

# Fife Branch Newsletter

PARKINSON'S<sup>UK</sup>  
SCOTLAND

No. 33

June 2022

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### Dear Readers

It's June and that sees us bringing the 33<sup>rd</sup> edition of our Branch newsletter to you. It was originally called 'Keeping Us Together' because that was our aim at the start of the pandemic and the lockdown that quickly followed. As life returns to some sort of normality and we can choose whether to wear masks in public or not we are determined to continue to produce a regular newsletter, which is aimed at keeping our readership informed and hopefully entertained.

We have been updating our distribution list and in the last two years, some of our readers have experienced a change in their circumstances, meaning that they no longer require updates about the Branch. Whilst we are sorry to see them go and wish them well, we have had some new additions to the fold and so, we extend a warm welcome to anyone who is reading our humble 'rag' for the first time.

Thanks to everyone who contributed to this month's edition and to those folk who donated a raffle prize for the May Raffle. We will be holding another raffle in our June meeting, so please bring a prize along.

Charles and Mark [editor@fifeparkinsons.org](mailto:editor@fifeparkinsons.org)

### Chairman's Comments – John Minhinick

Since the beginning of 2022 the members of the Fife Branch Committee have been working hard to restart many of the in-person events and activities following the lockdown when we could only keep in touch via Zoom.

Thank you to the members who have supported the team in the last few months. We are aware that some of you are still coming to terms with meeting up even though we've worked hard to enable social distancing and follow other recommendations. During July and August some of our activities, as usual, will be suspended ahead of the restart at the beginning of September. I hope to see more of you enjoying the fun, friendship and fellowship when we move into late summer/early autumn. Before then you will see on page 8, we still have a full programme for June.



We are always ready to hear from you about changes you would like to see and maybe additions to the programme. The first session of Nordic Walking was a success and after the summer break Aqua Aerobics will be another option.

**Best wishes for summer whatever you'll be doing.**

**⚠ WARNING**

**MEN AT WORK**

**WOMEN WORK ALL THE TIME.  
MEN HAVE TO PUT UP A SIGN  
WHEN THEY WORK.**

## Meet The Staff

### Chloe Macmillan

When did you join Parkinson's UK?  
I joined Parkinson's UK in Sept 2007

When you joined what was your first job title?  
I was a Branch & Volunteer Support Officer

What is your current job title?  
My current position is Area Development Manager

Briefly explain your role in Parkinson's UK.  
I mostly work with the Scotland Development Team, which is 7 volunteers and 2 staff members working together. Our main aim is to ensure wherever you live in Scotland, you have access to the support and activities you need to help manage your Parkinson's.

What do you consider to have been your biggest achievement whilst working at Parkinson's UK?  
Working with Younger Parkinson's (YP) volunteers to successfully bring the YP information and support event online during the pandemic. Previously, we hosted an annual 2-day YP conference in Stirling and we were determined for this to continue, so that people of working age who were recently diagnosed with Parkinson's could still access peer support.



During your time at Parkinson's UK what has given you the most satisfaction?

Seeing members of the Parkinson's community enjoy and benefit from the support and the various activities that have been developed with the help of the volunteers.

What message would you give someone who has recently been diagnosed with Parkinson's?  
We're here to help and you don't have to go it alone.

If you had to leave your home in a hurry, apart from your family and pets, what three things would you grab?  
The family photo albums, our passports and my husband's wallet

Which do you prefer, dogs or cats?  
Dogs win by a mile

What famous person (past or present, factual or fictional) would you like to be marooned on a desert island with?  
Lee Mack - he always makes me giggle on 'Would I Lie To You?'

**Thanks very much Chloe!**

Next Month we'll be talking to **Sam Ward**

**YP Group goes from strength to strength.**

Fife YP group numbers soared 167% between the return to Dunnikier monthly meetings on 4th May and our meal at the Indian restaurant Handi in Glenrothes on 21<sup>st</sup> May.

In non-post-Brexit soundbites that's a jump of 3 to 5 and we are ever hopeful of even more at the next meetings!

1 June, 6 July, 3 August, 7 September, 5 October, 2 November & 7 December.

If you are of working age or thereabouts, we look forward to seeing you.

**David Rigg**

PARKINSON'S<sup>UK</sup>  
CHANGE ATTITUDES.  
FIND A CURE.  
JOIN US.

**Join Us**  
**Fife's Young Onset**  
**Parkinson's Group**  
**On the first Wednesday of**  
**the month at 7:30 pm**  
**Dunnikier Park Golf Club,**  
**Kirkcaldy. KY1 3LP**

Please note that the views expressed in the newsletter are those of the contributors and editors and do not necessarily represent those of Parkinson's UK.

