KNIGHTON AND PRESTEIGNE LEG CLUB

NEWSLETTER

No. 1, March 2014

Towards the end of last year an Interim Committee was formed to represent members of Leg Club and they have decided to issue an occasional Newsletter so that everyone is in the picture about Leg Club activities.

Are you a member? If you are registered as a patient with Leg Club then you are automatically a member. Our gallant band of volunteers are also members. Membership is free.

Why is it important for you to be a member? What we want to foster is the idea of Leg Club as being a place where you can meet friends and fellow suffers, and make new friends. Come and join us, and stay awhile. Chat between us (I have leg ulcers myself) is important because it enables us to understand that we are not alone with our problems. One Thursday I was sitting drinking my coffee when a lady sitting next to me suddenly announced: 'They cut off my leg, you know.' Not the best chat up line I've ever heard, but I would have liked to have had further conversation with her about her experiences. Unfortunately the nurses called her away for examination and I never got to speak to her again.
The point of this story is that we believe Leg Club should be more of a social experience (no dancing on the tables, mind!) rather than purely a drop-in centre for treatment. Leg Club should be where people can come, and share their problems and news. Your Committee can only do so much. The success of Leg Club depends on you, our members.

So, what has the Committee been doing? Well we've been busy. Thanks largely to the efforts of our Chair and Vice Chair, Beverley Clements and Jo Davies, Leg Club has been given some handsome grants and donations. With them, Leg Club is now a going concern once more. SPAR is sponsoring us for milk and TUFFINS for tea, coffee and biscuits.

So, why do we need money, isn't it all paid for by the NHS? True, the District Nurses' time and materials are funded this way, but the non-medical side of Leg Club has to keep the show going. We need to pay rent on the room, buy specialist furniture and equipment, and produce leaflets and posters to inform the community at large, and potential new members in particular, about what Leg Club does and where it can be found.
The Committee is drawing up a Constitution to formalize the Leg Club establishment.
We are also making plans for an Annual General Meeting (possibly in March 2015) between the Committee and all members. Members will elect a new Committee for the next twelve months and it will give everyone a chance to raise concerns and issues.
We are in the process of getting some signs for Leg Club and proper donation boxes. We are holding an Easter Raffle (draw 17th April) and are planning another table sale in the summer.

Do you live in Presteigne or Norton? Last year Leg Club came close to shutting down, but Knighton Town Council appreciating the importance of our work quickly gave us a very generous £500 to keep us afloat while we looked for other funding. Presteigne and Norton Town Council, on the other hand, offered £100 on the proviso that one Leg Club per quarter be held in Presteigne. We have invited P&N Mayor Cllr Mrs Baynham to visit us to discuss the problems involved, but there has been no response. Your Committee feels that the expense and im-practicability of moving Leg Club to Presteigne occasionally far outweighs the sum offered. The offer has been declined with regret. Please speak to your Ward Councillor about this!
As many members come from Presteigne and Norton area, could you please let me know if you can think of any local organisation or charity that might help us, financially or practically?

Leg Club Times
The nurses report that there has been an increase in patients coming in for treatment at the last minute. Although Leg Club is advertised as being open on Thursdays until 12.00, please could you time your visit to between 9.30 and 11.30, so that the nurses have time to finish treatments, write up their paperwork and get everything cleared away by 12.00? Thanks.

The Newsletter Needs You!
Please send your stories and experiences of Leg Club to George Learmonth, Secretary, Leg Club Committee, 5 Offa's Way, St Edward's Close, Knighton. LD7 1AL
email: agricola@supanet.com
Anonymity is assured, if you wish it, and relatives or carers may contribute on your behalf.