



# 50 YEARS OF PARKINSON'S UK

10 October 2019  
Buckingham Palace



# WELCOME

It's been 50 years since Mali Jenkins founded our charity in a one-room office in Putney, and I've been privileged enough to be witness to 14 of those years. Parkinson's UK has been working with people with Parkinson's since 1969, and today in 2019, people are still at the heart of everything we do.

Over one million people in the UK, including family members and carers, are affected by this life-changing condition. Together, we are a movement, improving the lives of everyone affected by Parkinson's and getting closer to a cure every day.

Together, we've funded pioneering research and united scientific communities in the search for new and better treatments. In 2017, we launched our Virtual Biotech to rapidly develop and test the most promising treatments, which have the potential to transform life for people with Parkinson's. We partner with some of the world's best scientific minds, contract research organisations, universities and biotech companies to bring these treatments closer to large scale trials and to the people who urgently need them.

Our Critical Path for Parkinson's, an initiative to improve clinical trials for Parkinson's treatments that launched in 2015, has undergone some major milestones. We achieved our first major success in the programme last year, when a special type of brain scan was officially endorsed that identifies people who are most appropriate to participate in a clinical trial. We've brought together major pharmaceutical companies with researchers from across the world to share data and develop new tools and strategies to make clinical trials smarter, faster and more likely to succeed.

An important part of what we do is about improving the day-to-day life for people with Parkinson's – which is why our Parkinson's nurses are so instrumental. Our first specialist nurse was appointed 30 years ago to provide local expert care, and today there are more than 385 nurses providing specialist care. We're building on this with the UK Excellence Network, which aims to make sure we see the same progress with specialist therapists and other vital members of multidisciplinary teams across the country.

Our progress is only possible because of the drive and passion of so many people. In February this year, we launched our new Team Parkinson's scheme, which aims to grow the movement of people who are passionate about improving the lives of people affected by Parkinson's. From shaping our research priorities to volunteering and campaigning for change, they are making a difference every day. We've seen rapid growth since our launch, and the boost in young people getting involved shows that Parkinson's matters to every generation – and each one is playing their part.

From one woman in a small office, to a growing network of staff, health and social care professionals, volunteers, researchers, and passionate individuals spread throughout the United Kingdom, our charity continues to unite and inspire people to end Parkinson's. Forever. We are working relentlessly, side by side, to make this happen.



Steve Ford, Chief Executive, Parkinson's UK



Together, we are a movement,  
improving the lives of everyone  
affected by Parkinson's and getting  
closer to a cure every day."





## THANK YOU

Thank you for joining us tonight and marking 50 years of care and commitment to everyone affected by Parkinson's.

Everything we have achieved has been funded and driven by people like you, from the £4,181, 9s. and 10d raised in our first year, to over £33 million a year today. You have made Parkinson's UK the charity it is today.

## THE EVENT

5.30pm

Event commences

6.30pm

Speeches:  
HRH the Duchess of Gloucester  
Jane Asher  
Steve Ford  
Gary Shaughnessy

7.45pm

Event concludes



## SPEAKERS



**Jane Asher** is one of the UK's most accomplished actresses, having worked professionally in film, theatre and radio since she was five years old. Her recent stage credits include Great Expectations, An American in Paris, Pride and Prejudice and most recently Noel Coward's A Song At Twilight. TV and film credits include Alfie, The Mistress, Dancing on the Edge, Holby City and The Old Guys. Jane was also the original celebrity baker for many years running a very successful cake business in Chelsea, and has written more than a dozen books, including three best-selling novels.

Jane Asher has been Parkinson's UK's President since 2007 and has since been a brilliant supporter of the charity, speaking at public events, doing media interviews, supporting fundraising and much more.



**Steve Ford** joined Parkinson's UK as Chief Executive in 2005 after a career as general manager and chief executive in the NHS. Under his leadership, the charity has made significant progress towards its vision to find a cure and improve life for everyone affected by Parkinson's.

Steve believes strongly that change is best delivered in partnership. He's bringing together everyone in the Parkinson's community to speed up research, raise standards of care and empower people affected by the condition to take more control of their lives.

Putting people living with Parkinson's at the heart of the charity has created passion and urgency. Steve believes that is the key to achieving Parkinson's UK's ambitious goals.



**Mark Goodridge** was appointed to the Parkinson's UK Board of Trustees in September 2009. He became Vice Chair in November 2013 and Chair in December 2015. Mark enjoyed a successful business career in the steel and petrochemical industries and is a former partner at Ernst and Young. Mark has run his own company for over 30 years, advising firms on improving their organisational effectiveness.

He has worked extensively with the boards and executive teams of not-for-profit, government and public organisations. Mark's work with charities has included Barrow Cadbury Trust, RSPB, Children in Need, The Carbon Trust, Energy Saving Trust and various housing trusts.

Mark also chairs the Board of Governors of a secondary school and advises the Woolf Institute in Cambridge for the study of relations between Jews, Christians and Muslims.



**Gary Shaughnessy** was elected to the Board of Trustees in August 2018 and has recently been elected chair of the board, taking over from Mark Goodridge who stands down this October.