## Charles & Mark Would Like To

### Invite You To A Party



Our next meeting will take place in Glenrothes on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> June in the Bridge Centre, Glenrothes. KY7 5NS from 12 noon to 3pm. Thank you to the 'regulars' who come almost every month, but there's so many people missing out. We would love to see a larger attendance this month, especially since this will be the last meeting before our summer break and we won't be back until Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September.

## September 2022

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8 	9	10

£3.00 admission gives you the choice of numerous activities, including Tai Chi, Bingo, Singing, Crafts, Massage Therapy. As well as Tea/Coffee and a selection of biscuits in the Café Area. Don't forget to wear your name badge and bring along a lunchtime snack!

We will be holding another raffle at our June Glenrothes meeting and would welcome any donations of gifts we could give away as prizes.

**Remember to bring your old printer ink cartridges and empty pill blister packs, which we can recycle for cash!**

## See What You Can Achieve With 'Creative' Catherine

Our monthly meetings continue to have an impressive ART THERAPY table for everyone to experience and enjoy.

Our inspired Art Tutor, Catherine Mills, believes that Art is for all - everyone can have a bash, everyone can produce a piece of art and everyone can enjoy the experience!

I say, 'Forget your old school days if you did not quite reach the standards of Goya, Turner or Picasso and come to the table with a fresh pair of eyes and discover just what you can do with the support and the fabulous materials Catherine brings along with her.'

Unfortunately, so far, we have only had a few brave souls who have stepped up to join Catherine at her magic table and come away with both large smiles and beautiful pieces of artwork too! So why not make a promise to yourself in June to join Catherine and you never know just what you can achieve.

**Here is a selection from last month's table.**



**PARKINSON'S UK  
HELPLINE**

**0808 800 0303**

**Don't  
Forget!**

The Kelpies, Falkirk  
6pm, Thursday 9 June  
2022

**PARKINSON'S**<sup>UK</sup>  
SCOTLAND



## The Walking Group in May

As Spring is left behind and summer approaches, daffodils have given way to bluebells in the woods and parks and on our Ravenscraig Park to Dysart Harbour walk on a sunny 6<sup>th</sup> May morning. The walkers enjoyed strolling along the paths and through the woods, carpets of bluebells covering the woodland floor on the way. The route took us down to the coastal path and we made our way along to Dysart Harbour for lunch at the Harbourmaster's Cafe – highly recommended!



Our walk on 20<sup>th</sup> May took us to the coastal village of Limekilns. Although it was rather cloudy, the rain stayed away and we enjoyed a sociable walk along to the harbour at Charleston, where we admired the massive Lime Kilns which are built into the hillside below the village and learned a little of their history. While retracing our steps the sun made an appearance and at the end of our walk, we enjoyed lunch at the Bruce Arms hotel in Limekilns.



**Thanks to Elizabeth and Bob for organising the walks. Details of further walks can be found at <https://fifeparkinsons.org>**



**Best wishes for a speedy recovery Bob.**

## Gavin's Got The Gong!



'Well Done' goes out to Gavin Richardson, Briar and Brian's son who ran in the Edinburgh Half Marathon on Sunday 29<sup>th</sup> clocking in at ninety-two minutes, his personal best. Gavin decided to celebrate his upcoming fortieth birthday by taking part in the event and in his own words he's "running the half marathon for my 40<sup>th</sup> and I'm raising money for Fife Parkinson's. A charity that has been supporting my mum and dad over the past few years".  
**Gavin's link to donate is:**

<https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/gavin-richardson8>

## June Quiz

### It's all about June in this topical quiz

1, Trooping the Colour is held in London annually on a Saturday in June, on which parade ground?

2, June has two zodiac signs, name both?

3, What in the UK is celebrated on the third Sunday of June?

4, What is June's birthstone?

5, In which year did June Brown first play the role of Dot Cotton, in *EastEnders*?

6, Which historical novel begins in 1815 and culminates with the 1832 June Rebellion in Paris?

7, The longest day of the year can occur on one of three dates in June, name any of the three?

8, In 1968, June Whitfield began her long television partnership with which actor and comedian?

9, Which 1956 film adaptation of a Rodgers and Hammerstein stage musical of the same name features the song 'June Is Bustin' Out All Over'? (Hint: the film revolves around Billy Bigelow)

10, What takes place near Pilton in the last week of June, each year?





## Gazpacho Soup

### Ingredients

1 tin chopped tomatoes

1 cup of olive oil

½ cucumber chopped

4 tbsp white wine vinegar

1 red pepper chopped

2 tbsp basil chopped, 6 spring onions chopped,

salt & pepper, 3 cloves garlic chopped ¼ tsp sugar if desired

**Garnish** with Croutons / chopped boiled egg / chopped parsley

### Method

In a large bowl or food processor combine tomatoes, cucumber, red pepper, spring onions, garlic, olive oil, vinegar, salt, pepper and blend to a chunky base.

