

MERSEY REGION EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION

51ST ANNUAL REPORT

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
30TH SEPTEMBER 2007**

MERSEY REGION EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION
Neurosupport Centre, Norton Street, Liverpool L3 8LR
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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 MSc

Vice-Chair/Secretary: David Renison LLB

Treasurer: Derek Shanks ACIB

STAFF

Fieldworker: Christine Seddon BA

Administrator: Anne Inman

VOLUNTEER ROLES

Group Liaison Officer: Jean Norton

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE:

Dr Richard Appleton	Consultant Paediatric Neurologist
Mr Bryan Cartwright	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
Mr Leyland Preston	Service User Representative
Mrs Marian Preston	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 Neurosupport 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

Once again the year was a busy one with lots of calls on our services. In line with policy determined at the previous Annual General Meeting there was no expansion in services but rather a consolidation of ones already in operation.

The decision of the Lord Mayor of Liverpool to support MREA as nominated charity for his year of office involved a lot of work in organising fundraising events. The annual Lord Mayor's Parade was very well supported by the membership and we were successful in raising the level of awareness of the organisation to a very wide audience as our float, accompanied by our supporters, was viewed by many thousands of people as it paraded through the streets of the City.

Involvement in the Lord Mayor's Charity Appeal meant that a lot of time and effort was put into the organisation of fundraising events which will hopefully prove to be worthwhile when a sizeable cheque is presented to the Association in the late summer of 2008.

The Association could not function without the dedication of our hard working staff and volunteers. My thanks go to Anne and Christine for the front line help they offer to our clients. The help line services and administration provided by Anne are greatly appreciated and the invaluable field work activities of Christine has earned the respect of all who have availed themselves of her expertise. Thanks to Jean Norton for her untiring work as Group Liaison Officer, also her attendance at the Walton Centre clinics which is greatly appreciated.

The last two years have seen a strong move towards people in all walks of life tending to use internet facilities as a first port of call in seeking information. This is no different in the world of epilepsy and whilst personal contact by telephone still features in the services we provide, it is diminishing as people search websites for information. MREA is a local organisation working in a global setting and so I feel the way forward is to further develop our online facility. Resources and effort will be channelled towards meeting changing needs by monitoring online services to improve the level of support on offer. Traditional services will, of course, remain in place but the need to keep pace with modern approaches, particularly in provision of information, is essential if the Association is to prosper and deliver its aims and objectives.

The Treasurer's Report makes much brighter reading than the one presented last year and I am most grateful for the wise counsel he provides to the Officers and for the astute management of our funds. Derek plays a huge role in guiding the Association through what are difficult times and he deserves special thanks.

Every Chairman needs a strong Vice Chair and in David Renison I could not have asked for a better support throughout the year. My thanks and indeed the thanks of everybody associated with MREA are offered to David for his unflinching support.

Finally, I would like to thank all who have made a contribution to the work of MREA throughout the year in the knowledge that they have in some way or other been of help to people throughout the area who have epilepsy.

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 57 people on a one to one basis, usually in their own homes, to resolve difficulties ranging from housing problems to the completion of Disability Living Allowance forms. She continues to represent people at appeal tribunals for Disability Living Allowance.

Telephone Help Line

Our Call Log for the year shows that we dealt with 1,120 specific enquiries. 975 of these calls came in from the general public of which 98 related to Disability Living Allowance. 145 calls were taken from professionals working in social care or education. In response to these calls 267 packs of literature were sent out from 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 the number of authorised speakers we have at our disposal. Nevertheless, we will continue to deliver these courses as and when requested.

External Relationships

- Chris Seddon and Jean Norton attend the Epilepsy Clinics each Tuesday afternoon at the Walton Centre for Neurology and Neurosurgery.
- Chris Seddon and Anne Inman attend regular meetings of the Mersey Neurological Alliance.
- Jean Norton organised the Charities Annual Christmas Card sale in Heswall.
- MREA continue to be actively involved with the Joint Epilepsy Council of the UK and Ireland.
- A unique feature of our external relationships this year has been contact with the Epilepsy Association of Western Australia, with whom we exchange information and literature.

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 our grateful thanks go to Caroline Healey for all her hard work over the year. The winners were as follows:

Oct '06	Mrs Lloyd	53	Apr '07	Mrs Doran	13
Nov '06	Mr & Mrs Rogan	02	May '07	Claire Wright	65
Dec '06	Miss P Ralfs	61	Jun '07	D I Mulhaney	168
Jan '07	Mrs H Cain	134	Jul '07	Dr N V Clitherow	193
Feb '07	A Hayden	58	Aug '07	Mr P Rogan	34
Mar '07	Mrs G Mulhaney	20	Sept '07	K Cowley	172

Why not buy a number, for just £12 per year. Simply contact the office for details.

MERSEY REGION EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION

TREASURER'S REPORT

For the first time for some years I am pleased to be able to report a surplus of income over expenditure for the year. In this past year we have a surplus of £1,799 which is a pleasant relief and is a gratifying continuance of the improvements of the past four, or more years, where we have sustained deficits, albeit reducing year on year.

The monitoring and prudence that we have been giving to our outgoings has finally paid off. These are now at, possibly, a minimal point, although it is an area that we continue to watch with great care. This now totals a reduction of more than £12,000 in three years. We can offer thanks to our staff, who still managed all the demands made on them.

In total, our income was up by nearly £11,000 against 2006. Donations were down by £5,000 but the main improvement was a generous grant of £11,000 made by Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales. This grant was made specifically to cover our field worker salary commitment. Because of the restrictions placed on how it could be spent, this is shown separately in the accounts. Of consistent comfort, however, has been the continued upward surge of income from subscriptions which have increased from just over £1,600 to more than £2,000. This shows that our members and supporters have great faith in what we are doing.

