

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT 2020

Welcome everyone to the Basingstoke Breast Cancer Self Help Group annual general meeting, which you know this year is being held via Zoom due to the pandemic. As many of you know, we are not a registered charity. However, I feel it is very important that at start of the every year we continue to hold these meetings as the majority of funding for the group's running costs comes from public donations.

Last year we were only able to hold two meetings, these being in January and February. We were just about to meet again in March when the first lockdown was announced. Unfortunately, the group was not able to meet again during 2020.

At our January meeting we held the AGM, election of the committee and discussed forward planning events for the year - little did we know none of these would take place.

At our February meeting, our speaker was Marion Parritt who was the Macmillan Manager of The Haven Centre in Titchfield near Portsmouth. She gave a very interesting talk on the work of the Haven Centre supporting ladies recovering from breast cancer. Unfortunately, this centre has now closed, which is a great loss not only to the local community but also to other communities in the neighbouring vicinity. My understanding for the reason the centre closed was due to funding and running costs.

The meeting in March and all subsequent meetings were cancelled. FOR THIS REASON, MY REPORT IS CONSIDERABLY SHORTER THAN MY PREVIOUS ANNUAL GENERAL REPORTS.

REFERRALS:

The number of referrals has decreased from 23 the previous year to 17 last year. I have no doubt this is due to the pandemic.

Breakdown as follows:

DTC nurses	8
Referrals by ladies of the group	3
Macmillan Cancer Support	1
Alex 5K Your Way	2
Friend	1
Leaflet/Facebook	2

I am encouraged to hear the DTC has and are continuing to refer ladies to the group, but not in the same numbers as in previous years. I have spoken to Sandi Lyford who is the clinical matron at the DTC and she has assured me that our brochures are still being included in the packs given to newly diagnosed ladies.

I think probably making enquiries about a breast cancer support group is low on the list of priorities for newly diagnosed ladies. However, I'm delighted to hear our leaflets are still being included in these packs. Unlike previous years, they are unable to add one of our date cards.

DONATIONS RECEIVED:

These totalled £1921.00 - Renee will give a breakdown of these in her report

DONATIONS MADE:

As in previous years we continue to make a donation to St Michael's Hospice and last year we donated to the Lite up a Life Christmas appeal. This donation was made in memory of the friends we have lost. We donated £240

The group continued supporting ladies by means of a £50 cheque should they need to seek medical advice which results in a hospital admission. This goes towards the costs of travel/ parking for hospital appointment, toiletries and sundries items. This totalled £300 last year. The group will continue to support ladies in this way for the foreseeable future.

Renee will outline other financial transactions in her report.

NEWSLETTER:

Grateful thanks go to Liz for writing and publishing our bi-monthly group newsletter, which she emails to all the ladies on her mailing list. The layout of these newsletters is very professional and the content very informative. For those ladies not on email, I post a printed to each of them. I know from comments I receive from the ladies how much these newsletters are appreciated and help. Thank you, Liz.

ZOOM MEETINGS

We hold two meetings a week, Saturday mornings and Wednesday afternoons. The Wednesday afternoon sessions were set up for newly diagnosed ladies, but it appears that maybe it is too early for these ladies to join a Zoom meeting, so numbers have been low. The Saturday morning zoom meetings are popular and we will continue offering both of these Zoom sessions for the foreseeable future.

I would urge ladies to consider joining one or both of these meetings. Just being able to see and talk to each other we have found it lightens our spirits, makes us feel connected with friends and has given us an opportunity to seek support by discussing any concerns we may have. As a result, when we leave our Zoom meetings, I think I can speak for us all we feel less isolated. Please do give it a try - if you don't want to join the Zoom but still be part of the meeting you can do it via your phone. Liz will send you details for you to take part.

SOCIAL AND FUNDRAISING EVENTS - ALL CANCELLED

We had organised and subsequently had to cancel all our fundraising and social events that had been arranged for during the year. These included:-

- Barn Dance at Viables
- Canal trip
- Visits to local gardens and cream tea afterwards
- Skittles evening
- Cake sale at the Basingstoke and North Hampshire Hospital
- Murder mystery dinner
- Group Christmas dinner
- Christmas party.

I'm sure we will be able to enjoy all these events these once we are able to meet again.

SUMMARY:

Looking back at the AGM report that I wrote for last year's meeting, it's hard to imagine just how all our lives have changed in a way none of us could have thought possible. Since March, life has been difficult for all of us, some more than others but I do want you all to know that I am here for you all.

Since the first lockdown in March, Macmillan Cancer Support and other cancer organisations have been very active in publishing material in the form of email and downloads. This includes contact telephone numbers for people seeking advice as they want you all to know they are there to help and support you during this very difficult time. The information ranges from financial help, counselling, on line support and much more. All this information was forwarded onto you which I hope you found of interest.