Gary had a successful career in the insurance and financial services industry, working in senior roles within well-known British and international companies. Gary stepped down from his role as CEO Europe, Middle East and Africa at the Zurich Insurance Group Executive at the end of 2018. He continues to act as an adviser to the company and chairs their charitable foundation – the Z Zurich Foundation. Across the world, the foundation supports local Zurich people, charities and communities in preventing the impact of floods, tackling growing mental health and wellbeing challenges, increasing inclusion and youth empowerment, and other key community issues.

Gary was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2015. He's passionate about exercise, which he finds helps to limit the impact of the condition. He decided to step down from his role in Zurich to better balance work and non-executive roles, while spending more time on fitness and with family. He's able to use his voice and experience to support increased awareness and action for people living with Parkinson's, their families and carers.

Gary is married with three children.

Steve Ford  
The past is  
the platform  
for the future.”



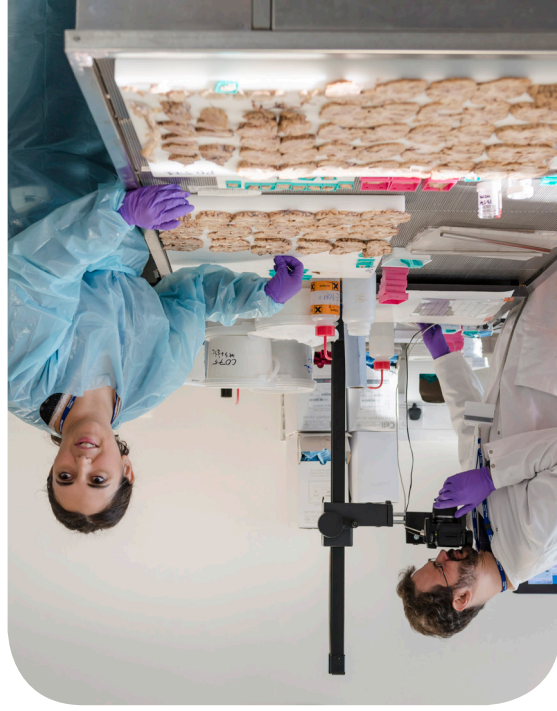
**1969**

Mali Jenkins founded the Parkinson's Disease Society – now Parkinson's UK – in a one-room office in Putney, London.



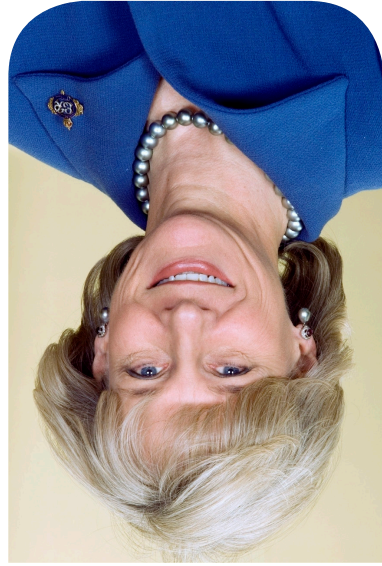
**1970**

Our first local Parkinson's groups were established, offering support and friendship to everyone affected by Parkinson's. Today, there are more than 360 groups throughout the UK.



**1984**

We opened the Parkinson's UK Brain Bank. It's still the world's only brain bank solely dedicated to Parkinson's research, making progress towards better treatments and a cure – faster.



**1996**

HRH the Duchess of Gloucester became the Patron of Parkinson's UK, supporting events and visiting local groups.



**1999**

Our free confidential helpline launched, providing support to anyone affected by Parkinson's.

**2008**

We introduced Parkinson's local advisers – across the UK so that no one has to face Parkinson's alone.

**2015**

We led and funded the Critical Path for Parkinson's – an international collaboration of pharmaceutical companies, regulatory agencies, universities and charities – to make clinical trials faster, cheaper, and more likely to succeed.

We brought together health and social care professionals to create the UK Parkinson's Excellence Network, transforming care for people affected by Parkinson's.



**2017**

Our Parkinson's Virtual Biotech launched, bridging the gap in drug development and fast tracking the most promising scientific ideas into life-changing new treatments.

**2010**

We became Parkinson's UK, setting out a new five-year strategy focusing on finding a cure and improving life for everyone affected by Parkinson's.



**2019**

We launched Team Parkinson's, a movement open to everyone, that's uniting to end Parkinson's – forever.

**2020**

We're kicking off our new five-year strategy, focussing on transforming life with Parkinson's – together. We'll accelerate breakthroughs in research, get society to understand the condition, and ensure people with Parkinson's and their loved ones have better support, every day.



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“As our activities expand and expenses increase accordingly, it will become essential that our income expands to achieve the aims of the Society. We would ask our many friends and supporters to continue with their splendid efforts in raising funds.”

Mali Jenkins,  
Founder Parkinson's Disease Society

Parkinson's UK is the operating name of the Parkinson's Disease Society of the United Kingdom. A registered charity in England and Wales (258197) and in Scotland (SC037554).w



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