

The March meeting held at lunch time was well attended by 23 patients. Guest speaker, Hannah Longlands, local co-ordinator for The Stroke Association gave an informative talk about the work and support her local branch offers to stroke victims and their carers. She gave details of a forthcoming event at PCH for 'Stroke Awareness Week' commencing on 11th May and encouraged patients to drop in at the hospital to see the presentation. There was good inter-action with the audience and feedback has been positive, although some concern was expressed by patients living in East Northants, where the Association does not operate. Hannah assured them that if they were treated within the Borderline area, then every effort would be made to offer ongoing support or provide information on other similar organisations within Northamptonshire. Hannah provided information leaflets for the surgery reception; she was warmly thanked for her valuable contribution to the meeting.

Take-up of the NHS Friends & Family Test had been low, but since patients attending appointments have been given forms by doctors and nurses response has improved.

Following the sudden death of her husband, a generous donation had been received from Mrs Ann Holland in memory Dr John Holland, who along with Clare Wagstaffe was the founder of Communicare; she has asked that it be used for the benefit of members.

It was agreed that future meetings will be held quarterly, instead of bi-monthly - this will be adequate for business purposes and will help with provision of suitable speakers. Timings will be geared to season – December & March at lunchtime - June & September early evening.

Questions were raised regarding possible future change of location of Kings Cliffe Surgery: A recent meeting of local interested parties was unfortunately not attended by practice staff, but a further meeting is now being arranged.

An attending patient and member of Yarwell Parish Council, David Sidgwick, was asked to explain the Wansford 'Land Grab' situation. Wansford Parish Council has put forward a proposal to change parish/county boundaries, taking in some 'Yarwell' land which includes the surgery site. However due to local opposition, this plan has not progressed, but it was agreed that there could be tangible benefits to the surgery being located within Cambridgeshire.

A new telephone system recently installed at the Surgery has thrown up a number of teething problems – efforts are being made to eliminate these. One aspect of the new system is a 'call through' speaker in the waiting room, enabling staff to remotely summon their next patient.

The Social Group's next coffee morning is on Friday 17th April 10am at Kings Cliffe Sports Hall. The 4-night holiday in May to the Isle of Wight at present has a waiting list pending further rooms at the hotel being made available. Anyone wishing to join the trip should contact Clare – superfoguk@aol.com or 01780 470437