

Minutes of meeting Thurs 5th Jan 2012, 2 – 4pm
Venue – Conference Centre, Pendleside Hospice

There were 29 members and two new attendees (Don and George) at this meeting.

Steve said that it takes Zoladex approximately 6 – 9 months to leave the system, Hormone Therapy can take up to 3 years. Martin asked how many patients in the meeting had been on Zoladex and how many of them had lost their libido, surprisingly there were eight who said they had completely or almost completely. It was mentioned at this point that Cancer sufferers are entitled to FREE transport to and from treatments, meetings and hospital appointments, this would need to be arranged with their G.P.

New attendee Don told us about his Prostate Cancer experience. He was diagnosed 3 years ago with a PSA level of 78 and was told the Cancer is quite aggressive. He has been advised by his medical professionals that he needs treatment but not necessarily Radiotherapy, one recommendation is that he might be better having Hormone implants because once he gets to age eighty Radiotherapy will not be recommended. He has recently had Zoladex implants. Don then explained how he has been coping after the shock diagnoses, he said he has accepted it because there are many people with illnesses who are in a far worse situation than himself and he keeps himself occupied and plays regular table tennis which takes his mind completely off his Cancer.

John spoke about his recent diagnoses, he has a PSA level of 9.1 and one of his symptoms was back pain. He has been told that he needs treatment and is currently trying to decide what treatment to have. He said coming to our group had been of great help and he has found out the alternatives available which he did not even know existed.

George attended for the first time, he is currently under active surveillance and is a Country Ranger, he organises walks around Lancashire and Cumbria. It was suggested that he would be able to organise walks for our group although he does get busy in the spring and summer time, he would be pleased to do it for us if enough people are prepared to participate.

Donna Sheridan said she intends to organise a Lancashire, Cumbria joint meeting/dinner in order to help integrate the new groups, this would include Blackpool, Preston and Barrow. She is hoping to arrange for between April and June and it would be held in central Lancashire.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION: We have been informed by Pendleside Hospice that parking in their car park is acceptable with the blue disabled badge. Parking is also ok outside the grounds on the main road.

Next meeting: **Thurs 2nd February, 2 – 4pm. Conference Centre, Pendleside Hospice**