I would like this opportunity to publicly thank both Liz and Renee for all the help and support they have given me during this difficult year.

Liz for organising all our zoom calls, writing, compiling and sending our bi-monthly newsletters to ladies who have access to email. Setting up the group's WhatsApp chat line, which has proved to be invaluable brightening up our days with jokes, videos and encouraging notes for which we all enjoy and benefit from emotionally. On a personal note, I want to thank Liz forwarding the reams of information and emails I send to her asking her to forward them all onto you ladies - she does this by a click of a button whereas it would take considerably longer on my iPad. I am very grateful for her help in this area. Thank you, Liz.

Renee for keeping a close eye on the groups finances and for producing and sending me a copy of her monthly report. We have during this period received donations in the form of cheques and these still need to be deposited into the bank, which Renee kindly does for the group.

Unfortunately during these lockdown periods Renee, Liz and I are unable to meet for a face to face finance meeting. However, all the expenditure I have incurred on the group's behalf I send in the form of a finance report, which Renee transfers onto her master spreadsheet. Thank you, Renee.

As I end my report, I sincerely hope that in January 2022 our AGM meeting will be held in the Ark Conference Centre where we are able to meet one Tuesday in the month as before. I know this time is particularly difficult for us all but please try to stay positive, reach out to each other either by email or the phone. We all know how nice it is to receive an unexpected phone call and how it makes us all feel wanted. We as a group of ladies, all of whom have had and survived breast cancer, know this more than others.

Keep safe, keep well.

Angela

BASINGSTOKE BREAST CANCER SELF HELP GROUP ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
HELD VIA ZOOM MEETING ON TUESDAY 26th JANUARY 2021

AGENDA.

1. Welcome
2. Apologies for absence
3. Approval of the minutes for 2019 AGM.
4. Chair's report.
5. Treasurer's presentation of accounts
6. Re-election of committee. Lyn has resigned as secretary of the group with immediate effect. At this time, I have not received any nominations to fill this position. As we are not meeting as a group this post can be held over until we meet again formally at the Ark. I will then be asking for nominations again.
7. Any other business. My apologies to Paula for omitting to thank her in my AGM report for all her hard work and input looking after the group's website. Paula redesigned our website a couple of years ago and I think you will agree with me, it reflects perfectly what the group is and who we are. Paula is also responsible for looking after the website on a weekly basis, she uploads the minutes of our monthly meetings and forwards any enquiries made on the website for me to deal with. I have always thought our website is the group's "shop window" and I hope like me you are very proud of it. Many thanks Paula we appreciate all your help.
8. Closing remarks. I want first and foremost to thank Lyn for all her help and involvement in the group over these past many years.

1) Lyn has not only been our secretary for more years than I care to mention but also helped with fundraising activities such as the annual cake sale and her involvement in organising the Barn dance we were due to hold last year but was unfortunately cancelled.

2). For years Lyn has baked and bought along delicious cakes she made herself for our monthly meetings for us to all enjoy with our tea and coffee. Lyn has never charged for the ingredients and because of the numbers of ladies attending our meetings often bought along two large cakes plus individual ones all beautifully decorated. Without exception, she is a very talented lady.

3). Lyn has on a couple of occasions has made a cake to celebrate the group's birthday. These cakes were often decorated with candles, plus the age of the group.

4) Over the years Lyn has been very supportive of the group's fundraising activities. She has helped at the Overton Sheep Fair charity stall, cooked sausages at the Sizzling Sausage weekend outside Homebase, taken part in the group's fashion shows, organised the group's annual cake sale at the hospital, sold selling tickets for the group's annual fundraising shows and much much more.

5. Lyn has also represented the group at a cheque presentation at the Wote Street Club, joined other ladies on group outings to local gardens, the Lavender Fields , the annual canal trip and many more. Lyn also attended health and wellbeing events at the Apollo Hotel.

Lyn's formal role was secretary of the group, a position she took seriously and worked diligently producing accurate minutes which she forwarded onto Paula to upload onto our website. It was with much sadness that I had to accept Lyn's resignation as the group secretary, but family circumstances has forced her to make this decision, which I completely understand and agree with. Without doubt. she will be greatly missed

I'm sure all the ladies in the group along with me wish you Lyn, Bob and your daughter Rachel all the very best in the future and you know you're always welcome to come to our group meetings anytime. Please keep in touch with us.

I want to thank you all for joining myself and the other committee members at this Zoom AGM and sincerely hope our next one in January 2022 we will be able to meet at the Ark.

Life for all of us is very difficult at the moment but with the vaccinations being rolled out at great speed and with spring around the corner, I am optimistic that things will get better and we can all pick up the threads of our lives again. In the meantime, we need to take care of ourselves and each other.

This ends our AGM. Thank you and good night.