

Cancer Care Club Winter Newsletter February 2010

Happy New Year to all our Club Members and Friends.

Christmas Party

We had a very good turnout to the Christmas Party and Quiz on 2nd December. Thank you to all you who were able to attend and who brought such a wide variety of delicious food.

Christmas Lunch

We hope that everybody enjoyed the Christmas Lunch. Attendance was a little bit down on last year because of illness and holidays but over 50 of us managed to have a very good time!

The Club AGM is on Thursday, 18th 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.

Forthcoming events

The next **lunchtime meeting** will be on 18th February at the Abbots Barton Hotel, New Dover Road, Canterbury, from 12 noon – 2pm

Please see the enclosed **Club Programme** for further details of forthcoming lunchtime meeting and evening talks/events.

Heather Morgan's Craft Fair. Monday 5th April (Easter Monday) 10am-4pm, Landmark Centre, Deal. Admission 25p, proceeds to the Cancer Care Club

Trip to Pashley Manor on Saturday 24th April Last year's visit was very successful so we are offering it again. If you would like to go, please let Jacky Guyver know on 01304 617975 (not Sundays) **no later than February 27th**. Please note that payment must be received before your booking can be confirmed. £18 members, £20 non-members. Jacky's address for payments is 7, Stone Cross Leas, Sandwich, Kent CT13 0BZ. Please make cheques payable to the Cancer Care Club and enclose an SAE if you would like a receipt.

(Website: www.pashleymanorgardens.com)

This year's **Barbeque** will be at Pfizer's on Saturday 7th August, 12 noon to 4pm. Invitations will be sent out in due course.

There will be a **coach trip to Dungeness** on September 11th. Further details will be available soon.

Raffle Prizes please

We would be very grateful for donations from members of any items that could be used as raffle prizes, both at Christmas and for our regular raffles at lunchtime meetings. Please contact Jacky Guyver on 01304 617975 (not Sundays)

Kent and Medway Cancer Network

Important changes are being made to the way the Kent and Medway Cancer Partnership is organised. Holly Till, the Partnership Facilitator, has sent me the following information

The Kent and Medway Cancer Partnership Group work alongside the Kent and Medway Cancer Network to influence the planning, development and monitoring of Cancer Services in the local area.

The Network is committed to involving the membership of the Cancer Partnership in projects that will make a real difference to patient care and services in the future.

The Old Structure

In previous years, the Partnership had met quarterly to discuss the progress of cancer service in the area. However, although this format was informative, the Partnership, which should be a working group, got very little work done. The Nurse Director along with the Partnership Facilitator and members of the Partnership have devised a new structure which will enable the Partnership to take a much more pro-active role.

The New Structure

The Network holds a database of patients, carers and relatives, as well as Health Care Professionals, who have shown an interest in the Partnership. Those who opt to take an 'active' role will be invited to attend discussion groups/ workshops based on specific topics e.g. survivorship, chemotherapy etc. Projects will be based not only around the Network's agenda but also on suggestions by the Trusts, Clinical Nurse Specialists and Partnership members.

Those that cannot, or do not wish, to travel to working group meetings will still be able to receive Partnership related information via the Partnership newsletter that has recently been launched.

There will be once annual conference each year that all members will be invited to attend, at which, members will be able hear about all the projects that the Partnership have been working on throughout the year. This will also be an opportunity to celebrate success as well as plan for the year ahead.

With all of this in mind, the Partnership recognises the importance of recruiting some new members! It is essential that the Partnership has patient members who are currently going through treatment as well as patients who have recently finished.

If are interested in joining the Kent and Medway Cancer Partnership please contact Holly Till, Cancer Partnership Facilitator, either via email at holly.till@nhs.net or by telephone on 01622 713146, for an expression of interest form.

So the old style meetings are to be replaced by focus groups discussing particular topics and even if you do not wish to, or cannot attend meetings you can still receive their newsletter by contacting Holly Till. This sounds like a positive development and we hope as many club members as possible will express an interest.

Membership Secretary The club would like to have a membership secretary – someone whose task is to keep the membership database up-to-date. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Ann Clewer on 01227 455260

Please help us save money: if you would be prepared to receive newsletters and other information by email, please email ann.clewer@virgin.net (thanks to those who already have)