

# Autumn Greetings Newsletter: Issue No. 6 September

#### SERVICE DEVELOPMENT

Following the results of the Parkinson's UK audit we have devised our action plan and these are the aims we are working towards:-

- To implement a multi disciplinary Parkinson's clinic
- To establish information and education group programmes for a range of patients
- To raise awareness and provide education on Parkinson's for professional colleagues across the island
- To ensure all patients have information regarding medication and possible side effects
- To develop a multidisciplinary pathway for advanced care planning

Naturally, some of these aims will be easier to achieve than others but we have started the process and are pleased to announce that Dr Thomas is in discussion with a visiting neurologist to commence a joint clinic for more complex cases.

We have organized 2 study days, free of charge, in September for professionals in Health and Social Care services. These education days will be presented by Parkinson's UK and aim to educate and raise awareness of Parkinson's.

#### AS A TEAM WE WANT TO ENSURE YOU GET THE BEST POSSIBLE CARE

We would welcome feedback from service users and carers on how we can improve things for people with Parkinson's on the Isle of Man.

If you need help or advice there are several ways to contact us;

Susan Lawley Specialist Nurse

Tel: 01624 642676 Email: susan.lawley@gov.im

Graihagh Betteridge, Physiotherapist and Clare Collister, Occupational therapist via Community Adult Therapy Team Tel: **01624 642511** 

Website: www.gov.im/categories/health-and-wellbeing/therapy-services/



We have updated and added information to the Government's website regarding Parkinson's Check it out and let us know what you think

www.gov.im/categories/health-and-wellbeing/conditions/parkinsons-disease/

We would be interested in your feedback.

Is the website helpful? Is there anything else we should put on it? Is it easy to access?

Email Susan with your comments to susan.lawley@gov.im



Meet the team and join us for a coffee on Friday 14th September at Thie Rosien, Port Erin, 1.30 to 3.30pm



#### RESEARCH NEWS FROM PARKINSON'S UK

## 1st August: Researchers in Japan have announced clinical trials of a stem cell-based treatment for Parkinson's will start this month.



Last year researchers at Japan's Kyoto University published results showing cell transplants were able to improve movement symptoms in macaque monkey model of Parkinson's.

They successfully used a type of stem cell, called induced pluripotent stem cells, to make dopamine-producing brain cells, which they then transplanted into the brain. Brain scans showed that the cells were functioning like normal dopamine-producing brain cells and were successfully producing dopamine.

The clinical trial marks the first cell transplant trial for Parkinson's to use dopamine-producing brain cells made from stem cells. However, it is not the first stem cell trial for Parkinson's, which is, in fact, happening in Australia.

### 6th August: Positive results for a breath test for Parkinson's.

The results, from a research team in Israel currently part funded by Parkinson's UK, were published in ACS Chemical Neuroscience. They highlight the progress being made towards a breath test for the early detection of the condition.

The researchers showed that in a group of 29 people with early Parkinson's and 19 individuals of a similar age who did not have the condition, analysing chemicals in the breath could detect Parkinson's with around 80% accuracy.

Why not sign up for the Progress magazine, Parkinson's UK's twice yearly free magazine that keeps you up to date with all that's happening in Parkinson's research?

FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO WWW.PARKINSONS.ORG.UK/CONTENT/RESEARCH OR TELEPHONE 0808 800 0303

Last year we introduced patient information packs for people on the island who were newly diagnosed with Parkinson's. We would like everyone to have the opportunity to receive one of these packs.

The packs contain information on the condition, medication, services and benefits available as well as a list of useful contacts.

If you would like an information pack, telephone Susan Lawley on 01624 642676

**Exercise is good for you.** And it's especially good for you if you have Parkinson's.

There isn't a one-size-fits-all approach and the best exercise to do will depend on the way Parkinson's affects you. But the message is the same for everyone - **go for it!** 

Graihagh, our specialist Physiotherapist runs 2 exercise groups a week funded by The Parkinson's Society IoM. The exercises are based on the **PD Warrior** philosophy which promotes the brains natural ability to rewire itself. If you would like more information on the classes contact Graihagh on **01624 642511**.

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