



HULL & EAST RIDING GLAUCOMA GROUP

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

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

Newsletter: March 2020

Welcome to the Hull and East Riding Glaucoma Group

Newsletter for March 2020.

Last year at this time I wrote about lighter nights, daffodils in the garden and a blackbird in the tree singing his heart out more than making up for the rain and the windy days. These sentiments still apply, and at the moment with all that's going on in relation to Coronavirus I'm finding it helps to concentrate on such small delights, - in between hand washing- to compensate for the many problems which seem to dominate the news.

Speaking of Coronavirus.

Cancellation of meeting on

Friday 3rd April I'm sure you'll be aware that many groups and organisations are taking the

step of cancelling their meetings. It will possibly come as no surprise therefore that we have decided to do just that, by cancelling the meeting planned for Friday 3rd April. This was a decision taken after much discussion and deliberation of the facts and advice available. Although attendance at such meetings is still (at the time of writing) very much an individual and personal choice, we felt that given the unpredictability of the situation, cancellation was in the best interests of all concerned. In this way we feel the potential to spread any infection is minimised, and the health and well being of our members is protected. We very much hope that by the time the June meeting comes along, the

situation will be greatly improved, it will be business as usual and we will be able to go ahead with that event.

Group News. February

meeting. We were very pleased indeed to welcome back Gill Young and Linda Thelwell as our invited speakers at this meeting. 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. Working as representatives for a group of regulated solicitors who provide personal and business legal services nationwide, they deliver a personal and professional planning service, providing a free, no obligation consultation in peoples' homes. (Gill and Linda stress the only fee required involves plenty of coffee and biscuits or even a slice of cake!) The advantage of these home visits is that they allow for identification and discussion of the products available, and independent financial advice if required. Areas covered at the meeting included Lasting Power of

Attorney (LPA), Mental Capacity, Family Protection Trusts, Wills, Advance Directives and funerals. **Lasting Power of Attorney.** LPAs allow other people (attorneys) to act on your behalf while you are alive. The importance of choosing attorneys who can be trusted to always work in your best interests was stressed. LPAs can cover either health or financial interests; a financial LPA when signed becomes effective as soon as it's registered. i.e while you're still capable, whereas a health LPA will only be effective if registered and when the person has been diagnosed as unable to make their own decisions. LPAs must be signed by someone called a 'certificate provider'. This is someone impartial who has known you personally for at least two years and can confirm that you understand what you're doing, and you are not being forced into making an LPA. If possible they should discuss your LPA with you in private before signing to 'certify' their part of the LPA. Because of the time it can take

for registration through the Court of Protection which impacts on implementing the LPA, the advice was: do it before there's an emergency situation. LPAs have to be made while you still have **'Mental capacity'**. Mental capacity means the ability to make a specific decision at the time it needs to be made. A person with mental capacity has at least a general understanding of: the decision to be made; why they need to make it; any information relevant to the decision; and what is likely to happen when they make it. They should be able to communicate their decision through speech, signs, gestures or in other ways. Assessing mental capacity should take into account whether inability to make a particular decision at the time it needs to be made is because of a mental or brain condition that stops the brain or mind from working normally. LPAs are governed by the Mental Capacity Act of 2005, and attorneys must follow its principles. They must: assume

you can make your own decisions unless it's established you can't; help you make as many of your own decisions as possible, taking all practical steps to help you do so; (you can only be considered as unable to make a decision if unable to do so in spite of this help); mustn't treat you as lacking mental capacity simply because you have made an unwise decision.

With time running out identification was made briefly of different types of family protection trusts e.g. the Plan for Life, a form of discretionary trust which can protect your estate from care home fees, ensure your children's inheritance is fully preserved, and ensure ex spouses don't profit from your estate when you pass away. **Wills** – is your will up to date? – it's advisable to have a new will drafted following any change in personal circumstances e.g. divorce, re-marriage, death of chosen beneficiaries etc; 'Living Wills', or Advance Directives. These involve a description of views and beliefs that you wish

to be taken into account if health care decisions need to be made for you when you no longer have the capacity to make them for yourself.

Funerals – we heard about the financial implications involved, and how pre paid funeral plans can allow the wishes of the deceased to be respected. (Funeral wishes can also be identified in your will)

Our thanks to Gill and Linda for a very informative meeting, and if any of these areas are of particular interest, they can always be approached for more advice/information either at one of our meetings, or by contacting them directly by phone: Gill Young 07539 472047 Linda Thelwell 07539 469179; or email:

gillandlinda@lawcomm.co.uk

Thanks My thanks as always to all who helped, including sight Support before, during and after the meeting and thanks also to Karen the Sight Support cook for a delicious lunch.

Lucky Bag Challenge Two to add to our collection this time – bags from Lancashire

and the Euro Tunnel (Lynn and Mike), and Dubai (Margaret)

Sight support news

Tickets are now on sale for Sight Support's exclusive Ladies Luncheon to raise funds to support local people with sight loss. This is planned to take place on Tuesday 19th May 2020. Venue: Tickton Grange Hotel. Time: 12noon – 3.00pm Arrivals from 11.45am. Tickets: £29.00. The guest speaker is Alexis Powell-Howard from Fortis Therapy and Training. If you would like further up to date information, or would like to book tickets, please contact their Fundraising Department on 01482 342297 or email fundraising@sightsupport.org.

Next meeting It's hoped that the situation will be a bit more settled by the time our meeting in June is due. I hope to do a newsletter in May, and will identify what the situation is at that time. In the meantime: keep smiling, and keep washing your hands. Best wishes Kay Slingsby