



GUILDFORD AND SOUTH WEST
SURREY VOLUNTARY GROUP
NEWSLETTER

March
2008

Website:
www.diabetessurrey.org

TIME TO REMINISCE AND SAY 'THANKS'

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I will be standing down as Chairman at the AGM in April and now is a good time to look back on some very fond memories and the fabulous people that go with them. I'm not going to name names, because that would embarrass the people concerned and one article is not enough to name them all anyway!

In no particular order:

- Shaking hands with Prince Andrew at the realisation of the Cedar dream and thinking about all the good people that made it happen over many long years.
- Working with Diabetes UK South East Regional Office to fund worthwhile research projects at The Royal Surrey County Hospital and Surrey University to find a cure or make our lives more bearable.
- Doing my first street collection on a cold Godalming day; very nervous until some passer-by offered to buy me a cup of coffee!
- In the Good Old Days of the British Diabetic Association (dark blue colours you remember?), being asked whether 'I was collecting for the Conservative Party?' 'No Madam' I said, 'this is far more worthwhile!'
- All the new found friends I

have made since I joined the Guildford Branch of Diabetes UK.

- A realisation that there are some really wonderful people - many who are your committee members - whose sole aim is to help others. The world is not all bad.
- Being a founder member of the 'profiterole club' which is a subset of the main committee - whose leader likes to indulge in chocolate!
- Helping the kids' group to get established and find an identity - although the momentum could not be maintained. At least we are able to support holidays for kids with diabetes.
- Attending the first Walk in the Park in Stoke Park to coincide with National Diabetes Week - and watching the gazebo blow away!
- Setting up the web site - one of the first in the country, on the back of a generous donation.
- Receiving and enjoying each one of our great newsletters.
- Realising how hard the staff in the NHS work and how dedicated they are.
- Going to Blackpool during a very wet and windy February for the Annual conference and wondering why I was mad enough to go. It was very worthwhile despite the weather.
- Our first Riverboat Trip which was a great success.

Meetings are held on the first Monday of every other month.

Our venue for meetings is CEDAR, the Centre for Endocrinology, Diabetes and Research, at the Royal Surrey County Hospital.

Meetings start at 8pm but tea and coffee are available a bit earlier.

If you come by car, parking for 2-4 hours is £4.00 in the hospital car park, but there are a number of parking places for blue badge holders right at the back of the Centre. And staff car parks are quite empty at that time of day.

If you come by train, there are regular buses from the Station.

If you have email?
Send me an email and you can have this Newsletter that way.

If you have items for the next issue please send them by the 16th May 2008 to:

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Marvelling at the developments in Diabetes care that have been explained to us at Group meetings – with the odd squeamish slide to remind us how serious a condition diabetes is.

Looking at the above list, I think you will agree that we have kept the objectives of the Group going. They are:

- **Education and raising awareness**
- **Fundraising**
- **Social contact**

All that remains is to wish the new Chairperson and their team all the best and hope all of you can live life to the full.

Brian Davey,

EXPERT PATIENT PROGRAMME

Next session to be in May for carers.
Ring 01483 783100/01252 305855.

YOUR EXPERIENCE OF RETINOPATHY SCREENING

How is the retinopathy screening going? Some people have now had letters asking them to make an appointment and some have had those appointments. Let us know what your experience has been and it can be fed into our June meeting.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

3rd May

Spring Fair, The Burys, Godalming
Contact Hazel to help.

24th May

Street Collection, Godalming.
Contact Geoff to help.

1st June

Walk in the Park, Stoke Park, Guildford.
Contact Ian to help.

Next Meeting

Monday, 7th April 2008

Our **AGM** plus...

An update on the year at CEDAR by Professor David Russell-Jones

cedar  Centre for Diabetes, Endocrinology and Research

Plus **Insulin pump therapy** by Dr Moira Harrison.



Future meetings

Monday, 2nd June 2008

Surrey's regional eye screening service. What is it all about?

Speaker: Reg Parsons, Senior Screener, Diabetes Retinopathy Screening Service for Surrey

Monday, 4th August 2008

Proposed River Trip

Monday, 6th October 2008

Possibly on blood glucose meters.

Monday, 1st December 2008

Social event

Monday, 2nd February 2009

TBA