



unsung heroes

The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service 2008

Patient and Carer News



Issue No. 32 November 2011



Wolverhampton Coronary Aftercare Support Group

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ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL GOLF TOURNAMENT



PUTTING ON THE SECOND GREEN

In spite of the weather forecast 16th September dawned bright and sunny and at 9.00 a.m. prompt the first of 14 teams of four set off around the Penn Golf Club course.

Our thanks to Steve Barratt and our President, Gill Fenner for organising the event and to the Golf Club for their facilities, which together enabled us to raise over £1,000..

One of the teams set off with the words, "We are bound to come last". My reply was, "Don't be down in the mouth. Remember Jonah. He came out all right". I should have kept my mouth shut. They didn't win.

It is really fair to say that wherever each team came in the order of play, they all had a really good time .

Ken Timmis



Annual Dinner

After last year's successful 25th Anniversary Dinner, the committee decided to make it an annual event to replace our Christmas Meal, as at Christmas there are too many celebratory events. Also we were so impressed with the atmosphere, food and service at Penn Golf Club that we settled on the same venue.

This year 65 people enjoyed a two course meal as well as each other's company and from comments afterwards it seems that everyone went home gastronomically satisfied and feeling at peace with each other.



**EVENING CELEBRATIONS
26TH ANNIVERSARY**

Our **Patients' Friend Service** has been working quietly for a number of years now on all the wards of the Heart and Lung Centre where our heart patients are. In addition to offering counselling we also offer drinks of tea, coffee or chocolate as required. There are also some of our volunteers working in Outpatients Department where a drink is often very welcome. One of our stalwarts, Catherine Garton, is leaving us for a while to spend six months with her daughter in New Zealand, but has promised to put on her apron and pick up her teapot on her return. We are most grateful for her devotion to duty.



On the left you can see Ken Yates, our Vice President, presenting Cath with a little gift to remind her of us, watched by Eleanor Morris, the Hospital Volunteer Manager, Elaine Moreton, our Secretary and member of staff, and Emma, another member of staff.

WE ARE THE PATIENTS' FRIENDS

On 21st November Ken, our Chairman, will be giving a presentation to first year cardiology and respiratory technician students at the University of Wolverhampton as part of their course. This is an honour as well as a big responsibility, so we wish him well. His subject is "A patient's perspective of attending hospital and the importance of patient centred care and effective communication skills."



Tribute to David Geldard MBE by Ken Timmis MBE JP LCIE, President of Heart Care Partnership (UK)

David Geldard MBE was a Trustee and my predecessor as President of Heart Care Partnership (UK) as well as a leading light in many National and Manchester local Cardiac bodies, and who recently received an MBE for his cardiac work. He died suddenly on Friday 2nd September having seemed to be well on the road to recovery after a recent serious operation but sadly suffered an unexpected relapse.

David had for many years effectively championed the patient cause in heart disease across the nation and was well respected wherever he went. He was a "big man" in every sense of the word with a big character, full of warmth and humour, and he was eager to encourage others, always ready with a word of praise and generosity in his dealings. He came alongside clinicians and was always supportive of the work that they were doing and was so positive in his comments. He stood out so far among others as he championed patient representation and his achievements were recognised by all with whom he came in contact. In addition to his work with Heart Care Partnership (UK), he served as a patient representative with the Royal College of Physicians, MINAP, BHF, Department of Health, NICOR, Society of Cardiothoracic Surgeons, Greater Manchester and Cheshire Cardiac Board, as well as BCS and his cycling charities.

Our members may remember David when he presented at our patient and carer meeting two years ago. He was very well received then.

His death will leave a huge gap in all the areas in which he worked so tirelessly and he will be greatly missed by me and many others. It seems such a cheat to have failed to beat this illness when he had fought the cardiac disease so well. My heartfelt condolences go to David's family.

Professor Sir Roger Boyle CBE spoke at length of David's achievements at his funeral in Rochdale which was attended by over 1,000 people, a fitting tribute in itself.





FREE to all WCASG members 

A Patient and User Involvement Training Day

**for Black Country
Patients, Carers and Volunteers**

THE DAY INCLUDES
**National and Local Structures
 Roles and Responsibilities
 Communication Skills
 Making a Case for Change**

(FREE lunch will be provided)

either: **17th or 19th January 2012**

Venue – to be decided

Contact: **Harry Bloomer** (Action Heart) **Tel: 01384 635969**
 Or: **Ken Timmis** (WCASG) **Tel: 01902 755695**

STOP PRESS....STOP PRESS

In these times of financial cut-backs we too are seeking ways of saving money. One of the ways we can do this is by the use of Emails instead of postage.

If, therefore, you have an email address, please send it to our chairman, Ken, at ken@ktimmis.co.uk so that he can add it to our Email database record.

Thank you

**When you have read this,
why not pass it on
to a friend or relative?**

Useful Contact Numbers

President:	Mrs. Gill Fenner OBE	01902 896434
Chairman:	Mr. Ken Timmis MBE JP LCIE	01902 755695
Vice Chairman:	Mr. Ken Yates	01902 733665
Secretary:	Ms. Elaine Moreton	07534 503516

If you wish to join us as a member or help in any other way, please give your name and contact details either on this tear-off strip, or, if you wish to retain this newsletter, by writing to us separately.

Name **Telephone or Email**

Articles and comments welcome
Donations also Welcome
 Payee for cheques = WCASG

Send to: 79 Woodcote Road, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton, WV6 8LG

WE ARE THE PATIENTS' FRIENDS