Add a little water if the mixture is too thick. Chill in fridge for a minimum of 3 -4 hours. Serve with garnish.

This soup can be served as above or pureed as a light starter.

**A favorite of Charles and Margaret's in the Buckhaven summer heat!**

**We're busy compiling a book of all the mouthwatering recipes that we have collected over the months of producing our newsletters.**

We know that you treasure our monthly bulletins and print them off because they might be worth something one day. Especially if there's ever a shortage of toilet paper in the supermarkets again!

To make life easier (and fundraise) we have decided to collate them all together

and put them in a handy booklet that will grace any coffee table or kitchen bookshelf.



**If you have any family recipes that you would like to share with us, please send them to [editor@fifeparkinsons.org](mailto:editor@fifeparkinsons.org)**

*Parkinson's UK is the operating name of the Parkinson's disease Society of the United Kingdom. A company limited by guarantee. Registered in England and Wales (00948776). Registered office: 215 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1EJ. A charity registered in England and Wales (258197) and in Scotland (SCO 37554).*



Get Tokens At Tesco

**Vote for Fife Branch at selected stores!**

Vote For Parkinson's Make It Count

**PARKINSON'S**  
SCOTLAND

Dunfermline Superstore, Extra & Express, Rosyth & Dalgety Bay

You know those Tesco tokens  
That they give you at the till  
And if you were to swallow one  
It would really make you ill?

Well, if you're buying stuff at Tesco's  
In July, August and September  
Use them wisely - vote for Parkinson's  
Don't forget now please remember.

They're at the three shops in Dunfermline  
Express, Extra and Superstore  
Get your tokens in Dalgety Bay  
And in Rosyth you'll get some more.

So, when they offer you some tokens  
Don't refuse them like a clot  
Try to scoop up a small handful  
And put them in the Fife Branch slot.

**Camera Club**

You won't be hearing  
from us for a couple of  
months because we're  
taking a break.



That doesn't mean we won't be taking pictures.

We're taking a break from Zoom and when we  
resume in September, we'll be refreshed and ready  
to show and criticise each other's photographs. All  
in the spirit of continual learning and improvement.



**DONATIONS TO OUR BRANCH** - Alex Rodger,

Our Fife Branch of Parkinson's UK Treasurer, is always very grateful to receive donations from members, their families and friends and from individuals and groups who wish to raise money for a local charity. We are aware that these donations are given after times of celebration and enjoyment but that sometimes they are gifted after times of sadness. Thanks to.

**Robin Gibb and Gordon Brodie  
in memoriam.**

If you or someone you know is thinking about fundraising, remember that our Fife Branch has its own 'Just Giving' page, where you can increase your donation with Gift Aid.



**Nordic Walking Taster Session**

Thanks go to our intrepid instructor Kay Hall who was not put off her stride by the Fife Branch novices at her Nordic Walking Taster session in Pittencrieff Park on Monday 30<sup>th</sup>.

She explained how Nordic Walking was developed as a summer exercise for cross country skiers to keep them in shape for their winter sport. Let's not mention global warming!

As well as working the usual leg muscles when walking, proper use of the poles helps you tone up your core muscles and your arms. A sort of 'Pilates on the move'.

Kay has very kindly offered to hold another taster session on Monday 20<sup>th</sup> June at 2:30pm in Pittencrieff Park for those that were away, soaking up the sun.

Contact [admin@fifeparkinsons.org](mailto:admin@fifeparkinsons.org) for more details and to reserve a space.

# Life Goes On

The sun is shining, but it isn't fair  
Children are laughing, don't they care?  
Bees are humming, don't stop their flight  
Roses are blooming, it's just not right.  
The month is June, so why all the gloom?  
Gardens flourish, foreboding doom  
Blackbirds' songs sound all wrong  
Something's missing. Something's gone.  
Friend concerned with sympathy  
Vacant gaze, just go away.  
Wishful thinking, go back to May  
When the sun was shining, it was a lovely day  
Birds were singing, life was good  
All taken for granted, as you would.  
Heavy heart sorely cries  
But this day in June my mother dies  
Dismal day which just won't end  
Deepening sorrow lost my best friend.

How will I cope without my best friend?

But time has moved on, the month is June  
Birds are singing, roses bloom.  
Busy bees, sunny blue skies  
Looking at life through my mother's eyes.  
No time for gloom or dismal thoughts  
Appreciate what life has taught.  
Every day to be lived and cherished.  
Good with bad, families treasured  
As years go by, I'll try to be  
Someone's best friend, as she was to me.



