



HULL & EAST RIDING GLAUCOMA GROUP

Patron: Mr C Burnett: Consultant Ophthalmic Surgeon & Glaucoma Specialist

based at Sight Support (formerly HERIB): Tel No: 01482342297

Newsletter: January 2020

Welcome to the Hull and East Riding Glaucoma Group Newsletter for January 2020.

"May you have
Walls for the wind
And a roof for the rain
And drinks beside the fire
Laughter to cheer you
And those you love near you
And all that your heart may desire."

A friend sent this to Martin and I in a New Year greeting card and I thought it was a nice wish to pass on for 2020.

Group News. December

meeting. Once again we were very pleased to welcome Pat Savage the Glaucoma Nurse Practitioner from the Eye Clinic as our guest speaker, and to get an update on the work of

the Eye Clinic. e.g. we were reminded that Virtual Clinic appointments continue to take place on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays, and cover procedures such as pressures, fields, visual acuity and scans. Pat is there from 7.30am until 7pm, seeing patients and also checking on results from tests etc. with results determining as to whether the patient's condition is stable, or if a treatment change is necessary. Patients are called back for a mega clinic followup if any concerns are raised as a result of outcomes from the clinics. The Mega Clinics take place on Wednesdays and Thursday morning and Pat identified that although Mr Burnett doesn't have individual patient clinics at this time he is available to

advise, consult and examine patients who are sent/referred through to him based on results from the virtual clinics. Working alongside Pat and the doctors, there is also Emma –trainee glaucoma nurse practitioner, optometrist back up, and a retired GP who is there on Wednesdays and Fridays. Pat also as always addressed concerns raised by members and where appropriate, gave individual help, reassurance and advice, as well as general information. The main area of discussion this time round was eye drops – their availability, and also sensitivity to preservatives. Pat identified if this is a problem it should be mentioned in clinic so that a request can be made to the GP for a preservative free option to be prescribed., Members also commented on running out of drops before the next prescription is due. i.e. contents of bottle not lasting full month. Again Pat identified that this should be mentioned in clinic so that GPs can be made aware of the problem. Regarding dry eyes it was

emphasised that drops for this problem can be used as often as necessary during the day in order to alleviate the discomfort experienced. Other subjects raised concerned:- communication difficulties – Pat reiterated her willingness to continue to have areas of concern passed on to her via her own personal mobile if necessary. I have her contact details in the event of any one needing advice, but she does however request that any phone calls are made within her working hours of Monday to Wednesday. It has always been very reassuring to know that phoning Pat's number would result in advice and an answer to a concern, and we were heartened to hear of this continuing arrangement. Questions were also asked about letters – Pat identified that virtual clinic appointments generate a patient letter; if seen by either herself or Mr Burnett a letter will be sent to your GP. Waiting times for acute angle closure glaucoma treatment were also discussed and identified. As with every

meeting Pat attends, her time was used in a very practical way, to help, advise and where possible solve individual problems of the group, both in general discussion, and individually after the meeting ended. Everybody found it very useful, and as always we have to thank her for the continuing support she gives the group, not just at the meetings but throughout the year as well. We were also very pleased indeed to hear that at the moment Pat has not included retirement in her plans for the coming year!

Christmas Buffet Thanks As always we had our special Christmas Buffet at this meeting. Thanks are due to Liz and Karen who gave of their time to organise and prepare the buffet and Sight Support for the lovely table decorations which added to the festive spirit of what many members call our Christmas Party meeting.

Other thanks My thanks as always to all who helped, and

hopefully all were recognised in our annual Glaucoma Gong presentation ceremony. Our thanks also to June Crosby the Eye Clinic Liaison Officer for her very kind donation of an extra prize for our Lucky Bag Draw.

Lucky Bag a bag from Iceland to add to our collection—thank you Liz.

Other News: We've heard recently that optometrist Philip Daniels is retiring on the 31st of January. He has decided after over 40 years serving the people of Hull and East Riding as the owner of Daniels, Turner and Associates, a long established and respected optometrists' practice in Spring Bank, Hull, that it's now time for him to "hang up his spectacles." The group have been very fortunate over the last few years to have had Philip's support: he has been a very well received speaker, and has also given much support for the work of the group within his practice. I'm sure you'll join me in passing on to him our

very best wishes for a long and happy retirement. We are very pleased indeed that he has indicated that he wishes to keep in touch with us, and hopes to come to some of our meetings this year. He will be a very welcome addition to the group, and we look forward to welcoming him as a member.

Sight support news Sight Support will be hosting a Low Vision Exhibition on Friday 13th March, 10am – 3pm. These exhibitions show case equipment and services specifically designed for people with visual problems and are well worth attending.

Next meeting This takes place on Friday 14th February when Gill Jordan and Linda Thelwell are our invited speakers. Gill and Linda are our 'legal ladies' who are on hand at all of our meetings to give informal advice about Total Estate Planning on an individual basis. They have a wealth of knowledge about wills, power of attorney, advance directives trust funds etc., and deliver a personal and

professional planning service, so for some more detailed advice and information about many things financial, join us on the 14th.

Lunch Arrangements A two course lunch costing £5 and bookable in advance will be available following this meeting. Booking in advance helps the cook so if you wish to have a lunch, please contact Sight Support on 01482 342 297, and give any relevant information about any preferences you may have regarding either vegetarian or gluten free options.

To find out more join us on Friday 14th February 2020 at Sight Support on Beverley Road, Hull, at 11am. Entry £1.50 per person.

For more information and to book your place (and optional lunch), please call Sight Support on 01482 342 297. Best wishes
Kay Slingsby