

Chairmans Report 14th May 2015

In preparing my report for this years AGM, I was able to draw on evidence received during the past year from Patients and from Carnewater Managing Partner. I also looked back to last years report to see what I had said!

The Group continues to meet and take part in activities, not only as and when the practice need our help but also to forge wider links within the locality - the way still led by Brenda & Judith at the Memory Cafe/Carers Group and by their participation at the Lewannick group. This provides a very strong link between the two surgery groups and re-enforces those links. Diana keeps us up to date with financial information and timely expenses and continues to take responsibility for decorating the St Petroc's Xmas Tree with help from Viv and other members.

We now have 3 or 4 fundraising events where if we do not raise a great deal of money, patients and Bodmin/Lewannick people are made aware of our presence. One of the comments in the December results for Family & Friends test was the they would like "more information about the Patients Group". One would hope that the Noticeboard in Bodmin was unmistakable and there is now a point of contact folder at the small Lewannick surgery. We still need dedicated Secretarial help, with members able to use Microsoft Publisher to produce the newsletter, items for the noticeboard in Bodmin and the Point of Information book at Lewannick so that I can relinquish this task to the appropriate members. Although a small group like ours does accomplish a great deal, it falls to the same people to make things happen and responsibility needs to be shared with new or existing members. I would like to pursue communications electronically as well as telephone contacts and texting. A start has already been made in this area with the recording of meetings and minutes transcribed from that recording. We are under-represented in the younger population of the Practice and we should aim to target this group for recruitment in the forthcoming year..

I still look forward to networking the Patients Groups in Cornwall, and becoming more involved with the Practice as envisaged by NHS Kernow and the Patients Association which we applied for membership in April 2105.

Members from the groups attended a workshop in Bodmin in October 2014 run by the Patients Association. This was to give help and assist in setting up and running PPG's. We found that a lot of other groups had difficulties in recruiting and some had not held their first meeting. We discovered that our group is established, well functioning and producing a bimonthly newsletter. Useful contacts were made with other group members and I have since attended a meeting of the East Cornwall Umbrella Group - the first of its kind in this part of Cornwall. I would like to thank Chris Iremonger for attending our AGM and look forward to working together in the future.

There was a planned CQC inspection at the Practice in January 2015 and the Inspectors were impressed with the Patients Group, speaking to Brenda & Judith. They can tell you more about that. The report from the Inspectors rates the Practice as Good with only two areas for improvement. As this is a 22 page document, I would prefer to email it to interested members rather than snail mail.

It isn't the only 22 page document in our remit at the moment. In conjunction with Rita Wilson, we have produced a draft/confidential booklet on the survey that took place at Lewannick in 2013/2014 called The Lewannick Project. This has taken several months to produce and many, many hours on both our parts. I have taken over the role of Coordinator at Lewannick and will continue to attend

there, both as a patient and group member.

We are beginning to receive compliments from the Practice. A recent communique from Sally wished me luck with the AGM and “the group has gone from strength to strength under your chair-ship and it is really great to have a robust and proactive group”. On the 2014/15 Patient Participation Enhancement Service report she quoted “The relationship between the Practice and the PPG is very good, and is effective and functional. The Chair is very committed and proactive and (the) committee work very well together, and as can be seen are very effective in improving services for patients of the Practice”. There have been other verbal comments, such as Dr Hignell offering to run another marathon to pay for the maintenance of the weighing machine we bought for the Bodmin surgery.

We faltered as a group in the early part of this year due to illness and the toll of the winter. An extra meeting was arranged in April after the failures in January & March to come together. I felt that the April meeting put us back on track. I hope we can take a leaf out of the Lewannick model and have refreshments and a selection of nibbles as we talk things over. I was very sorry to hear about the death of Louis Riley. A man of few words but a face full of wisdom. My own health has recovered to the level of last July and I'd like to say a big “Thank You” to the group for their help and support in the past year - I'm still enjoying it and am prepared to stand for election unless someone else would like to take on the role. I would then offer my services as Secretary &/or Editor. This report will be uploaded to the website as will others from the AGM.

Maggi Woods

Chair

CPPG