

Our speaker today is **Anne Bailey** who will be talking to us about the work of the **Raven House Trust in the Community**. Anne says;- “My background was always hospitality working in 5 star hotels around the world, once I started a family it was more difficult. We moved to Chepstow and I took a position in the charity world, working for the charities Aid Foundation which is based in London, i was their business development manager and spent my time looking after accounts around the UK. I decided to retire just after covid. Raven House Trust advertised for a manager for their retail shop, I applied and got the job which was a part time position. This position has grown and I am now virtually full time, engaging with the local community and agencies around the Newport area”.

**A Cake and Produce Sale is being held today and your support for this is welcome as always.**

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**AGM March 2026**

We were pleased to welcome **Angela Johnson, Fellowship Support Officer, Wales** to our AGM last month. Angela was able to update us on what is happening nationally. She informed us that there are now 7,500 members of the NHSRF nationally comprising 4467 Branch members and 3036 national members. The Chair of the Fellowship has resigned and they are currently recruiting for a replacement. There is also a vacancy for a Trustee in Wales and Angela encouraged members of our Branch to consider taking up this role.

Angela outlined the many benefits available to members and that work was ongoing by members of the Head Office Team to increase these. The Travel Insurance age eligibility now been increased to 79. Details of these can be found on the NHSRF website.

There was discussion about the possibility of holding a Wales Conference and a venue such as the Metropole in Llandrindod Wells was a potential option. Members also felt that it would be good if Gwent Branch could receive a visit from Mike Seaton, CEO.

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**Future meetings change of venue**

Those of you who attended the AGM at our March meeting will be aware that members were asked to vote on their choice of venue either to continue at Greenmeadow or to move to the Olive Tree in Cwmbran. Members were asked to consider the options based on both cost and facilities.

The need for this decision came about for a number of reasons including rising cost of room hire and the often difficulties experienced with sound and visuals for guest speakers. The votes were counted, checked and verified by Angela Johnson, Fellowship Support Officer and Delyn Hunt and the result was 17 votes to remain at Greenmeadow and 38 votes to move to the Olive Tree.

Therefore our last meeting at Greenmeadow will be April and **the Olive Tree has been booked for our meetings from 18th May 2026 going forward.** We have much appreciated the hard work and support from the staff members during this time

I appreciate that many of us will have mixed feelings regarding this change as the Gwent Branch has been meeting at Greenmeadow for over 20 years. I am sure though that the Olive Tree will provide an excellent venue for our meetings and the speakers who visit us.

I would like to add that the Olive Tree now has round tables. The room is available from 1pm and sandwiches or quiche can be ordered on an ad hoc basis. Unlimited tea/coffee and water is provided at £3 per person

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### **Membership renewal 2026/27**

Just a reminder that membership renewal forms are due and should be returned to **Ann Hyde, Membership Secretary.** The fee this year will be **£35.** This will include the £30 national membership fee and just £5 this year for the Branch. As we have a good amount in our Branch accounts it was decided by the Committee that only £5 Branch fee would be payable this year for our members

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### **Our future charity donations**

Denise reported at the AGM that a donation of **£500** has been made to the **RNLI** from the fund raising efforts of Branch members over the past year.

Due to our NHSRF constitution and charity commission guidelines we have been advised by Head Office that any fundraising towards a charity donation can no longer pass through our accounts . As a branch we will still continue to fundraise, the money will be kept separately and rather than donating to one charity annually will be divided to support local charities throughout the year.

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### **Spring Special Raffle**

The draw for the Special Raffle organised by Jen and Carole took place at last month's meeting and we are pleased to report that £130 was raised for charity. The lovely picture donated by Greenlawn Social Club was won by Liz Moffat.

## Pill foils

Just a note that Wendy Craxford is no longer able to take these items as the person who normally accepts them is no longer collecting them. These items may be handed in at Boots.

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### Barbara Harris

Some of you will remember Barbara who was a former nurse and a member of our Branch for many years. Barbara is now a resident of Thistle Court Care Home and celebrated her 100th birthday on the 27th March 2026



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## **TRAVEL NEWS APRIL 2026**

### **MYSTERY TRIP 25<sup>TH</sup> JUNE**

THIS YEAR WE WILL BE VISITING A **WELSH** VENUE

COST FOR MEMBERS IS £31 WITH FREE COACH AND INCLUDES A CREAM TEA AND ENTRANCE

NON-MEMBERS £53 WHICH INCLUDES COACH, ENTRANCE AND TEA.

BOOKING NEEDED BY **MAY MEETING**

**PLEASE NOTE** FOR OUR LESS MOBILE MEMBERS THERE WILL BE VERY LITTLE WALKING REQUIRED.

### **OTHER EVENTS**

#### **AUTUMN FLOWER SHOW MALVERN**

DATE- SUNDAY 27<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER - COSTING TO FOLLOW

#### **CHRISTMAS FAYRE STRATFORD**

**DATE** - SUNDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER

COST WILL DEPEND ON NUMBERS BUT WILL BE ABOUT £25

THE MORE NUMBERS WHO TRAVEL THE LESS YOU PAY.

**AS ALWAYS FAMILY AND ADULT FRIENDS WELCOME ON ALL OF OUR TRIP**

**Forthcoming meetings**  
**All to be held at the Olive Tree, Cwmbran**  
 2pm, Monday, 18th May 2026 - Susie Sanford with a talk entitled ' Behind the Scenes at the Royal Mint'.  
 2pm, Monday, 15th June 2026 - Ceri Joyner with a talk about Bee Keeping.

**YOUR COMMITTEE**

<b>Chair</b>	Lynda Evans	<b>Vice Chair</b>	-
<b>Secretary</b>	-	<b>Treasurer</b>	Denise Coldrick
<b>Assistant Treasurer</b>	Lilwyn Griffiths	<b>Speaker Secretary</b>	Joanne Butler
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Ann Hyde	<b>Trips/Activity Organiser</b>	Delyn Hunt
<b>Welfare Officer</b>	Megan Williams	<b>Vote of Thanks Coordinator</b>	Pam Jones
<b>Raffle Organiser</b>	Jen Martin	<b>Books/Sales</b>	Kay Davies
<b>Greeters/Meeting Support</b>	Cynthia Matthews Barbara Davies	Carole Cunnell	

**Branch Contact Information**

Chair	Lynda Evans	07495 669805 01633 420668	<a href="mailto:lyndaevs@hotmail.co.uk">lyndaevs@hotmail.co.uk</a>
Secretary			
Welfare Officer	Megan Williams	01633 420932	<a href="mailto:megan.williams52@aol.co.uk">megan.williams52@aol.co.uk</a>
Trips and outings	Delyn Hunt	01633 843140	<a href="mailto:delyn46@yahoo.co.uk">delyn46@yahoo.co.uk</a>

**NHSRF Contact information**

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