

Minutes of meeting Thursday 6th March 2014
Venue Mackenzie Centre/Library, Burnley Gen Hospital, 2-4pm

There were 42 people present. Including our two Specialist Urology nurses, Deborah & Debbie

Dave (Chairman) opened the proceedings by reading the Minutes of the February meeting and thanking Steve Jeffries from Collective Legal Solutions for his presentation on financial matters at that meeting. He gave an update on the monies raised for the Scanner Appeal, which now stands at £32,000.00. He informed the meeting that two people were needed at the Presbyterian Church in Padiham to sell tickets at 5.45 p.m. and again at 6.45 p.m. for a concert (to raise money for the Scanner appeal) which is to be held at Padiham Unitarian Chapel on Friday, 20th June and featuring 2nd Rossendale Scout Brass Band with Grace O'Malley. Anyone who can help in this endeavour is to let Dave know.

Dave carried on his introduction with a humorous description of trying to attend a Prostate Support Group in Los Angeles. Eventually, he contacted a group after a great deal of trying and found that it was "rather like Alcoholics Anonymous". They all sat around in a circle and told their names and their Prostate journey. At the end of the meeting they were told that they would all meet up again in another month. He found they were very reticent about giving information and he concluded that Support Groups in America are vastly different from our own home grown variety. Incidentally, the LAPD has its own Support Group. One interesting fact to emerge was that it costs 120 dollars (about £80) for a PSA test in America.

Stuart (Secretary) then gave important information about the next meeting in April. This will be on Thursday, 17th April because the room we usually use is unavailable before then. At this meeting it is hoped that members can sit with people who have had the same treatment as them and "compare notes" and help each other. We have no speaker for this meeting.

He gave information about the concert at the Ace Centre in Nelson that Glenn and some of his friends were giving. As this concert was sold out Glenn gave details about another concert at the same venue on 8th May 2014. The people who had previously paid for the first concert would get first priority at a cost of £2.50 for tickets.

Stuart told the group that he had names & telephone numbers for Collective Legal Solutions if anyone wanted to speak to them. Colin S. did tell the members that the company were good, but not necessarily the cheapest and like everything people could shop around.

BREAK FOR BREW

In the second half of the meeting we have two speakers. Colin O. who lives in France will give his take on having Prostate Cancer in France and the treatment available and Deborah Dobson (Specialist Clinical Oncology Nurse) will give a presentation on a Questionnaire of Patient Experience Survey to monitor national progress on cancer services. People's voices are powerful and it does shape change!!!

The raffle raised £54 with a donation from Graham P and the final sale of the donated book (10 were donated originally for the Scanner Appeal) was completed.

A late rider to the Meeting was suggested that if there is anything you need help with, to ask at the signing in point and then people who know something about the problem could advise – or to tell Stuart or Dave.

Dave concluded the meeting with none of his famous Prostate jokes.

REMEMBER THE NEXT MEETING TO BE HELD AT THE MACKENZIE MEDICAL CENTRE AT BURNLEY GENERAL HOSPITAL IS THURSDAY 17th APRIL 2014.