

The AGM held last month was attended by 31 officers, patients and practice staff. This was a smaller number than last year and although we strive to arrange for interesting guest speakers, it is somewhat disheartening when a number of people leave the proceedings immediately after the talk has finished. We are glad that these presentations attract interest, but patients could find it worthwhile staying to hear the subsequent discussions relating to their surgery and other topical healthcare matters.

We were delighted to welcome to the AGM two representatives from the Peterborough branch of the Alzheimers Society, Manager Kevin Bowyer and Information Officer Nyarai Maziso. They spoke about the structure of their organisation and the various services and support that are offered to both sufferers and carers. The Society deals with all types of dementia and patients can either self refer or be sent by their GPs for assessment at their Memory Clinic. The branch also runs dementia cafés, one at Ferry Meadows where they organize walks, talks by other bodies such as the Carers Trust and Age UK, and various other activities for men and women including 'Singing for the Brain'. Six week courses are regularly held for patients and carers to help them adjust and deal with the condition. Mr Bowyer gave details about the recent opening of their new Dementia Resource Centre at York Road, Millfield, Peterborough which has been commissioned by the City Council to offer services to all residents of the area suffering from one of the many types of dementia, not just alzheimers. The branch office can be contacted between 9am and 4pm Monday to Friday on 01733 893853 or email: peterborough@alzheimers.org.uk A selection of the Society's leaflets can be found in the surgery reception area.

Despite a significant drop in available funds due to lack of donations and income from coffee mornings over the past year, the meeting agreed the purchase of a DVT monitoring machine. However it was acknowledged that to continue providing future items of equipment for the benefit of patients, there must be some urgent fund raising carried out and ideas will be sought and discussed at the next meeting.

Dr Takhar announced the new recently launched practice website which will run for a limited time in addition to the old site. He encouraged patients to view the site and acquaint themselves with the enhanced facilities it provides – www.wansfordsurgery.co.uk. The new car park is nearing completion and will open for staff cars only as soon as the outside kerb is dropped – this should free up a number of spaces within the existing area for patient parking.

The next social group coffee morning is on Friday 17th October – 10am at Kings Cliffe Sports Hall.