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Summer 2008

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Somerset Colorectal Cancer Support Group Newsletter

Charity Number 1117666

President : Tommy Banner (of the Wurzels)



MUSGROVE PRESENTATION

The Lord Lieutenant of Somerset, Lady Gass, flanked by Ros Wyke Chairman of the Taunton & Somerset NHS Foundation Trust, High Sheriff for Somerset David Medlock, MP for Taunton Jeremy Browne, members of the medical team at Musgrove, and Support Group committee members, when the group held its formal 'launch' at the end of February.

The group presented a diathermy machine to the Gastrointestinal Surgery Department at Musgrove, purchased with

monies raised by the Support Group through various fund-raising activities. The diathermy machine, which is now in full use at Musgrove, can reduce surgery time by half resulting in faster recovery times and shorter stays in hospital.

Maurice Day, Support Group founder Trustee, opened the new Consulting Room in the Endoscopy Suite that had been furnished and equipped with funds raised by the group.

PIG ROAST

Hilary and Dennis Peters held a hugely successful Pig Roast in their garden on 22nd June. The sun shone and a large crowd enjoyed a delicious meal (Dennis was up at 7.00 am to cook the meat!), plentiful drinks and varied entertainment. The Old Grey Dogs Jazz Band provided musical entertainment throughout, and fun was had with a guess the weight of a beautifully decorated cake that Hilary had somehow managed to find the time to make, a raffle, horse-racing and a strange game organised by Maurice that involved clutching your head and your bottom. Say no more! Old friends met and new friends were made.

A huge thank you to Hilary and Dennis for their very generous, and continuing, support of the Support Group and its patients.

Over £660 was raised towards our funds.



“Colorectal Cancer” refers to cancers of the colon or rectum (large Bowel). Other organs including the stomach and small intestine may also be involved.

It's a Cabaret!

The Cabaret Dinner at Wells was again a resounding success with 170 people having a great time. The catering by the Party Shop at Axbridge was first class and the entertainment from The Shepton Mallet Big Band, Jonathan Payne and the Blues Bros had everyone toe-tapping until the early hours. Nearly £3000 was raised on the night and Maurice thanked all that contributed.



Pictured left to right are : Dave Ford, Blues Bros; Sister Nicky Forsyth; Jeff, Blues Bros; Maurice, Emma Jacobs (Holby City nurse) and Josie Day

If you are a UK tax payer and make a donation to the Support Group (charity number 1117666), completion of a Gift Aid form can add 28p to every £ that you donate. Forms are available from the Treasurer, Ted Hall on 01643 821057 or can be downloaded from our website www.somersetbowelcancer.org.uk

Musgrove Park Hospital in Taunton is one of the first hospitals in the UK to launch the new Bowel Cancer Screening Programme. Over the next two years, people between the ages of 60 and 69 will be sent an invitation to submit samples for testing in a simple but effective way of checking for the early signs of bowel cancer. Further information about the programme can be obtained from:

Julia Heneker, Bowel Cancer Screening Nurse

Tel: 01823 343345

or email: julia.heneker@tst.nhs.uk

The Support Group was one of six charities chosen by the Taunton Soroptimists to benefit from their 2008 Swimathon. Nicky Forsyth, Colorectal Nurse Lead at Musgrove, organised two teams of six swimmers who swam for an hour in relay. A great time was had by all, and our group received a cheque in excess of £3,680.

Nicky is organising two more teams for next year's Swimathon which will be held on 7th & 8th February 2009

Find out more about The Somerset Colorectal Support Group from www.somersetbowelcancer.org.uk or email us at sccsg@yahoo.co.uk We aim to acknowledge all e-mails within 48 hours. If you do not have an email call 01460 259836. If your query is of a medical nature, call the Colorectal Unit at Musgrove Park Hospital on 01823 342452 or at Weston Hospital on 01934 647281

JOIN US

Do you, or a family member or friend, have experience of bowel cancer?

Would you like to meet other patients and their families in an informal and friendly atmosphere? If you would like to hear more about the group and our activities, call Hilary Peters, Membership Secretary on 01278 793285 Membership is free of charge

Thanks to the Old Grey Dogs Jazz Band who have played at so many fund-raising events for us and contributed so much to the success of our fund-raising. You are all STARS !!

Look out for our new posters in your local surgery and hospitals. Let your friends know we are here for them. Contact us and let us know what you want - we are always here for you and yours

Forthcoming Events - ALL WELCOME

Saturday 13th September, 8.00 pm 'til late. **The Sneakers "Sounds of the Sixties" at Wells Buses Social Club. £5 a head. Tickets from Maurice on 01749 675548**
Christmas lunch, date to be confirmed. **The White Horse Inn, Mark. Details from Hilary on 01278 793285**

Listening and Responding

Committee members often receive telephone calls from patients, or their relatives, who want someone to talk to about their experiences, their treatment and their concerns.

A group of members have received some training from Macmillan Cancer Care, in 'listening and responding' to patients so that we can give the best possible support to those people who seek our help. A further session is planned later in the year.

Macmillan provide this training free of charge to cancer support groups like ours.

Ted Humphries from Dulverton was so delighted with the surgery and treatment that he received for his bowel cancer in Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton, in February this year, that he set about fund-raising. Ted has already organised a very successful coffee morning, and a quiz night at the local pub, and has sent us a cheque for £720. And he says he ain't finished yet!

Could you raise money to support us by holding a coffee morning, asking for donations in lieu of birthday presents, selling unwanted items on Ebay? There are lots of ways of raising a few pounds- and it all adds up to more equipment for the hospital and more support for bowel cancer patients.

This newsletter is produced on behalf of the Somerset Colorectal Cancer Support Group. We provide support to bowel cancer patients and their families and carers. We hold meetings and social events, carry out fund-raising activities and lobby for improved services and facilities for bowel cancer patients.