

MERSEY REGION EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL REPORT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30 SEPTEMBER 2005**

MERSEY REGION EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION

The Glaxo Neurological Centre, Norton Street, Liverpool L3 8LR

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Website: www.epilepsymersey.org.uk

Registered as a charity: 504366

MERSEY REGION EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION

Mersey Region Epilepsy Association
is an independent charity providing support and
information to people with epilepsy across Merseyside and Cheshire.

President: Professor David Chadwick OBE DM FRCP

Vice Presidents: Ken Dodd OBE
Professor Gus Baker
Professor Michael Orme

HONORARY OFFICERS

Chair: Peter Rogan MBE JP

Vice-Chair/Secretary: David Renison LLB

Treasurer: Derek Shanks ACIB

STAFF

Fieldworker: Christine Seddon

Administrator: Anne Inman

VOLUNTEER ROLES

Group Liaison Officer: Jean Norton

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Dr Richard Appleton	Consultant Paediatric Neurologist
Mr Mike Cain	Service User Representative
Mr Bryan Cartwright	Service User Representative
Mr David Cutts	Service User Representative
Mr Paul Eldridge	Consultant Neurosurgeon
Mr Paul James	Service User Representative
	Mental Health Nurse
Dr Tony Marson	Consultant Neurologist
Mr Paul May	Consultant Neurosurgeon
Mr Tony McClure	Employment Specialist
Mrs Jean Norton	Service User Representative
Mrs Anne Sweeney	Epilepsy Specialist Nurse
Dr Udo Wiesmann	Consultant Neurologist
Dr Ian Williams	Consultant Neurologist
Mr Ron Williams	Service User Representative

Supporting people with epilepsy across Merseyside and Cheshire

OUR ROLE

We provide support and information to people with epilepsy and their families/friends on a localised basis. Our services take place across a variety of settings:

- Our telephone help line operates from our base at the Glaxo Neurological Centre, in Liverpool's city centre. People can contact us for information or advice, and they can also access our other services.
- We travel across the region into people's houses for home visits. This service is particularly valuable when people find it difficult to get to us.
- At the Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery, we are in attendance on Epilepsy Clinic days to answer people's questions, provide literature and refer to other services.
- Out in the community, we are proud of our affiliated support groups and clubs, which provide a social outlet and offer education and support for people with epilepsy.

MERSEY REGION EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The demands on the services of the Association have been as high as they have ever been and, thankfully, we have been able to meet those demands. It has not been an easy task against the background of falling income on which the Honorary Treasurer has focused in his report.

My thanks are extended to our two members of staff, Anne and Christine, who have often worked beyond the call of duty in ensuring that targets have been met so that those who use the service have been satisfied.

The Association, as a founder member of the Joint Epilepsy Council of the UK and Ireland, has been actively involved in its work. Both Anne and Christine attended the JEC Conference and maintained long established links with employees and volunteers of other organisations across the length and breadth of the country.

Links with medical practitioners have remained strong and particularly with those working at the Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery. Our President, Professor David Chadwick and his medical colleagues have, as ever, been ready to assist us by promptly and efficiently answering our enquiries. I am extremely grateful for their help and guidance.

For the first time the Association joined forces with the Walton Centre in the production of a much needed booklet for those involved in the epilepsy surgery programme. Paul Eldridge, a consultant neurosurgeon at the Centre, monitored the accuracy of the content, wrote the foreword and liaised with the sponsors of the booklet, Pfizer Ltd. The publication has been well received as being a very useful document for people who are being considered for the surgery programme.

A major disappointment has been that financial constraints have precluded efforts to expand our services. Lack of income has made it impossible to initiate new literature, revamp older publications, reintroduce the previously highly valued counselling services and update our information technology systems. The year has essentially been a holding operation financed by eating into our financial reserves. Many charitable organisations are experiencing the same plight but this brings little comfort.

Despite the disappointments experienced by lack of expansion I am proud of the achievements that have been accomplished and look forward to the future beginning with the planned update of the Association website.

Finally, I wish to express my heartfelt thanks to David Renison, Derek Shanks and members of the Executive Committee for their unfailing efforts and support.

Peter Rogan
Chair

MERSEY REGION EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION

ACTIVITIES

Fieldwork

Chris Seddon has had a busy and successful year making direct contact with people who have asked for varying degrees of help. In all, she met 56 people on a one to one basis to resolve difficulties ranging from housing problems to the completion of DLA forms. The vast majority of these meetings were by way of home visits. She has been particularly successful in representing people making an appeal against refusal to grant Disability Living Allowance. All her representation resulted in the original decision to refuse being reversed.

Telephone Help Line

The 'telephone call log' shows Anne as having dealt with 1,221 specific enquiries. 944 of these calls came in from the general public of which 117 (12%) related to Disability Living Allowance. 227 calls were taken from professionals working in social care or education. In response to the calls 308 packs of literature were sent out of the office.

Talks and Courses

Our team of speakers were called on to deliver courses to a wide variety of organisations. The amount of work done in this sphere is somewhat limited by number of authorised speakers we have at our disposal. Nevertheless, the Association delivered 22 courses throughout the year.

External Relations

Chris Seddon acted as Joint Chair of the Mersey Neurological Alliance and as a committee member on the Glaxo Centre/Walton Centre Liaison Committee.

Anne Inman and Chris Seddon represented the Joint Epilepsy Council at the Labour Party Conference.

