



GUILDFORD AND SOUTH WEST
SURREY VOLUNTARY GROUP
NEWSLETTER

January
2008

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A POOR TAKE UP OF APPOINTMENTS FOR RETINAL SCREENING

We've had a letter from Jill Steaton, Diabetes UK South East Regional Manager, which has been sent to all Voluntary Groups in Surrey.

In the last newsletter we explained that every diabetes patient in Surrey over 12 years of age will be offered an appointment with the Diabetes Retinopathy Screening Service—the target is the end of March.

Apparently the take up of offers of appointments has been poor.

Here is an extract from Jill's letter 'Last week Dr Ruth Milton, the Director of Public Health in Surrey, contacted me. She informed me that the Surrey retinal screening programme is now operational and is fully compliant with the National Screening Committee Guidelines. She informed me that Surrey has met the 100% offered target.

However, she was concerned about

the poor take up of appointments and this will mean that the 80% screened target (by end March 08) is unlikely to be met.

I would be grateful if you could ensure that all your group members are aware of the importance of retinal screening and also highlight the importance at any awareness raising events etc., that you attend. Some people may think that visiting the optician is the same as receiving retinal screening and we need to remedy this.

I understand that the screening is lowest in the working population. However, Dr Milton tells me that there are both evening and weekend appointments available so people should be able to find times that fit in with their work and other commitments.'

If you had your letter offering you an appointment, please do respond.

UNWANTED CHRISTMAS PRESENTS?

Have you by any chance any unwanted Christmas presents? They would very useful to us as prizes on our tombola stall at St John's Fair at the Burys, Godalming on 3rd May.

Please contact Hazel Barnby on 01483 566012.

LAST ISSUE QUERY ABOUT SHARPS DISPOSAL—POSSIBLE SOLUTION

Allan Williams writes to say that his local surgery referred him to the Council. He called them and they immediately set up the system which works very well. He give them two days notice of a full sharps bin, which he leaves outside his front door. It is collected and an empty bin is left. *Thanks, Allan. Good to know the system works (Ed)*

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 12th March 2008 to:

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DIABETES UK SUPPORT WEEKENDS AND HOLIDAYS

Have you thought of going on one of the Diabetes UK's support weekends or holidays. Dates are now available for 2008. They aim to promote better understanding of diabetes through information sharing and informative discussion groups. Feedback from people who have been is excellent.

Family Weekends are for families who have a child with diabetes. The nearest one to us is at Ashford, Kent on 16th –18th May but they are also in Plymouth, Devon; in Altrincham, Cheshire and Ayr in Scotland. The cost is £100 per adult and £50 per child and covers accommodation, food, snacks, activities and trips out.

There are also **Children's Holidays** for different age groups—7-11, 11-15 and 16-18 year olds in Scotland, Weymouth, Southampton, North Yorkshire, Northampton and Nottingham. The holidays cost £320 and are all inclusive apart from travel costs.

Weekends for adults cost £130 per person. For people with Type 2 they are in Plymouth in April, Swindon in May, Stoke in June, Stirling and Peterborough in October. For people with Type 1 they are in Stirling in October and Birmingham in November.

If you are interested and want to know more contact the Care Events Team on 020 7424 1000 or email careevents@diabetes.org.uk

Next Meeting

Monday, 4th February 2008

Speaker: Gwen Hall, Diabetes Specialist Nurse



Blood pressure, cholesterol and blood sugar complications—making sense of the jigsaw.

Future meetings

Monday, 7th April 2008

Insulin pumps

Speaker: Dr Moira Harrison.
plus AGM

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

Social event

Monday, 6th October 2008

TBA
