

Bradford-on-Avon Health Centre Patients' Forum

Chairman's A.G.M. Report 2008

Introduction

Last year I reported on a very positive first year as a properly constituted organisation, and this year I can claim that your committee has consolidated that position and continue:-

“To work with the Primary Health Team in order to improve the number and efficiency of services offered to patients in the community” which many of you will recognise as our “Mission Statement”.

Actions

How have we achieved this?

- By contributing input to the Health Centre's Review.
- Involvement in piloting the on-line repeat prescription requests.
- Once again supporting the staff at the Flu Clinics.
- Initiated an Arthritis Workshop which the Health Centre partly funded. It is interesting to note that this was oversubscribed.
- We have co-opted two people so that we have direct links with the Bradford-on-Avon Senior Citizen Forum, Derek Glover, and with a mother with a young child, Rachel Davies, and I thank them for their willing contributions.
- We commented on and made suggestions for the new-look notice board. We were pleased to have a volunteer, Rosie Burgess, from our membership to play a prominent part in this.
- Some members attended a site visit to Kington Court in Herefordshire and have been involved in following the progress of the proposed development at the old site.
- We have been exploring the question of a planned succession to the elected members of your committee. We have met and found a solution to the question of the Secretary and Minutes Secretary by looking at the tasks involved. Next year it is my intention to step aside so that new blood and a broader base of skills and interests can add strength to an already committed base.

- Plans are already being talked about for 2009 and we hope to learn more about carers' needs, and in particular Young Carers.

These positive actions have been only slightly off set by the Osteoporosis Evening being cancelled due to the speaker being unwell, but we plan to have this event in March 2009. So a solution has been found.

Sadly, one of our co-opted members has had to stand down due to a change in her family circumstances. We offer our thanks and best wishes to Denise Savage for her invaluable contribution to the committee's deliberations, and trust that we shall find another enthusiastic representative from the League of Friends.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all members of the committee; Our secretary, Lynne Coombes; who has kept us well informed and me on the 'straight and narrow', my vice chairman, Sue Leggett who more than once has donned my mantle when I have been unable to attend an executive meeting, to Sue Walters who has undertaken many tasks as the needs arose, and to Trevor Rothwell whose expertise and explicit comments we are fortunate to be recipients of.

No thanks would be complete without our heartfelt thanks to Angie Benford and Michelle Coleman for oiling the wheels between ourselves and the staff of the Health Centre, and to the doctors who regularly keep us up to date on clinical aspects of the work undertaken here.

Alan Fox
Chairman

15th September 2008