



GUILDFORD AND SOUTH WEST
SURREY VOLUNTARY GROUP
NEWSLETTER

July
2005

PRESIDENT:

David Russell-Jones

COMMITTEE:

Chairman:

Brian Davey

01483 275176

bcdavey@enta.net

Vice-Chairman:

Geoff Woolley

01483 828499

Treasurer:

Guy Barnby

01483 566012

Secretary:

Ian Allen

01483 568108

ian_trevor_allen@yahoo.com

Members:

Hazel Barnby

01483 566012

Kate Boland

01483 821029

John Goodridge

01483 767157

Julie Grist

01428 683448

Jean Harris

01483 414732

Elizabeth Hillman

01483 568332

Iain MacColl

01483 579925

Daphne Millar

01483 560581

Pat Millar

01483 560581

Valerie Ovington

01428 683054

Derek Ramsden

01483 533309

CAMPAIGNING FOR RETINOPATHY SCREENING

Pat Millar, indefatigable campaigner that he is, has written a letter to the Surrey Advertiser which you may have seen about screening for the early detection and treatment of diabetic retinopathy. Diabetic retinopathy is one of the complications of diabetes which if untreated can and does cause blindness. In 90% of cases if treatment is applied early, blindness can be prevented.

Six years ago the government prioritised screening in England as one of only two critical national

targets—by 2006 a minimum of 80% of people with diabetes are to be offered screening, rising to 100% of those at risk by the end of 2007.

The Primary Care Trust at the time responded magnificently. Pat is a patient representative of the Local Implementation Team for Diabetes and was amazed to hear at a recent meeting that the PCT has decided to remove the retinal screening

programme from the Local Development Plan.

Pat hopes that by publicising this change of heart the PCT may change its mind.

The letter can be seen in full on our website at www.diabetessurrey.org



THEY WALKED IN THE PARK

Brian Davey and Geoff Woolley, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of our Group as it happens, survived the Farnham Walk in the Park on 12th June in Diabetes Week. No seriously, it was, they say, quite a gentle walk but between them they raised £500 for Diabetes UK. Sponsorship for the Walk as a whole was expected to raise about £15,000.



Meetings are held on the first Monday of every other month, the exception this year being the AGM.

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

Meetings will start at 7.30pm.

If you come by car, parking for 2-3 hours is £2.50 in the hospital car park, but there are a number of disabled parking places right at the back of the Centre.

We are currently investigating other options.

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.

Please send items for the next issue by the 9th September 2005 to:

Julie Grist, Editor
Holmbury
Wheeler Lane
Witley, Surrey
GU8 5QU
01428 683448 or
email
julie.grist@lineone.net

JUST OUT OF INTEREST

The **Guildford Lions Annual Ball** in May raised £4,500 to divide between CEDAR (The Centre for Endocrinology, Diabetes and Research) and HASTE (Heart and Stroke Unit) at the Royal Surrey County Hospital - so £2,250 for CEDAR. Good news indeed.

Moss Chemists have made Diabetes UK their charity for the year and you should be seeing collecting boxes in their stores.

EXPERT PATIENT?

The next course will be at Guildford starting in September. The course will be two hour sessions, once a week for six weeks. Dates and times to be decided depending on what is convenient to potential expert patients. Ring Donna on 01483 783100 if you would like more information.

IF YOU ARE A DIABETES HEALTH PROFESSIONAL?

Would you like to write something for our website—www.diabetessurrey.org? If so, please send a Contact Us email.

We're trying to build up hints and tips in particular. Many thanks.

DIABETES ROADSHOW

Diabetes UK are planning a series of 'roadshows' to raise awareness of diabetes and of Diabetes UK. The Guildford one will now be held on Saturday, 15th October 2005, rather than Friday 14th. It will be at Sainsbury's in Burpham.

So don't forget to change the date in your diary.

More details next time.

WE CAME SECOND— WE'RE SLIPPING!

The Voluntary Groups quiz this year was in Haywards Heath on 23rd June. We won last year—couldn't believe it but this year we came second out of ten teams—two points behind the winners.

Congratulations to Geoff, Hazel, Guy and Valerie.

MEETINGS

Monday, 1st August 2005

Open Forum. Your chance to discuss your concerns and issues about diabetes. Led by Pat Millar



Information on all our activities is on our website
www.diabetessurrey.org.

Remember, new venue!

Future meetings

Monday, 3rd October 2005

The NHS and you.

Speakers: Jane Thwaites and Laura Dennett.

Monday, 5th December 2005

Diabetes then and now.

Speaker: Dr Mike Smith.

Monday, 6th February 2006

TBA