Jean Norton and Anne Inman represented the Association at the JEC Annual Conference.

Peter Rogan represented the Association at the retirement function of Donald Shaw the Medical Director of the Walton Centre.

Jean Norton organised the Charities Annual Christmas Card sale in Heswall.

Affiliated Groups

The Association maintains contact with affiliated groups and clubs.

Full details of venues and times of meetings are published on the Association website www.epilepsymersey.org.uk. They are also available from Anne at the office.

200 Club

The Club has functioned well throughout the year and winners were as follows

Oct 04	Mr P Gommon	Apr 05	Mr D S Povall
Nov 04	Mr D Frankes	May 05	H B Cartwright
Dec 04	Mrs J Croft	Jun 05	Mr R Lunt
Jan 05	Warrington Group	Jul 05	Mr Greaves
Feb 05	Mr M C'Ailceta	Aug 05	Mrs Beirne
Mar 05	Mrs Elliott	Sep 05	David Jarmin

MERSEY REGION EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION

TREASURER'S REPORT

It is with great sadness that I have to report that during the past year the Association has sustained a further deficit, with expenses outstripping income by just over £13,000, only marginally better than 2004, when the shortfall was over £14,500.

During the year good housekeeping reduced our outgoings by a further £5,000 following the £6,000 reduction in 2004. In two years we have reduced our outgoings from £56,000 to £45,000.

Income was also down by some £4,000 following the drop of £14,000 in the previous year. Donations were only £500. However, we received no grant income (£3,794 – 2004) which accounted for almost the whole of the 2005 drop in income.

The net result is a drop in our reserves to £38,000, which is not quite enough to cover a year's expenses, our core strategy. This always assumes that we have no income, which, of course, is not the case. This reserve should still give us the breathing space to find the resources to keep the Association alive and well.

Again it is very important to give thanks to everyone who has supported our work during 2005 in money, time and expertise.

Derek Shanks
Honorary Treasurer

MERSEY REGION EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION

Income and Expenditure For the Year Ended 30 September 2005

INCOME

Copper Boxes

10.70

Donations:

A T Brightmer	390.00	
Anne Duchess of Westminster Charitable Trust	10000.00	
B & J Ralfs	121.00	
BBC Children In Need	2268.00	
Bibby Fund	100.00	
Charles Brotherton Trust	150.00	
Chrimes Family Trust	500.00	
Davies Wallis Foyster	250.00	
Duchy Of Lancaster Ben Fund	1000.00	
E S Renison	100.00	
Eli Lilley	1000.00	
Getrag-Ford Transmission Plant Workforce G.A.Y.E. Scheme	500.00	
G W Brimyard	150.00	
Hare & Hounds, Crowton	500.00	
Jacobs Canteen Collection	25.80	
K E Vogt	150.00	
Lisa Berkley	50.00	
Liverpool Dispensaries Fund	355.00	
Mersey Docks and Harbour Co	500.00	
Mr And Mrs Behrend	100.00	
Mr And Mrs Weaver	150.00	
Peter Brett Associates	330.00	
Pfizer Ltd	3057.00	
Royal Birkdale Golf Club	109.20	
St Mary's CAFOD Group	100.00	
Sundry Giving	459.55	
Synergy	300.00	
The Late Kay Hannah	1000.00	
Trustees of S & I Blankstone	200.00	
Vauxhall Motors Employees G.A.Y.E Charitable Fund	300.00	
West Wirral Rotary Club	<u>350.00</u>	24565.55

In Memoria:

Christopher Brunsdon	1105.00	
Jeanette Elliott	<u>20.00</u>	1125.00

Interest Income

1756.30

Lecture Fees

260.00

Literature Sales

115.58

Special Efforts:

Christmas Fare	296.60	
K & H McKeown West Wirral Walk	<u>105.00</u>	401.60

MERSEY REGION EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION

Subscriptions		984.15
Sundry Income		720.67
Support Groups & Clubs:		
200 Club	1000.00	
Chester Support Group	500.00	
Ysbyty Gwynedd Support Group	<u>200.00</u>	1700.00
Tax Recoveries		425.89
		<u>32065.44</u>
	Shortfall for year	<u>13135.46</u>
		<u><u>45200.90</u></u>

EXPENSES

Affiliation Fees	665.00
AGM Expenses	330.75
Employees Expenses	1109.60
Epilepsy CD ROM costs	545.00
Insurance	1896.45
Literature Purchases	382.32
Office Expenses	1274.16
Postages	703.18
Printing & Stationery	3477.34
Rally Expenses	240.00
Rent Paid	4019.75
Room Hire	59.50
Salaries and PAYE/NI	28768.53
Staff Training	200.00
Sundry Expenses	158.39
Telephone Costs	639.53
Volunteers o-o-p Expenses	731.40
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TOTAL EXPENSES	<u><u>45200.90</u></u>

MERSEY REGION EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION

BALANCE SHEET as at 30 September 2005

Current Assets			
	Bank Account	4,727.08	
	Petty Cash	89.55	
	CAFCash Gold Account	<u>37,130.38</u>	41,947.01
Current Liabilities			
	Creditors		3,882.69
			<u>38,064.32</u>
General Funds			
	Balance brought forward		51,199.78
	Less deficit for the year		<u>13,135.46</u>
			<u>38,064.32</u>