



GUILDFORD AND SOUTH WEST  
SURREY VOLUNTARY GROUP  
NEWSLETTER

January  
2004

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## NEW REGIONAL MANAGER FOR DIABETES UK SOUTH EAST

Hello. I would like to introduce myself. My name is Graham Heys and I have just taken on the role of Regional Manager for the South East of England.

Although new to this role I am not new to Diabetes UK. I have been employed here for about eighteen years in a number of different roles, initially with our Finance Team and subsequently as Facilities Manager. One of my greatest achievements in that role was to relocate the Central Office staff to a new location back in 2002.

I have had Type 1 diabetes for almost thirty-nine years now, which has given me the first hand opportunity to experience many of the problems and concerns people with diabetes may encounter in the management of their condition. It has certainly given me a driving passion for diabetes which, I believe, will help greatly in my new role as Regional Manager.

In very broad terms, I see this role as an opportunity to promote Diabetes UK and encourage good practice in diabetes care within the region. This includes offering support not only to voluntary groups and volunteers, but to healthcare professionals too. However, the key focus to all of this will be to ensure that the National Service Framework for Diabetes is

implemented in the region.

The South East Region is large, to say the least. It comprises four Strategic Health Authorities, 49 Primary Care Trusts and 60 Voluntary Groups. Geographically it runs from Margate in the east, Southampton in the south and Milton Keynes in the north, with the inclusion of both the Isle Of Wight and the Channel Islands. So you can see it will be quite a challenge to provide such support. It is also one that cannot be done without your help. The National Service Framework provides the opportunity for people with diabetes to influence how care is delivered locally, and to take advantage of this is crucial to the objectives of Diabetes UK.

I would very much like to have the opportunity to meet you all in the very near future, but it would take a very long time to visit each of you individually. With this in mind, I would like to invite you to attend one of the events that will be scheduled—one at Gatwick in April and one in Oxford in May. I hope this will be an opportunity for more than just an introduction because I would very much like to hear what your concerns and interests are. I will certainly endeavour to make the events as interesting for you as possible.

*Graham Heys*

Meetings are held on the first Monday of every other month at Dray Court, The Chase, Guildford. Coffee and tea are available from 7.30pm and the meeting starts at 8pm.

Dray Court is near the Cathedral and ten minutes walk from Guildford Station.

If you come by car, there is free parking in the surrounding streets but not in Dray Court itself.

If you come by train, leave the station by the University exit and turn right along Madrid Road. Dray Court is on the right at the junction of Madrid Road and the Chase.

**Got email?** Send me an email and you can have this Newsletter that way and save us lots of postage !

Please send items for the next issue by the 28th of February 2004 to:

Julie Grist  
Holmbury

Wheeler Lane  
Witley, Surrey  
GU8 5QU

01428 683448 or  
email  
julie.grist@lineone.net

## OHP WANTED

Do you happen to have an overhead projector you don't use? At present we have to borrow one each time from the hospital and of course have to get it back to them very quickly. So we're thinking of buying one but before we do that, we thought we would just ask! If you have, please ring Guy Barnby on 01483 566012. Thanks.

## CEDAR UPDATE

Our Centre for Endocrinology, Diabetes and Research (CEDAR) is on schedule for completion in May this year. The money has now been raised for the building but not yet for all the furniture and equipment needed.

The newly set up primary care diabetes research group will be housed within the centre. Did you know that one of the current research projects at the Royal Surrey County Hospital is studying a new type of insulin which should allow people to

control their blood sugar more tightly with less worry of hypoglycaemic attacks (low blood sugars)? This new insulin has been released to only two centres in the world—the Royal Surrey and a hospital in Los Angeles.

## OUR WEBSITE

Our new website address is [www.guildforddiabetes.org.uk](http://www.guildforddiabetes.org.uk). We'll gradually be putting information on, so have a look at it from time to time. If you have any ideas for things you would like to see on it or would like to write something yourself contact John Goodridge on 01483 767157.

## FUND RAISING

We've done really well recently with fund raising with a good collection at Safeway's at Woking, the first time we have tried there, and Jean Harris ran bric-a-brac stalls at Christmas Fairs at both the United Church in Godalming and the Farnham Maltings.

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## MEETINGS

### Next meeting

Monday, 2nd February 2004

Any questions about your eyes and how diabetes might affect them.

Plus slides from the Falklands, for a bit of light relief.

*Dr Shirley Hampson, Eye Clinic, Royal Surrey Hospital*

The meeting will start at 8pm, with coffee or tea available from 7.30pm. Please note that we now need to leave Dray Court by 9.45pm because of new arrangements they have with security.

### Future events

Monday, 5th April 2004

An update from our President, Professor David Russell-Jones. Plus the AGM.

Dates for your diary, all Mondays. Topics to be announced later.

- 7th June 2004
- 2nd August 2004
- 4th October 2004
- 6th December 2004

Any ideas to Hazel Barnby on