, Stafford, South Staffs, Lichfield, Tamworth and East Staffs.

To find out more, please contact Carers Break Fund on **01785 222365** or email: enquiries@carersinformation.org.uk.

Mid Staffordshire Hospital



The recent reports about Stafford Hospital on the television have been absolutely dreadful, but we **MUST** remember, that there are also people who have had nothing but praise for the staff whilst they were in hospital.

For anyone going into Stafford Hospital in the future remember, that it is now in the spotlight, and that all Staff, be they Doctors or Nurses, will be under scrutiny. Please try not to worry too much about what you have read, heard, or seen as with many organisations, you will find good and bad practice, but unfortunately 'Bad Press' is what sells newspapers and make for good ratings on the television.

For those of you who did not read the report, these two paragraphs come from Robert Francis QC, who actually carried out the enquiry at Stafford Hospital and make interesting reading:

"I have been struck by the commitment of the local community to its hospital. So many people who gave evidence were motivated because they care deeply about the hospital and want to see it improve. I hope that the Trust will soon be able to regain the confidence of its local community which it will achieve, not through words, but demonstrable actions and results."

The presentation of his report was concluded with a message for all concerned with the management of NHS hospital services that:

"People must always come before numbers. Individual patients and their treatment are what really matters. Statistics, benchmarks and action plans are tools not ends in themselves. They should not come before patients and their experiences. This is what must be remembered by all those who design and implement policy for the NHS."

Alzheimer's Society Dementia Helpline 0300 333 1122

Elaine Dunlop ☎ 01785 823110 or 07 7 79 50 26 39
Daphne Sharp ☎ 01785 211140 or 07 9 39 50 54 55

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Doctors are refusing to carry out tests for Dementia.....



Health Secretary Jeremy Hunt has said:

'Doctors are refusing to carry out tests for dementia as they believe it is pointless as there is no effective cure available, Mr Hunt said the country should be "**ashamed**" that so many people were being denied treatment which could stave off the condition for years.

His comments came as the Alzheimer's Society warned dementia sufferers were facing a postcode lottery of diagnosis rates.

It released data suggesting that in some areas of the UK, as few as one in three people suffering from the condition will receive a formal diagnosis, while in other areas three quarters of sufferers will be told by a doctor about their condition.

Across the UK just 46% of sufferers were diagnosed in 2012, the society said.

Mr Hunt said that attitudes in the NHS and in wider society had to change.

"Some even believe that without effective cure there's no point putting people through the anxiety of a memory test - even though drugs can help stave off the condition for several years.

"It is this grim fatalism that we need to shake off. Not just within our health service but across society as a whole.

"It can be a total nightmare getting a diagnosis - and the result is that, shockingly, only 46% of all dementia cases are identified.

"Yet with access to the right drugs and support for a partner, someone can live happily and healthily at home for much longer. We should be ashamed that we deny this to so many people in today's NHS."

The charity said that while the latest figure is an improvement on the previous year, there are still thought to be 428,500 people in the UK who have the condition but have not been diagnosed.

This means they are going without the support, benefits and the medical treatments that can help them live with the condition, charity chief executive Jeremy Hughes said.

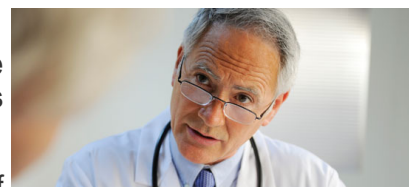
Diagnosis rates were best in Scotland where 64.4% of sufferers were told about their condition. In Wales, just 38.5% of sufferers formally received a diagnosis in 2012.

And 44.2% of people with the condition in England were diagnosed compared with 63% in Northern Ireland.

"Studies show that an early diagnosis can save the taxpayer thousands of pounds, because it can delay someone needing care outside of their own home.

"The NHS has already made a commitment to improving diagnosis rates but more needs to be done to ensure people with dementia are able to live as well as possible with the disease."

The Alzheimer's Society estimates that 800,000 people in the UK have a form of dementia and more than half have Alzheimer's disease. The figure is estimated to rise to a million by 2021.



March 17 - St Patrick's Day

Saint Patrick's day is in honour of the Patron Saint of Ireland, who brought Christianity to the Emerald Isles (as Ireland is fondly known). It is truly a day of celebrating Irish history, ancestry, traditions and customs.

Are you Irish per-chance!?! Well, the saying goes everyone is a little Irish on Saint Patrick's Day.

Roots of Tradition:

Saint Patrick's day is held in honour of Saint Patrick, the missionary who brought Christianity to the Irish people in the 400's AD.



Did You Know? Over 34 million Americans **are** of Irish descent. That's almost nine times the population of Ireland!

If you have a computer please have a look at our website which covers all MASE activities: www.themasegroup.com

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