**Margaret Stewart**

## June Quiz Answers:

1, Horse Guards Parade  
2, Gemini (until June 20) and Cancer (from June 21 onwards)  
3, Father's Day 4, Pearl, Alexandrite or Moonstone  
5, 1985 6, Les Miserables 7, 20th, or 21st, or 22nd  
8, Terry Scott 9, Carousel 10, Glastonbury Festival



## Do You Have Parkinson's? Do You Feel The cold? Carers Advice Project Fife can help.

If you have Parkinson's, you could get a one-off lump sum through Home Heating Advice Scotland and the Scottish Government. The non-means tested; one off payment will be paid to your energy provider to help towards your heating bill. This is in addition to the recently announced UK Government scheme.

Maureen Macpherson is the Project Lead for a new service covering Fife. As part of the award winning, Connect 2 Support team, Carers Advice Project Fife is being run by Deafblind Scotland in partnership, with Fife Health and Social Care.

Mark Coxe has signed up and says, "All you have to do is give Maureen your name, address, what energy provider you use and your energy account number and she does the rest. It took me about two minutes, so give her a phone"

Maureen's main work is with people who have experienced sensory loss, which may be a visual or hearing loss, or both. The purpose of the project is to provide specialist knowledge to carers, or the person they care for, with a sensory loss. The main aim is to ensure that carers, and their families, are accessing their rights and entitlements.

This may be in the form of a 'benefit check', carried out by the Project Worker in the persons' own home, to ensure that people are not missing out on benefits that they are entitled to. Also, we can refer people internally to various projects, such as their Health and Well-being project, that is being run within Deafblind Scotland.

They can also provide Deafblind Awareness training.

**Please contact Maureen for further information on 07950 936 114 or via email at [carersadvice@dbscotland.org.uk](mailto:carersadvice@dbscotland.org.uk)**

# Fife Branch Parkinson's UK

Private group · 27 members



## Time To Facebook Up To It!

The Fife Branch Group on Facebook was set up on the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2020, two months into the pandemic and was created so that Fife Branch members could communicate, get information and keep in touch as part of our 'Keeping Us Together' initiative. The Group has twenty-seven members and since it is a private group only the members can see the content. Now that the pandemic appears to be drawing to a conclusion the decision has been made to shut the group down at the end of May and concentrate on the new Facebook page and our soon to be launched revamped website.

### Why a new Facebook page when we have a group?

We are entering a new era, following in the wake of Covid and Facebook is an ideal platform for us to promote our Branch to Fife's wider Parkinson's community. People that were diagnosed just before or during the Covid crisis have, until now, had nowhere to go. We need to attract more members, so that we can continue to give people living with Parkinson's the support they deserve. The new Fife Branch page can do just that.

The average post on the group page reached approximately twelve out of the potential twenty-seven. The new page has reached 187 people so far and the post about James Jopling's Glenrothes visit was seen by 155 people alone. And all that in a month.

**If you have been part of the group, or you want regular updates and news please look for the new page and follow us.**



**Parkinson's Fife Branch**  
Charitable organisation



Follow

## MEETINGS FOR JUNE

**Joining codes and Passwords can be found in the Branch Schedule email.**

**Monthly Meeting, Glenrothes Baptist Church Thursday Midday June 9<sup>th</sup>**

**Branch Zoom Get Together**  
Every Monday at 11am.

**Zoom Quiz Evening** Wed. 7.30pm 8<sup>th</sup> & 22<sup>nd</sup>.

**Walking Group:** Fri. 3<sup>rd</sup> & 17<sup>th</sup>.

**Zoom Coffee & Chat** Wed. 11am 1<sup>st</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>.

**Alex's Zoom Dance Exercise** Thu. 11.15am  
16<sup>th</sup>, 23<sup>rd</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup>.

**Meri's Zoom Sing-along** Fri. 9.45am Yet to be agreed, so that we're all singing from the same song sheet!

## Trying To Find A Pulse!

**Last chance to take part in the People Pulse Survey, which ends on the 6<sup>th</sup> June**

The survey is a way for volunteers to tell Parkinson's how they feel about volunteering with Parkinson's UK - they're looking to gather as many responses as possible - and they can only do this with your help!

This year they're aligning surveys between staff and volunteers, working with both groups to gather and act upon your views and opinions as we move forward together. The information you provide is key to developing new ways of working and help them to focus on the right areas to improve life for those with Parkinson's, and their friends, family and carers.

They've responded to our feedback on last year's survey and reduced the questions, and have more straight forward options for responding. The survey should take no more than 10 minutes to complete and each answer you provide will give vital insight and value.

Use the QR code to take you to the survey and let them know how well they're doing or whether there's room for improvement!

