

MS East Wicklow Branch **Winter Newsletter.**

MS Christmas Cards. The EWB are selling ten beautiful MS Christmas cards for €6. If you have not already bought Christmas cards, contact mark.mitchell8@gmail.com. The feeling is among the branch committee that we should endeavour to support our own charity when possible.

Our Christmas Lunch will be held at the Glenview Hotel, in Glen of the Downs on Saturday 21st January 2012 at 12.45pm for a 1.00pm sitting. Please bring a family friend, carer, husband, wife, mother in law (joke). **Please contact Wolfgang at oscar321@eircom.net to book your place(s).** If you book and find that for whatever reason you can't make the lunch or don't feel well on the days, **it is important that you let Wolfgang know ASAP**, as once we confirm numbers we are charged by the Glenview. Due to the success of the Lady Barbershop Harmony Group last year, we have invited them again to perform for us. **Please reply before Dec 17th.**

Flag Days in the Bridgewater Shopping Center, Arklow. A sincere thank you to Persis, John O'Brien, John O'Donohue, Clinton, Julia, Lisa and her husband and Mark who helped raise €731.

The Sugar Loaf Bridge Club held a fund raiser bridge night at the Greystones bridge center in October. A sincere thank you to Pat Levins, club president who along with her very hard working committee made it a hugely successful night. One hundred and sixty bridge players attended and €2,650 was raised. Even in these extremely difficult times, people's good will and generosity towards MS is simply wonderful.

Our **Creative Writers Workshop** which is flourishing, was told that our Muinteoir, Katie Donovan is leaving due to work and family commitments. On behalf of the WW group a sincere thank you to Katie who has done such a wonderful job with the group. The classes will resume in the New Year and Shirley Mc Clure will be facilitating.

Tommy Tallant who is known to many of you has retired as secretary of the MS EWB due to other commitments. Tommy has been secretary for many years and did an outstanding job and will be missed. On behalf of the branch committee and its members, I would like to sincerely thank Tommy for his commitment over a long number of years.

The MS-Society has reluctantly decided to close the MS shop in Bray on December 23rd 2011. The shop will be sadly missed by all and I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of all of the members in the East

Wicklow Branch to thank Deirdre and Niamh for their endeavours over the years and to wish them well in 2012.

The Tom Crean film at the Glenview went extremely well and Charlie Bird and Tom Crean's grandson, Brendan O'Brien, facilitated the evening which was well attended and everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening marking the EWB's celebration of the MS-Society's 50th Anniversary.

Ava Battles the new CEO and **Manfred Huschka** the new Chairman of the board have taken up their appointments respectively; we wish them well for 2012.

The MS-Society has teamed up with **Dolly Recycling Clothes** who have many MS Recycling Clothes Banks in Dublin and Kildare and would like to set up some locations in Co. Wicklow (www.dollytextilerecycling.ie). You can help by contacting Jacqui at Jacqui@dollytextilerecycling.ie with a suggestion for a location and Jacqui will do the rest.

Some useful tips: By paying your **VHI subscription** through your **local Credit Union** will save you **10%**.

New MS Research Website www.multiple-sclerosis-research.org

The East Wicklow Branch continues to support its members who may have difficulty meeting certain expenses; we are delighted to help when we can. **This is offered on a strictly private and confidential bases by contacting Persis Quin on 2868056.**

Any suggestions or ideas for the branch please, contact Mark at mark.mitchell8@gmail.com

The Victorian Field Day in Enniskerry donated €4,000 to the MS Care Center in Bushy Park. This was a very generous donation and on behalf of the EWB and the MS-Society, a sincere thank you to Natascha.

The MS East Wicklow Branch committee of Persis Quin, Jacinta Douglas, Mary Dunne, Carmel Salley, Jimmy Hayes, Michael Mallin, John Mardirosian, Clinton Binions, John O'Brien, Wolfgang and myself would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year. We very much look forward to seeing you at our New Year lunch.

Mark Mitchell, Chairman, MS East Wicklow Branch. 12/'11.

PS Keep your used stamps for me please for the New Year.