

NEWSLETTER

Somerset Bowel Cancer Support Group

Charity Number 1117666

May 2011

NOTE OUR CHANGE OF NAME !!

At the recent Annual General Meeting, the members agreed that the name of the Support Group should be changed from Somerset Colorectal Cancer Support Group to **Somerset Bowel Cancer Support Group**.

'Colorectal' is a technical medical term, which is not understood by everyone, and we felt that the use of the word 'bowel' in our title would avoid misunderstandings.

We will, eventually, be changing the name of the Group's bank account but, as these things take time, the bank will accept cheques made out to both SCCSG and SBCSG, as well as both names written in full.

For the record, 'colorectal' cancer refers to cancers of the colon or rectum (large bowel). Other organs including the stomach and small intestine may also be involved

THE SUPPORT GROUP COMMITTEE

Could you spare a couple of hours a month to join the committee and help to run the Support Group?

It isn't an onerous task (we have committee meetings four or five times a year) and we manage to enjoy ourselves at the same time!

If you would like to hear more about what is involved, ring Annie Lanigan, the Chair of the Group, on 01460 259836.

Please get in touch – your Support Group needs you!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

**Contact Hilary Peters, Membership Secretary, if you would like to attend any of these events.
Tel: 01278 793285 or Email: hilden.1@virgin.net**

Theatre Outing, on Wednesday 29th June, to the Warehouse Theatre Ilminster to see "Waiting in the Wings" a play by Noel Coward. Tickets £5 each.

The Wings is a charity home for retired actresses who have been stars in their day but are now penniless. These aged ladies grow older ungracefully amidst squabbles, jealousies and grandiose memories.

Comic, tragic and poignant, this promises to be a memorable production (and it features Mike Lanigan, Support Group member, as Osgood Meeker. Unmissable!). Bar, teas and coffees, ice-creams. Easy parking nearby. A directional map will be provided

Annual Meeting, Saturday 1st October, at Queens College Conference Centre, Trull Road, Taunton

Get the date in your diary; full details later. To include a presentation from Stephanie Moore, founder of the Bobby Moore Foundation for research into bowel cancer, and a Medical Question and Answer session, chaired by Mr Christopher Vickery, Consultant Colorectal Specialist Surgeon. Buffet lunch provided.



A group of third year nursing students from Plymouth University, who receive part of their tuition through SCAT in

Taunton, came up with a novel idea in aid of Support Group funds – a 'virtual' bike ride around the five hospitals with which they are involved: Yeovil, Bridgwater, Taunton, Exeter and Plymouth. A total distance of 134 miles. The 'virtual' bike ride took place at the Pumping Station Gym in Galmington, Taunton at the beginning of April, when the nurses, their partners and their children, took to a variety of equipment to clock up the miles – and the £££££s.

PTO for information on:

- Reduced price complementary therapy treatments
- Further information on forthcoming events
- Fundraising ideas

FUND-RAISING FOR THE GROUP

We are establishing a group of members who will distribute, collect and empty Support Group collecting tins in various locations around the county.

If you are prepared to look after a collecting tin in your local Golf Club, Garden Centre, Pub – or wherever – please get in touch with Annie for further information and to register your interest.

Annie Lanigan: 01460 259836 or
lanigan@lanigans.co.uk



SUPPORTING BOWEL CANCER PATIENTS AT MUSGROVE PARK HOSPITAL

The Support Group is providing special **pressure-relieving cushions** for use by bowel cancer patients on Ward 4. Sister Nicola Forsyth said “these cushions will make a lot of difference to those patients who need them, making their recovery from surgery far more comfortable”.

We are also funding the production and provision of a **discharge booklet** specially written for, and targeted at, bowel cancer patients containing all the information they need when they leave hospital after surgery or treatment.

REFLEXOLOGY, AROMATHERAPY, OSTEOPATHY, HOMEOPATHY etc..... Would you like to take advantage of reduced price treatments?

The Support Group has arranged for our patient members to be able to have reduced price complementary therapy treatments at Marlborough House Complementary Therapy Centre in Taunton.

Phone Marlborough House direct – 01823 272227 – to make an appointment, quoting SBCSG when you book. Marlborough House, 1 Middle Street, Taunton TA1 1SH. www.mh-tc.com or email contact@mh-tc.com

In addition, Musgrove Park Hospital Beacon Centre has begun to offer Reflexology or Massage sessions to inpatients or outpatients receiving treatment for cancer. Further information about these, free of charge, sessions direct from the Beacon Day Unit (8.30am – 6.00pm Monday to Friday). Tel: 01823 342296

COACH TRIP TO OTTER NURSERIES, and

Hilary Peters and Joan MacAllan (a new member of the Support Group committee) are planning some new events and outings for our members, including...

.....a coach trip to Otter Nurseries near Honiton, with lunch and a cream tea. It will probably be sometime at the beginning of September. More details to follow.....

PURCHASING EQUIPMENT FOR MUSGROVE

We have, for some time, been raising money to purchase a colonoscopy imager for use with bowel cancer patients at Musgrove Park Hospital. However, we now feel that there may be other items of equipment that could prove to be of more benefit to more bowel cancer patients. We are, therefore, reconsidering what capital investment into equipment we will make, in order to make the best use of donations and the funds that we have raised. Meanwhile, we are still fund-raising, and any donations will be gratefully received!

Donations should be sent to The Treasurer, c/o SBSCG, 4 Heron Way, Ilminster, Somerset TA19 0BX.

BOWEL CANCER SCREENING PROGRAMME.... Please do everything you can to encourage your friends and family members to take part in the Screening Programme. Early detection saves lives, but take-up of the test amongst eligible people in Somerset is only 65%. Please do what you can to spread the word about the importance of early detection and diagnosis of symptoms. Further information from Sister Julia Heneker, Bowel Cancer Screening Nurse. on 01823 343345 or email julia.heneker@tst.nhs.uk