

Worcestershire M.E. Support Group

Annual General Meeting

The Malvern Cube, Albert Road North, WR14 2YF

Friday, 23 September 2016, from 2pm - 4pm

AGENDA

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of last Worcestershire M.E. Support Group AGM - 23 September 2015
3. Matters arising
4. Chairman's Report
5. Financial Report
6. Present committee members and position holders (2015/2016) - see page two.
 - a. Election of Group Officers (Chair, Secretary and Treasurer) for 2016/2017
 - b. Election of Group Committee for 2016/2017

More nominations are welcome from M.E. Group members from all areas of Worcestershire - see page two.

Please post or email your completed form, with your nominations (by Wednesday 14th September), to

- **Ian Logan**, 1 The Old School House, Church Lane, Martley, Worcs, WR6 6QA,
- **or, worcsmegroup@yahoo.co.uk**

If there is more than one nominee for a position, a vote will take place at the AGM, (including those nominations received prior to the AGM).

7. Group Positions / Contacts
We need more people to become involved in the group as members for it to continue - would you consider helping?
8. The Group's future.
Will our group continue? - see pages 3 and 4 'The future of the group'
Bring your suggestions to this meeting, or let Ian Logan know beforehand.
9. Any Other Business
10. Date and location for next Committee meeting - to be decided at the AGM.

Refreshments available, all welcome.

Election of Group Officers and the Group's Management Committee Current positions, as at 22 August 2016 <i>(and whether able to stand again)</i>			Yes / No	I Nominate ... [enter his/her name below] for this position <i>Please obtain the person's permission before you do this</i>
Chair	Ian Logan		Yes	
Secretary	Esther Swinnerton (Acting Secretary)		No	
Treasurer	Peter Goodbury		Yes	
Committee members	Warwick Davis Esther Swinnerton		Yes No	
Vice Chair	Warwick Davis		Yes	

Group Positions / Contacts Current positions, as at 22 August 2015 <i>(and whether able to stand again)</i>			Yes / No	I am prepared to volunteer for the role indicated (even if already filled by someone else as assistance is always required)
Area Contacts	Bromsgrove - Vacancy.....	.....	... ..
	Droitwich - Stephen Woodfield ....	.....	Yes	
	Hagley - Warwick Davis .....	.....	Yes	
	Malvern - Ian Logan .....	.....	Yes	
	Pershore - Vacancy.....	.....	... ..
	Redditch - Jackie Elston .....	.....	No	
	Worcester - Ian Logan .....	.....	Yes	
	Wyre Forest - Coral Shelley .....	.....	Yes	
Fundraising Contact	Vacancy		... ..
Group Lunches Contact	Warwick Davis		Yes	
Internet Forum Moderator (s)	Jill Pigott		Yes	
Membership Secretary	Peter Goodbury		Yes	
Newsletter Editor	Esther Swinnerton		No	
Patient Contact with NHS LMDT	Caroline Carver		Yes	
Parents/Children's Contacts	Vacancy		.....
Publicity/Press Contact	Esther Swinnerton		No	
Webmaster	Mark Pigott		Yes	

Suggestions/ comments	
Print Name	Signed

NB. Nominations and voting should only be made by group members.
Please return completed form by Wednesday 14th September, to Ian's address on page 1 – thanks.

Group Annual General Meeting

The possible closure of the group will be discussed at the 2016 Worcestershire ME Support Group (WMESG) Annual General Meeting (AGM). This important meeting will be held at the Malvern Cube in Albert Road North, Malvern WR14 2YF on Friday, 23rd September, starting at 2.00pm.

The future of the group

The possible closure of the group has been discussed in the past and committee members sense that this is now imminent. The only way that the group might continue is for people to step forward to be practically involved in the running of the group either by the AGM, or at the AGM, be they people with ME or their carers. Many of the tasks could be shared, particularly the Secretarial and Newsletter Editor positions, plus it is useful to have two people sharing the Area Contact positions.

The membership has been reducing (it currently stands at 27); the number of venues for group meetings has shrunk to three, with the number of leaders down to two. Currently the Droitwich meeting continues with Stephen Woodfield as its leader, whilst Ian Logan leads the meetings in Worcester and Malvern.

Jill Pigott used to be our secretary; she carried on doing this work for several years despite wanting to resign because nobody could be found to take over. The group has benefitted from having Esther Swinnerton as our acting secretary for the past two years but because of her ME she is stepping down at the AGM. The Group definitely needs a person(s) to take over this task at the AGM onwards.

The remaining officers are Ian Logan as chairman, Warwick Davis as vice-chairman, and Peter Goodbury as treasurer; all of whom have had ME for some considerable time. They unanimously agree that unless others come forward by or at the AGM to take on positions of responsibility, they will be proposing at the AGM that preparations be made to close down the group, and that a date for an Extraordinary General Meeting be agreed to vote on closure of the group, that an agenda for such a meeting should then be created and distributed at least 14 days before the date of the EGM. If this route is to be followed, the three officers would be willing to carry on in their positions for as long as it might take to wind up the business of the group, possibly by the end of 2016, and propose that subscriptions of current members' be carried through to the point of closure.

Should the group dissolve then the group's website (<http://worcsmegroup.weebly.com/>) would also close but could be reopened under another name if interested parties were able and willing to do so. Articles that might have appeared in the group's newsletter could be placed onto the new website. The internet forum might be revitalised were there to be no regular meetings in the county.

The current situation is that with the help of new volunteers the group could continue but probably at a much reduced level of activity for the present. The following are suggestions as to how this might work out:

- proceeding without the monthly group meetings - perhaps reducing these group meetings to 2-3 per year at just one or two venues;
- mothballing the concept of a regular newsletter until someone feels able to restart its production;
- only having occasional lunch gatherings; as these have generally been poorly supported to reduce to say three or four each year.

Were continuation to happen along the above lines it is thought that a reduced subscription would be applied.

It might be that without these former activities, or at the best reduced activities, that folk would communicate more by phone, email or via the internet forum on the website. The majority of the group's reserves might be dispersed to those carrying out research into ME, possibly leaving a start-up fund against the possibility of the group being revitalised at some future date.

Should no help materialise by the AGM, then our option would seem to be to close down the WMESG.

- the finances of the group would be dispersed in line with the constitution (available at <http://worcsmegroup.weebly.com/about-us.html>), as would the group's few assets.
- the financial records of the group would have to be kept for a number of years for legal reasons (probably by the treasurer).
- the lists of people and their contact details would also be kept in case of any perceived need (by the chairman);
- maybe some would wish to continue with communicating over the Internet under a different name; others may join them.

Please let us know your thoughts, and whether you can help the group in any way - give Ian a ring on 01886 888419, or contact him by post or email (by Wednesday 14th September),

- Ian Logan, 1 The Old School House, Church Lane, Martley, Worcs, WR6 6QA,
- or worcsmegroup@yahoo.co.uk

For those able to attend the AGM, please note that as well as roadworks on the Worcester southern ring road, new roadworks in the Malvern area have started and diversions are in place - you may need to allow a few extra minutes to your journey and for parking at or near The Cube.

Many thanks for reading this

The current committee members:

Ian Logan (chairman), Warwick Davis, Peter Goodbury