

Dear Friends,

Apart from our publicity for our next event, this is a good time to bring you up-to-date. We had a record turnout of members at our splendid AGM last Friday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2011. For the first time we managed to fill all the vacancies on the committee. Newly elected was a very experienced and delightful new Vice Chair, Margaret McKinlay. She has been a patient for 20 years, but now wants to become involved in the PPG. She is also going to be the London end of our Newsletter. She will be the contact for all contributions and deal directly with our publisher/editor who works some of the time in France. If you have any contributions please send them to her. We are desperate to get items from you our members; it is hard work finding material to publish.

Andrew Brown, another long-time patient has offered to be Minutes Secretary (they are like gold dust). For almost the first time we will be getting fuller reports of all our meetings.

Our new email secretary is Julia Patton from our Mayfair satellite surgery who is making that a double whammy as she is also our representative from Mayfair. We welcome her with pleasure.

A very enthusiastic new patient who works for the Royal College of Nursing, has volunteered to look after our page on the VMC website, events publicity, making contacts and generally keeping you informed.

Our very hard working backbone committee members, Dianna Bennett, Sheila Brown, Harry Bourne & Gloria Leoni, who host meetings, look after the refreshments and register members as they arrive at meetings, were all re-elected. They have worked together for a long time and we are grateful to them for all their hard work.

At the normal meeting following the AGM, the members told us what subjects they would like us to cover in the future. We only bring you the best professionals in their fields. When we have found people to cover the suggested subjects we will try and arrange interesting and helpful meetings.. So far our lecturers have been the very highest qualified and charming of professionals, giving us the benefit of their expertise. We have never had a poor speaker and we look forward to the eminent consultant on Bowel Cancer. Do please come if you can or get a member of your family or a friend to come anyway. They do not have to be a VMC patient. Reports of our events can be seen in the newsletters.

We look forward to hearing from you, be it with contributions, advice, queries or just a Hello. We want you to feel part of our Patient Participation Group. The doctors give us so much support and we give them information which helps make the practice Patient Friendly and the patient's Doctor Friendly.

Best wishes,

Gillian Guy (chair)

*PS We were told the other day we were unique as the most active and innovative lay group in the Health Industry. Do come and help us continue our great reputation!*