

# NEWSLETTER

## Somerset Colorectal Cancer Support Group

Charity Number 1117666

November 2010

Dear Member

Enclosed with this newsletter is a letter about the Group's **Telephone Support Service**. If you, or a member of your family, would like to talk to one of us about anything relating to your bowel cancer, just pick up the phone – we're listening. All calls are treated in complete confidence. We are patients ourselves, so we know what it's like to be living with bowel cancer.

We've got some fun social events coming up; a Christmas lunch, a visit to the Panto at Ilminster, a skittles match, and a trip to London to see a show.

Tell us what events *you* would like us to organise on your behalf or anything else that you think we should be doing. This is *your* Group: so get in touch!

All good wishes and hope to see you soon,

Annie Lanigan - on behalf of the SCCSG Committee

[lanigan@lanigans.co.uk](mailto:lanigan@lanigans.co.uk)

Tel: 01460 259836

### 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](mailto:hilden.1@virgin.net)

**Christmas Lunch at The Brent House Hotel (on A38 just north of M5 Junction 22) on Wednesday December 8<sup>th</sup> from 12 noon.** Two course carvery meal at £13.95 per head to include coffee & crackers. Quiz (with prizes). Raffle. Book, CDs and DVDS to buy at rock bottom prices. Come along and get Christmas off to a good start amongst friends. All welcome.

**All the fun of the Panto.** We're going to see Aladdin at The Warehouse Theatre, Ilminster (oh no we're not, oh yes we are!) on **Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> December**. The matinee starts at **2.30 pm**, tickets £7.00 adults, £4.50 for children/student from Annie (contact details above). Support Group member Mike Lanigan is playing Abanazar, the villain and he's really nasty (oh no he's not; oh yes he is!). If there's enough demand, we'll organise a pub lunch beforehand for those who want it.

*If you would like to attend any of these events but you don't drive, let us know and we will try to organise a lift for you with another Support Group member*

**More information on future events overleaf.....**

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



**"Members of the Support Group visited the Houses of Parliament in October, at the invitation of Jeremy Browne, MP for Taunton Deane and Minister of State at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office. We were shown around the House of Lords by Hanneke Hart, Jeremy Browne's Political Researcher and Jeremy Browne himself guided us around the House of Commons and the Lobbies.**

It was interesting to hear it all first-hand from an MP, and now Minister in the Coalition Government. We stood in front of the Despatch Box and Jeremy explained how the afternoon's Parliamentary Questions and Debate would proceed. We also watched The Speaker's Procession and, to top it off, we were lucky enough to have been provided with passes for the Public Gallery for the afternoon debate, so heard Vince Cable's statement on the proposals for students' tuition fees and the debate that followed. It was quite something to see Parliament 'in action' at first hand (what a lot of shouting goes on in the House!). It was a day that none of us will ever forget.

Thank you to Jeremy Browne and Hanneke Hart for their generosity with their time and their knowledge. We had a wonderful day, and returned on the coach to Somerset tired out but with a fund of happy memories of our trip"

## We need your help .....

Do you have any photos of yourselves **having fun and enjoying life – on holiday, playing golf etc.** that we can put on the website, under our Patient Stories section? Let's show people that there's life after bowel cancer.....

We are redesigning and updating the Group's website –  
[www.somersetbowelcancer.org](http://www.somersetbowelcancer.org)

but we need to know what you would like to see on it. So please tell us .....

- Nutritional advice ?
- News on latest advances in treatments ?
  - Newsletters?
- Information on coming events?

Group Trustee, John Fielding, wants to hear from you with any ideas, suggestions or photographs. Please phone him on **01278 691713** or email him at [johnfielding@westonzoyland.demon.co.uk](mailto:johnfielding@westonzoyland.demon.co.uk)

**A group of members enjoyed a visit to the Warehouse Theatre, Ilminster, to see The Deep Blue Sea by Terence Rattigan**



Group member, Mike Lanigan (kneeling), played Judge William Collyer, whose wife left him for a younger man. We are happy to report that his real-life wife, Annie, has no such plans!

We are most grateful to those people who have kindly made a donation to the Support Group. Donations from UK taxpayers can be increased by 28p in the £ by filling out a Gift Aid form. Forms and information available from our Treasurer, Ian Aldridge, at 28 Robert Street, Williton, Somerset TA4 4 PG. Tel: 01984 634727

## **Bowel Cancer Screening Saves Lives....**

but, remarkably, only 55% of people offered it in Somerset take up the offer of the test.

So, let's do what we can to spread the word. If you know of anyone who has been offered the test and hasn't sent off their samples, see what you can do to persuade them to do it. You would be doing them a favour, and could be saving their life.

Further information from Sister Julia Heneker, Bowel Cancer Screening Nurse at Musgrove Park Hospital on 01823 343345 or email: [julia.heneker@tsts.nhs.uk](mailto:julia.heneker@tsts.nhs.uk)

## **Telephone Support Service**

**A diagnosis of bowel cancer is a frightening and difficult time, both for the patient and for their family. As patients, and partners of patients, we know what it is like to face this life-changing situation. We understand the fears, the uncertainty, the financial worries and the emotional problems.**

**If you would like to talk to a patient, or partner of a patient, in complete confidence, then give us a call. We have been trained by Macmillan Cancer Support. Ring 01460 259836**

*"We are patients ourselves, so we know what it's like"*