

Cancer Care Club Summer Newsletter August 2009

It's strange, isn't it. Ever since the Met Office said we wouldn't have a barbeque summer after all, the weather has been great! Let's hope the good weather continues into September. Here is the latest news from the Club. If you have any news or information you would like to be included in the next newsletter please contact Ann Clewer on 01227 455260.

Our New Website

Malcolm Hodgson and Chris Wise have been building a website for the Club. It is still under construction but should be up and running soon. You can find it at www.cancercareclub.org. If you have any comments, or any information/articles you would like to have put on the site, email me ann.clewer@googlemail.com and I will pass the information on to Malcolm and Chris. We welcome contributions from members.

Forthcoming Events

The Club Christmas lunch will be on 10th December at the Abbots Barton Hotel. More details will follow soon.

Details of forthcoming talks and meetings are in the enclosed brochure. Please note in particular our **Xmas party on Wednesday 2nd December** in the Cathedral Day Unit, Kent and Canterbury Hospital. Please bring a plate of food to share. There will be a Quiz and prizes!

There will be no Dungeness trip this September as too few people signed up.

The South East Coast Ambulance Service is holding meetings about 'Shaping the Future of your Ambulance Service'. The nearest one is on 3rd September at the Julie Rose Stadium in Ashford. To register, phone 01622 740385 or email shapingthefuture@secamb.nhs.uk

The next **Kent and Medway Cancer Network Patient Forum** will be on 12th September at Preston Hall. For further details phone 01622 713146

Fundraising and Donations

We are always very grateful to people who make donations, large and small, to our funds and we would like to thank all of you who have helped us in this way. In particular, Des Connolly, Nick and Sue Double and Heather Morgan have raised considerable amounts of money for the Club and recently we received an anonymous donation of £1000. There isn't room to name everyone but be assured that we appreciate your help.

We use the funds raised to support our activities and to purchase items and services for cancer patients in East Kent. Earlier this year we bought a new ECG machine for the Cathedral Day Unit at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital. Presently we are in the process of funding new equipment for the Supportive Therapies Unit at the hospital. In addition, we are arranging funding for a part-time therapist post in the Unit so that more cancer patients can have access to complementary treatments such as aromatherapy.

We also paid for wall-mounted fans for the Cathedral Day Unit which had become uncomfortably hot during the recent 'barbeque' weather.

We welcome suggestions from members about ways in which we can help and support cancer patients so if you have any ideas, phone Ann Clewer on 01227 455260 or email ann.clewer@googlemail.com. Fundraising ideas are also welcome.

BARBECUE 8th August 2009

A report from Jacky Guyver

This year we altered the venue of our annual Summer get together. In past years, we have been fortunate in using the large gardens of our members, but last year we lost the use of Roger's garden. We therefore changed the venue to the Pfizer Social Club. This gave us beautiful surroundings, excellent facilities and, for the first time, a play area for children.

I approached the forthcoming event on the morning with a little trepidation, having been warned the night before, that the venue had had a wasp 'invasion'! When I reached the Club, Adam the Manager, had kindly arranged tables inside the Dance Hall, to serve the salads and puddings inside, and only the BBQ meat was cooked outside. When our members and guests started arriving, the weather was absolutely great, and the wasps did not seem to perturb all those present!

It was easy this year to recognise Club Committee Members as we were all wearing our new blue Club t-shirt, which is now on sale to Members via Daphne Woodcock. Music as in previous years, was provided by Tim Greenwood with his guitar and keyboard, and this provided pleasant background music for the afternoon. The food was very plentiful, and in fact, the Chef was trying to persuade everyone to have third helpings – which most people took advantage of!!! {and even some went home with doggie bags.....}

As usual the fundraising raffle was fantastic, with some really fabulous prizes, and this of course, is due to the generosity of members who provide gifts in the first place.

All in all, it was a very pleasant day, not least due to the hard work of the Committee Members, and the wonderful, helpful Pfizer Social Club staff.

Club Polo Shirts

We have ordered some very smart blue polo shirts with the Club logo. They are available from Daphne Woodcock (01227 720631) and cost £12.50 each.

A Poem: Sometimes

The author of this poem wishes to remain anonymous and I respect her wishes.

Sometimes things don't go, after all,
from bad to worse. Some years, muscadell
faces down frost; green thrives; the crops don't fail,
sometimes a man aims high, and all goes well.

A people sometimes will step back from war,
elect an honest man; decide they care
enough, that they can't leave some stranger poor.
Some men become what they were born for.

Sometimes our best efforts do not go
amiss; sometimes we do as we meant to.
The sun will sometimes melt a field of sorrow
that seemed hard frozen: may it happen for you.