

Worcstershire M.E. Support Group - Chairman's Report - AGM 2015

Dear All,

Another year gone and another AGM on 23rd September. At the AGM we will have to discuss and make changes to our ME Group. These changes will need to be made for many reasons. Those serving on the committee or involved in running meetings or helping with the group are getting fewer each year. We are all getting older, have other commitments that take priority, as life dictates, and there has been no one new joining the committee/group to help as back up, or share jobs such as running a meeting. None of the above is difficult, but it always relies on the same few who are often unwell, but have carried out these jobs for a long time now.

Membership is again very low, although quite a few people have attended a few meetings for free, but did not join the group in the end. Attendance at meetings is often only 1 or 2, sometimes nil (Worcester, Malvern, Kidderminster). Not good use of funds having to pay for the room hire.

In my opinion, the most worthwhile meeting is when a new person arrives, usually very apprehensive and worried by their symptoms/diagnosis and leaves after the meeting so relieved and in control of where to go and how to proceed to get further help. Just finding out that others have all the same symptoms and problems gives them an instant rise in spirits and relaxation. The same occurs when a new contact telephones me. Although it is usually a long phone call, that's fine with me and does not incur room hire costs.

So do we need to hire rooms? Could others do it all by emails, web sites, forums, etc? Should we have luncheon meetings instead of hiring private rooms? We have the funds for room hire, but no members to run the meetings.

I will continue for another year to hold meetings in the Worcester and Malvern areas and with telephone contacts. Kidderminster area will require someone to run it if it is to continue, as both Warwick Davis and Audrey Hammond want to step down after many years. The same goes for Pershore meetings, as Phill Moss has wished to step down for several years, but has continued as no one had offered to take over. Pershore, I believe, also has another informal meeting each month.

My thanks to all who have helped with the group for yet another year, without your efforts we would not have been able to continue, especially those who have run the essential positions or have helped cover them, such as run the group meetings, website, emails, forum, telephones, etc. Also thanks to all those who continued helping while handing over jobs to a new person. Please excuse not writing a list of names here (I might forget to include somebody), but their names are on our paperwork, current and previous.

Please give us your support at the AGM, or before, by any method. How best should the Group continue?

Ian Logan