



GUILDFORD AND SOUTH WEST
SURREY VOLUNTARY GROUP
NEWSLETTER

September
2007

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MESSING ABOUT ON THE RIVER

The river trip was a great success. Thirty-eight of us met at the boat house in Guildford and boarded the *Harry Stevens* to be greeted by John Goodridge handing us a glass of wine.

Simon, the Captain, was very helpful and we were entertained admirably by Allan Williams.

Allan, as well as being one of our Group, happens to be also a National Trust volunteer so was able to explain how the River Wey Trust navigation is looked after. We all discovered the riverside *Himalayan Balsam* plant, which is lovely, but in need of controlling before it takes over the world!

We had a buffet meal at the Parrot Inn in Shalford and returned on the boat, where Rena bullied us into buying raffle tickets. The raffle raised £156.

So, many thanks indeed to John Goodridge for organising the trip and to Edouard Le Maistre for the photos.



STOP PRESS 1

After a year long battle to save the Royal Surrey County Hospital, Surrey Primary Care Trust have announced that they will not be closing the Hospital or the A & E, maternity or paediatrics departments and, in fact, have announced a host of improvements to the range of care available in the County in the future. It seems that the tireless work by the campaigners has been worth it.

STOP PRESS 2

The Diabetes Retinopathy Screening Service for Surrey will be commencing eye screening of the 35,000 patients with diabetes this month. Our June meeting next year will be an update from Reg Parson, Senior Screener.

Diabetes UK has asked Pat Millar to be the spokesperson for the Surrey area in connection with their pursuit of the implementation of the national retinal screening programme.

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 7.30pm. If there is a speaker, that part of the evening begins at 8pm.

If you come by car, parking for 2-3 hours is £2.50 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 10th November 2007 to:

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DIABETES LOCAL IMPLEMENTATION TEAM (LIT)

Julie Grist has taken over from Guy Barnby on the South West Surrey Locality LIT, joining Pat Millar as one of the two patient representatives on the Group.

Meetings are held every two months and are attended by people representing the range of staff covering diabetes care, linking those working in primary and secondary care including GPs, Diabetes Specialist nurses both at CEDAR and in the community, District Nurses, Dieticians and Pharmacists.

The May meeting had agenda items on guidance for midwives on working with those at risk, on retinopathy screening and on measuring local performance against the Diabetes National

Service Framework.

If you have any particular issues you would like raised at a meeting please let Pat or Julie know and they will find an opportunity to add them into an agenda.

FUND RAISING SUCCESS

The walk in the Park in June, our first attempt at this, has raised a magnificent £1,750 so far. Thanks to all who took part and especially Ian Allen who organised the day. Ian has rashly agreed to organise one next year too when we hope to raise even more.

AND THE NEXT THING IS ...

A street collection in Cranleigh will be held in October, the date to be confirmed. Please contact Geoff Woolley on 01483 828499 if you are interested in helping.

Next Meeting

Monday, 1st October 2007

Update on the research the Group is supporting on the *role of resistant starch in the treatment of insulin resistance.*

Speaker:

Dr Denise Robertson

During the coffee break Rena Reilly and Henri Mulnier will demonstrate the latest pens, blood monitors and other gadgets.



Future meetings

Monday, 3rd December 2007

Christmas Social and a photography evening with Shirley Hampson

Monday, 4th February 2008

Blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar complications
Speaker: Gwen Hall, Diabetes Specialist Nurse

Monday, 7th April 2008

AGM and an update from Professor David Russell-Jones

Monday, 2nd June 2008

Report on regional eye screening unit. What is it all about?
Speaker: Reg Parsons
