

Wansford PPG – Chairmans Report – AGM 10/9/2019

At the last AGM in September 2018 I gave notice of my intention to stand down from the Committee of the PPG at this years AGM.

This years AGM is our 39th and I have been involved since the very beginning, so my decision was taken with very mixed emotions.

I thought I would give a brief summary about the PPG (Patient Participation Group) and its beginnings, for those who are not aware of these.

Back in 1981, Dr John Holland, who was the single handed GP at Kings Cliffe Surgery, decided that the Patients should have more involvement in their local Practice (Patients have more to offer their GP's than their illnesses).

The aims of the PPG were threefold:

- To help yourself – health education talks, becoming better informed.
- To help others – The social Group, voluntary transport, prescription delivery, newsletters etc
- To help the practice. Being a mechanism for discussion and feedback. It also resulted in a large amount of equipment being purchased to increase patient comfort and care.

Dr Holland also felt there was a need to remove the sense of isolation from elderly patients in rural areas. Situations had moved on and extended families were often no longer able to offer support. To these ends he paid for a coach to go around the villages once a month and bring the elderly into a central / social environment for coffee and a chat. At that time nurses or a Health Visitor would join us for coffee and a chat. All this was very forwarding thinking within the medical community and for that we have a lot to thank the late Dr Holland. These gatherings were originally at Apethorpe Hall (now Palace!), then for many years at Laxton Hall. Since then we have met at Yarwell Village Hall and now at Kings Cliffe Active Hall. They still are well supported with 2 holidays per year and several day trips. This year it was Weston Super Mare in May and next week we are off to St Leonards on Sea for 4 nights.

We are very lucky in that when Dr Gill Tuck, Dr Amrit Takhar and Dr Rhiannon Nally joined the Practice they were all equally supportive of the concept of the PPG and Dr Takhar and Dr Nally continue to encourage and develop the PPG today.

I have been involved in Patient Participation now for nearly 40 years. I was Regional Officer for NAPP (National Association for Patient Participation) for some years and was Secretary and subsequently Chairman between 1992 and 1995. I feel the time is right to step down and for some fresh blood and ideas to take over. I have enjoyed all the involvement and seen many changes (some good some not so good!)

However I shall still be happy to continue to serve the PPG, in the background, following the 2019 AGM and to organise the group's social activities for as long as I am needed and able.

I would like to thank all the support I have had over the years, without which it would not have been possible to be involved for so long and I wish the PPG continued success and development.

Clare Wagstaffe