

# Cancer Care Club Winter Newsletter February 2011

*Happy New Year to all our Club Members and Friends.*

## **Christmas Party**

It was such a pity that we had to cancel the party because of the weather, but it was the sensible thing to do given the atrocious conditions. Let's hope that the bad weather is really over for this winter.

## **Christmas Lunch Report by Jacky Guyver**

57 club members attended the lunch which was able to go ahead as the weather had improved. Everyone enjoyed the meal; this year there were no complaints about the brussels sprouts! Nick was unable to attend but sent his best wishes. The room was beautifully decorated and the staff did a good job of looking after us. This year we made a change to the usual fantastic raffle with practically a prize for everyone. We split the raffle into two parts, the usual raffle and a second raffle of a lavishly packed hamper. Have a happy and healthy New Year, everyone.

**The Club AGM is on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> March, 2010, at the Abbots Barton Hotel, New Dover Road, Canterbury, refreshments 12 noon- 1pm, meeting starts at 1pm** and this will be your opportunity to participate and maybe join the Committee. As last year, we have decided to hold the AGM during the day rather than in the evening in the hope that more members will be able to attend.

Regrettably, two of our Committee members are standing down because of health and/or family commitments. Also, as you know, our Programme Secretary, Christine Dawkins, sadly died last year. Without help, it is going to be difficult to keep the club going.

We need really need volunteers to help us continue our work. Ideally these would be:

1. **Club Secretary.** To take the minutes and prepare agendas for committee meetings which take place six times per year in the Cathedral Day Unit at the Kent and Canterbury Hospital. Also to deal with the Club correspondence and to circulate newsletters and other information to Club members
2. **Press Officer.** To prepare the Club newsletters (about 4 times per year) and to provide regular updates to the local media about Club activities
3. **Fundraiser.** To support the activities of our existing fundraiser, to use the internet to seek out and apply for funding opportunities, to contact local businesses for support, and to organise collection days at local supermarkets
4. **Social Secretary** to organise the barbeque and Christmas lunch, to liaise with the Abbots Barton Hotel about our monthly meetings, and to organise other events that members might like. (*What sort of activities would you like? Let us know*)

If you would like to help, or would like to enquire about volunteering, please contact Malcolm Hodgson on 07760301116 or [hodgson\\_m5@sky.com](mailto:hodgson_m5@sky.com).

Perhaps you know someone who has recently retired, or has been made redundant, someone who would like to give a few hours per month to help us out. Please spread the word.

## **Forthcoming events**

The next **lunchtime meeting** will be on 17<sup>th</sup> February at the Abbots Barton Hotel, New Dover Road, Canterbury, from 12 noon – 2pm. Matthew Pellatt-Shand from the Supportive Therapies Unit will be coming along to give a brief talk about how our donations are helping the work of the Unit.

The following lunchtime meeting will be the AGM

**Our Wednesday evening meetings** will start on the first Wednesday of April. Details of the talks will be available in the new programme which is coming out soon.

## The Lighter Side

I found this on a website [www.thefurrymonkey.co.uk](http://www.thefurrymonkey.co.uk) and it made me smile. The website was set up by a cancer patient and it's well worth a visit.

### Real Doctors Notes

1. Patient has two teenage children, but no other abnormalities.
2. Patient has chest pain if she lies on her left side for over a year.
3. On the second day, the knee was better, and then on the third day it disappeared.
4. The patient is tearful and crying constantly. She also appears to be depressed.
5. Discharge status: Alive, but without my permission.
6. Healthy-appearing decrepit, 69-year-old male, mentally alert but forgetful.
7. The patient refused autopsy.
8. The patient has no previous history of suicides.
9. Patient has left white blood cells at another hospital.
10. Patient's medical history has been remarkably insignificant with only a 40-pound weight gain in the last three days.
11. She is numb from her toes down.
12. Occasional, constant, infrequent headaches.
13. I saw your patient today, who is still under our car for physical therapy.
14. Skin: somewhat pale but present.
15. The patient has been depressed since she began seeing me in 1993

**Poetry Corner** Also here is a poem from one of our members, Len Hynds, whose poems always strike a chord.

### THE CANTERBURY HOSPITAL By Len A,Hynds

My friends in this centre of excellence,  
we find skills of the highest degree.  
With experts in toe nails and flatulence,  
on obesity and swollen knee.

There are those who can stretch, or shrink you,  
make any part of you, fat or thin.  
There are those, who can sew, stitch, or glue you,  
and those who can make certain parts spin.

They can take almost any bit from you,  
with a smile, as they wield their sharp knife,  
and a gentle cough if you turn blue,  
as they whisper, " Send for his wife."

### Committee Members who are standing down

Jacky Guyver has been our Social Secretary for 8 years and has worked tirelessly to keep us entertained with the BBQ, the Xmas lunch, the monthly lunchtime meeting and raffles and the coach trips. Behind the scenes she has also been a stalwart committee member and supporter of the Club. She will be missed

I am also standing down because of extra commitments caused by family illness which mean that I cannot continue to put in the regular effort needed to function as Club secretary. I wish you all well.

Ann Clewer