

DANNY'S SUPPORT INITIATIVE

Update 14th February 2016

Dear Friends

It is time for us to give you a quick update on how things are going with Danny and Sue.

Sue is continuing to work at the hospital twice or three times a week and they receive a small "pension" dependent on the hours that Sue works.

Danny's MND continues to slowly reduce his muscle strength and coordination, mainly in his hands and legs but the doctors have now diagnosed that he is suffering from dementia caused by the MND, which affects the frontal lobe of the brain. With this prognosis it is again very difficult to ascertain how fast Danny will deteriorate but indications are that it may not be that long before he does not recognise his friends and loved ones. This has caused great stress for Danny and the family and will put extra pressure on Sue and her ability to continue working.

Dan, Sue and the family are very strong and stoic but the reality and pressure of what lies ahead can sometimes get a bit overpowering.

They have completed the first phase of the alterations to their house which involved closing in the downstairs patio so that Dan can use it as a bedroom when he can no longer move up and down the stairs. They are still waiting for approval from the disability authorities for assistance with the funding for converting the downstairs laundry into a bathroom with facilities for wheelchair access etc.

Danny is planning to go to South Africa in April for a reunion of the University rugby team of 1973 which will coincide with the coach, Jimmy de Jager's, 80th Birthday. The reunion will be from the 7th to the 9th April. He will then stay on for a further three days to see his family in Johannesburg. It is likely that this will be the last opportunity for him to travel. He is seeing the Neurologist on the 3rd March so the trip will depend on getting the Doctor's go ahead. Danny is very concerned that he will not remember the faces and names of his old friends so asks that they just be patient with him.

The Motor Neurone Disease Association continue to provide Danny and Sue with fantastic medical and moral support and they do everything they can to make the journey as tolerable as possible.

Once again thank you all for your assistance, thoughts and prayers and we will let you know how things transpire over the next few months.

Regards

Brian (Stroppy) and Dave