

## Chair's Annual Report - June 2017

Welcome to this year's Annual General Meeting, which yet again has been another busy year.

This year we changed our chosen charity to My Cancer My Choices and in November we had an excellent presentation from Mandy Barter and Alistair Melling. They gave an informative talk about the work of the charity which offers complementary therapies to people undergoing cancer treatment. I'm sure that Judy, our Treasurer will give us figures on how much we have donated so far. The money is raised mostly by the sale of second hand books for which I would like to extend my thanks to both Judy and Brian for looking after that area so well.

Our Social Walks for Health also help to raise some monies as our regular walkers, at present standing at 22 members, are very generous. This years Christmas lunch was held at the Golden Retriever, and although we had a few problems we still had a very enjoyable time, and the discount we received of £20 was donated to our charity, so still a good result! We also had a walk around Trilakes in Sandhurst for the first time, where we were given free entry, for which we are very grateful. We have also been invited back again which we hope to do in September.

As in previous years, we helped to staff the the two flu clinics, which enables the practice to get through around 350 patients at each session. We also help to organise and attend the annual Mince Pie and Sherry Christmas Party. The guests are generally elderly and don't perhaps get out much and need a change of scenery and a few friendly faces, and the feedback is always very positive.

Together, with Heath Hill Road Surgery, we held our second health event at the Morgan Centre, this time focusing on diabetes. There were 3 speakers, 2 who had been diagnosed with Type 2 but had very different stories to tell, and the third speaker was Dr Richard Bishop, a GP from Woosehill, who is involved in a pilot study on pre diabetes. It was an opportunity not just to listen to and question professionals, but also to talk to others with similar problems. There were also 7 stands, covering aspects of importance such as podiatry, diet, and food labelling, plus plenty of information on where to go for more help. It was attended by over 70 people and all the feedback we have received has been very positive.

The success of this event was in no small measure down to the efforts of both patient group committees, but particularly ours, as well as to many others, who worked hard to make it as interesting and informative as it was. May I extend a personal thank you to John London, who stepped in at the eleventh hour and helped save my sanity.

Brian and I are still attending the PPG Forum meetings and reporting back. At present it is proving very difficult to find people willing to stand as officers. There has not been any survey done this year, but we are still working to build up our Patient Reference Group.

Eleanor and I attended a Health Meeting in June regarding the future of Primary Care Services. The shortage of GPs is leading to a number of alternative solutions, including the recruitment of Physician Associates to work within practices and the development of larger multi-practices. Eleanor, on our behalf, has written to Dr Phillip Lee MP to ask what the Government is doing to encourage the recruitment of GPs and what its plans were for the future of GP services. The response was not overwhelming. The plans are to recruit 5000 more GPs by 2020, which is doubtful will be enough, even if that figure is reached. We also wrote to him again regarding 7 day working, and from the answer received this would appear to have to be achieved by a combination of practices working together and technology.

Something we always do, is to discuss the feedback from the Friends and Family Test, so that our patients' views are always being discussed, and where necessary being acted upon. If at any time you have something that you feel we should discuss, then please get in touch.

Our Practice representative, Jane, has been off for several months and it is now tremendous to be able to welcome her back, there is no doubt she was very much missed. I just hope that having to deal with us lot again doesn't send her screaming for the hills! Can I also extend much thanks to Dani who took over her role admirably, for which we are all very grateful, and also to Sheila who supplied excellent back up.

Can I end by saying a big thank you to every member of this committee, all of you have devoted a lot of time and effort over the past year, and nothing would have been achieved without you, you're a great team. Finally, can I say a special thank you to Eleanor. This will be her last year as Secretary before she heads off back to Wales, and I think she has done a particularly excellent job and I know she will be missed by us all. She has made my job so much easier and been totally reliable and very pro-active, which I really do appreciate.

So that's it! Thank you all once again for all that you've done!