The net result is that our resources have improved to just over £26,000 but, regrettably, this is still less than a year's expenses, which have always been one of our main strategies.

At this point can I reiterate what all the committee says each year - that is to thank each and every one of you who have supported MREA during 2007.

Derek Shanks
Honorary Treasurer

Mersey Region Epilepsy Association

Accounts

For the year ended

30th September 2007

MERSEY REGION EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 SEPTEMBER 2007

INCOME

Copper Boxes 5.25

Donations:

Acton Amateur Dramatic Society	100.00	
Anne Duchess of Westminster Charitable Trust	5000.00	
Anonymous	2700.00	
Ashton House	119.50	
Baker & Jacoby	50.00	
Brentwood Ursuline Prep	109.40	
Charities Aid Foundation	625.00	
Charles Brotherton Trust	150.00	
Chrimes Family Trust	500.00	
D I Renison	1200.00	
Dr Ivan Iniesta	90.00	
E Tomlinson	50.00	
Edward Bibby Fund	100.00	
Eric Jones	100.00	
Estate of Dorothy Pritchard	939.19	
Friends Of Liverpool Airport	61.00	
G W Brimyard	150.00	
Hemby Trust	1068.00	
Jacobs Biscuits	128.01	
Jeff Copeland for head shave by Rachel Copeland	575.00	
Jenny and Barry Ralfs	65.00	
Ken Dodd	200.00	
Kevin and Caroline Finnegan in lieu of Wedding Gifts	250.00	
M Rogan	100.00	
Merseyside Fire & Rescue Ex-Members Association	500.00	
Mr and Mrs D Behrend	100.00	
N Rogan	90.00	
Proven Family Trust	300.00	
Radio City Give a Child a Chance	1000.00	
RD&JMT Williams	150.00	
Simon Edwards	50.00	
Solomon & Isabel Blankstone Charitable Trust	100.00	
SPACE	1392.76	
St Annes, Aigburth	100.00	
St Marys CAFOD Group	100.00	
Sundry Giving	521.85	
Tony Brightmer	<u>300.00</u>	19134.71
Give As You Earn		1000.00

MERSEY REGION EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION

Grants:		
Knowsley PCT		1000.00
In Memoria:		
A Dudley	260.00	
Christine Hughes	100.00	
Fiona Musgrove	300.00	
John Thomas	100.00	
P Tinsley	140.00	
Sundry	<u>35.00</u>	935.00
Interest Received		1149.30
Junior Encyclopaedia Sales		408.30
Lecture Fees		700.00
Literature Sales		6.00
Special Efforts:		
Anne Inman Sponsored Walk	636.10	
Anne-Marie Wilkins Flora 5KRun	80.00	
BUPA Great Manchester Run	1111.00	
Christmas Fair	227.10	
Gala Bingo, Bromborough, Wirral Way Walk	805.00	
Gordon Birch Parachute Jump	<u>1440.38</u>	4299.58
Subscriptions Received		2042.15
Support Groups & Clubs		
MREA 200 Club	500.00	
Ysbyty Gwynedd	<u>250.00</u>	750.00
Tax Recoveries		<u>902.44</u>
Total unrestricted income		32332.73
Restricted Income (1)		
Grants:		
Lloyds TSB Foundation for England & Wales (1)		<u>11000.00</u>
TOTAL INCOME		<u><u>43332.73</u></u>

MERSEY REGION EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION

EXPENDITURE

Affiliation Fees	515.00
AGM Expenses	398.50
Catering NHS Meeting	325.00
Employees Expenses	934.64
Insurance	1800.64
Literature Purchases	5.00
Office Expenses	1214.63
Postages	458.13
Printing & Stationery	355.53
Rent Paid	4215.42
Room Hire	223.75
Salaries (1)	29432.43
Sundry Expenses	508.77
Telephone Costs	478.57
Volunteers o-o-p Expenses	517.00
Welfare	<u>150.00</u>
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	41533.01
Surplus for the year (2)	<u>1799.72</u>
	<u><u>43332.73</u></u>

MERSEY REGION EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION

MERSEY REGION EPILEPSY ASSOCIATION BALANCE SHEET AS AT 30 SEPTEMBER 2007

Current Assets

Bank Account	7129.26	
Petty Cash	111.65	
CAF Cash Gold Account	<u>23476.61</u>	30717.52

Current Liabilities

Less Creditors		1301.24
		<u>29416.28</u>

General Fund

Balance brought forward	27616.56	
Less Deficit for the year(2)	<u>1340.32</u>	26276.24

Restricted Fund(1)

Lloyds TSB Foundation for England & Wales	11000.00	
Less funds paid as salaries	<u>7859.96</u>	3140.04
		<u>29416.28</u>

NOTES TO ACCOUNTS

(1) Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales:

The Grant received from Lloyds TSB Foundation for England and Wales was received for specific funding towards the salary of a Field Worker and may not be used for any other purpose.

Movement of the fund was as follows:

Total Grant received:	£11,000.00	
Grant used towards Field Worker		
Salary:	<u>£7,859.96</u>	
Surplus carried over	<u>£3,140.04</u>	

(2)

	<u>Totals</u>	<u>Restricted funds (1)</u>	<u>Unrestricted funds</u>
Total Income	£43,332.73	£11,000.00	£32,332.73
Total Expenditure	<u>£41,533.01</u>	<u>£7,859.96</u>	<u>£33,673.05</u>
Surplus/Shortfall for the year	<u>£1,799.72</u>	<u>£3,140.04</u>	<u>-£1,340.32</u>