

TALL SHIPS

&

RED SAILS

An invitation has been received from Stobhill WI for **ALL** members of the MS Branch to attend an evening event on Monday 18th June at St Aidens Church Hall, Stobhill. At 7.30Pm.

The speaker for the evening will be Elsie Joel, talking about her experiences of "The Tall Ships Race".

The evening promises to be an interesting one since we are assured Elsie is "quite a character" and her tales& experiences of this event should keep everyone glued to their seats for the evening.

Morpeth WI has been very supportive to the Morpeth & Wansbeck Branch of the MS Society in the past so your support for the evenings activities would be most welcome.

Parking facilities are available at St. Aidens Church Hall.

Newsletter Format.

Any Member of the Branch having access to e-mail and MS Office (MS Word) can receive this newsletter electronically on their Pc. Please send an e-mail request to Don McCallum via the e-mail address below to be added to the list.. (Please include the version of MS Office you use ie. 95, 97 or 2000).

June 2001.



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TELEPHONE SCAM!

A new scam is currently being used, particularly targeting females. They receive a phone call from the Post Office asking them to confirm their company Post Code. When this is given they are told they have become eligible for some gift vouchers for their co-operation and are asked to provide their home address and Post Code in order to receive the vouchers.

So far 90% of the women who have given this information have been burgled as it is assumed their home is empty during office hours. The Police are aware of this scam and the Post Office have confirmed they are **NOT** conducting Post Code Surveys..

Also, it has been reported, If you receive a phone call from an individual who identifies himself / herself as an AT&T Service Technician who is conducting tests on the telephone lines or, any one asking for the following – **DON'T COMPLY!**

They will request the recipient (you) to complete the test by pressing 90, the # key then, hang up.

Doing this gives the caller full access to your telephone and allows them to use your line for long distance or chat line numbers.

YOU GET THE BILL

Do NOT press 90# for anyone!

CHANGES TO CARERS ALLOWANCE

From April this year the Government implemented the following changes to Invalid Care Allowance, the primary source of income for many carers of disabled people:

This information has been taken from MS Matters Issue 36 March / April 2001 Edition

IMMEDIATE BENEFITS

The carers premium for carers on Income Support, Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit has increased by £10 per week to £24.40 per week.

Carers will be allowed to earn up to £72 per week without losing the Benefit. An increase from the previous £50 limit.

FUTURE BENEFITS

Further planned changes require legislation, so it is likely to be a couple of years before the following can be implemented:

Carers over the age of 65 will be able to apply for ICA. However, carers will still be paid either a State Retirement Pension or ICA depending on which is worth more.

ICA will continue to be paid for 8 weeks following the death of the person cared for.

Invalid Care Allowance (ICA) will become known as Carers Allowance.

For further details on Benefits please contact:

MS Helpline Welfare Rights Officer.
On 0808 800 8000. 9am to 9pm Monday to Friday.

Carers National Association Advice Line on 0808 808 7777 10am to 12am and 2pm to 4pm Monday to Friday.

The Department of Social Security (DSS) web site is also a useful point of reference for those with computers and internet access. www.dss.gov.uk for benefits information.

www.open.gov.uk gives access to all government departments alphabetically, including most local government sites.

BRANCH WELFARE WORKERS

The Branch has recently recruited four people willing to undertake the roles of welfare visitors. Along with Frank Jenkinson (our chairman), Mrs Bryant, Mrs Pearson and Mr & Mrs Jolly have already visited some of our members who expressed a wish to have visitors from the Branch regularly. A couple of year ago, 1999, we entered into a partnership with Northumberland Health Authority to recruit one welfare worker. This scheme has not borne any fruit so far so, Frank successfully went out recruiting on his own. Should you wish to be visited by a volunteer from the Branch on a regular basis please contact Frank Jenkinson on Tel No01670-515451. This could be an excellent way for you to keep in touch with what is happening in our branch.