

NEWSLETTER

Somerset Colorectal Cancer Support Group

Charity Number 1117666

www.somersetbowelcancer.org.uk

President: Tommy Banner (of the Wurzels)

Spring 2009

'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 **ANNUAL MEETING** of the Support Group was held at Musgrove Park Hospital, Taunton on Saturday March 28th. More than 100 members and guests attended to hear a number of interesting and enlightening talks from the medical specialists at Musgrove on advances in treatments and surgery for colorectal cancer.

The event was attended by the High Sheriff of Somerset, Mr John Alvis MBE who formally launched the new fund-raising campaign to purchase a colonoscopy imager for use at Musgrove.



Pictured are Mr Christopher Vickery, Consultant Colorectal Specialist Surgeon and Trustee of the Support Group, together with fellow Trustee and Fundraising Lead, Maurice Day. The event was sponsored by Covidien .

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, 16th May at Wells Rugby Club. Dinner Dance. A great evening's entertainment, good food, dancing and music, with all proceeds going to the Support Group fund-raising campaign. A few tickets left, available from Maurice Day (01749 675548)

Saturday, June 13th from 11.30 am at Creech St. Michael Village Hall. Come and meet the committee and fellow members, hear more about the Group and its activities, and have a chat over a buffet lunch (which is free of charge) Just let Hilary Peters know if you are intending to come. Creech St Michael is 5 miles east of Taunton between the A358 and A38. The village hall is well sign-posted in the centre of the village. The post code (for those with Sat Nav) is TA3 5QQ.

Sunday, June 14th from 2.00 pm at Hilary and Dennis Peters' house in Burnham-on-Sea. BBQ with Jazz Band and entertainments. Lots of food and lots of fun, with thanks to Hilary and Dennis for their generosity. Tickets £6 per person, all proceeds to the Support Group. Numbers to Hilary, in advance, please (01278 793285). **17 St Christopher's way, Burnham-on-Sea, TA8 2PD.** Coming from Highbridge direction, St Christopher's Way is the second turning on the left after the lighthouse.

And planned for the future..... **A visit to Hestercombe Gardens** **A flutter at Taunton Races****Christmas Lunch with music** and much more.

Please tell us what you would like us to organise on your behalf (and if you would like to get involved). This is your Support Group – so your ideas and offers of help are always welcome!

If you would like to know more about our Support Group, get information on our activities, or offer your services in some way, please contact any of the following:-

Hilary Peters
Membership Secretary
Tel: 01278 793285

Maurice Day
Fundraising Lead
Tel: 01749 675548

Annie Lanigan
Chair
Tel: 01460 259836

Email: hilden.1@virgin.net

Email: Maurice@wells105.freeserve.co.uk

Email: lanigan@lanigans.co.uk

PATIENT SUPPORT/ 'BUDDYING'

Patients in our group provide a telephone support service to other patients. We are trained to do this by Macmillan Cancer Care, to ensure that we provide the best possible support to other patients in a way which is appropriate both for them, and for us.

Macmillan is running a further session of training later in the year, at a location in Somerset especially for us and our members. It will take place on a Saturday, and will last from approx. 10.00 am to 4.00 pm

Refreshments will be provided and there is no charge.

If you would like to take part in this course, with a view to supporting other patients, please contact Annie Lanigan to register your interest, on 01460 259836 or by email at lanigan@lanigans.co.uk

Macmillan recommend that patients do not provide this kind of telephone support until two years after their own surgery.

MEMBERS' QUESTIONNAIRE ??????????

Have you filled out our questionnaire to tell us what you want from the Support Group? If you haven't got a copy, Hilary Peters will send you one. As a patient, this is *your* Group, and we need your feedback.

THE OLD GREY DOGS JAZZ BAND have played at a number of venues and occasions in support of the Support Group, most recently in Wells where Group members shook buckets while the Jazz Band played, and raised an amazing £547 for the fund-raising appeal.

The Old Grey Dogs will be playing at Hilary and Dennis Peters' BBQ and pork roast on Sunday 14th June.

FUND-RAISING

We are aiming to raise £50,000 to buy a colonoscopy imager for the Gastro-Intestinal Surgery Department at Musgrove Hospital.

All contributions (to Ted Hall, Treasurer, Seaspray, The Seafront, Blue Anchor, Minehead, TA24 6LD) and ideas for fund-raising, are welcome

Greetings cards for all occasions from Alex Hall (Ted's daughter in law). Information from 01761 419183 and Hand made wooden bird boxes available from Maurice Day on 01749 675548.

All proceeds from sales of these items go to Group funds.

easyfundraising.org.uk is an internet-based way to raise funds for a charity at the touch of a button. Over 600 companies (such as John Lewis, Amazon etc) that sell products on-line will give a percentage of the value of each sale to a charity of your choice. It doesn't cost you a penny more, and all you need to do is register at the [easyfundraising](http://easyfundraising.org.uk) website and enter Somerset Colorectal Cancer Support Group as the charity of your choice. Easy!



WALK FOR BOWEL CANCER UK

Members of the Somerset Support group took part in the Bowel Cancer UK walk around Hyde Park last month. Pictured, from the left are Rob and Alex Hall, Maurice Day and Dennis Peters. A great time was had by all, including some celebrity-spotting, including Maurice nearly getting run over by Prince Harry who happened to be driving past at the time!

The Trustees and Committee of the Support Group (all of whom are either patients, or closely involved with patients) are:

- Annie Lanigan (Chair, Trustee)
- Maurice Day (Fundraising Lead, Trustee)
- Ted Hall (Treasurer, Trustee)
- Hilary Peters (Membership Secretary, Trustee)
- Richard Austin (Website Editor, Trustee)
- Christopher Vickery (Consultant Colorectal Specialist Surgeon, Trustee)
- Nicky Forsyth (Colorectal Specialist Nurse Lead, Trustee)
- Ian Aldridge (Minutes Secretary)
- John Fielding (Website support)