

# CROHN'S & COLITIS UK

FIGHTING  
INFLAMMATORY  
BOWEL DISEASE  
TOGETHER

## OXFORDSHIRE Newsletter

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### The Start of Another New Year

It's often a time of reflection at the start of a New Year. Thinking about what the next twelve months will bring and remembering those who are no longer with us to share our experiences - good and bad.

As I'm writing this not long after the election, I wonder if you may well be looking forward to a terrific new life, free from worry and concern, as Boris has promised to sort everything that needs sorting!

That's not meant to be political, just a recognition of what all parties were promising in the lead up to the election. The proof of that particular pudding will unfold over the next five years, particularly with regard to the NHS.

In October we held our latest AGM at the Meeting House in Oxford.

Unfortunately the weather was awful with heavy rain for most of the day, particularly in the afternoon when the AGM was taking place.

Maybe this was one of the reasons for the disappointing attendance figures.

We try hard to meet the expectations of our members but there seems to be a reluctance to engage.

We understand that some are unable to travel, some don't *want* to travel the distance as Oxfordshire is a large county and, wherever we hold an event, some members will be travelling long distances.

Whatever the reason, we try and carry on regardless and, generally, we seem to be able to continue being successful.

The AGM meeting was thoroughly enjoyed by those who *were* able to attend. We were very grateful to Sarah Sleet, who is the CEO of Crohn's and Colitis UK, for giving up her time at a weekend to come along as our guest speaker.

She gave a very interesting talk about what goes on at Head Office. Some of us in the Oxfordshire Network can remember how the charity started in the late 70's/early 80's, literally out of someone's front room.

Now we are talking about a major player in the charity market with a turn over of just over £6million, of over 70 staff at the headquarters in St Albans and nearly 41000 members.

If anyone wanted to learn more

about what goes on there and what all those people do, visitors are more than welcome, indeed welcomed, so if ever you wanted to go you would be more than welcome.

The photo shows a presentation to Sarah of a cheque by yours truly for £3000 which was very gratefully received.

We hope we are meeting your needs, if you have any suggestions as to what we could do better, please let us know.

In the meantime a sincere happy and **healthy** New Year to all our members.



Dave Lee

# Open Meeting at the JR in February

In the “old” days, our only method of communication was to send out a printed Newsletter by post to our members two or three times a year. These days we are spoilt for choice as we have a website, a Facebook page and email.

There are two consequences of this.

1. Some of you will get duplicated information as you will receive it by more than one of the above methods.
2. Some of you still require the hard copy Newsletter by post as you are not able - or choose not - to take advantage of digital options.

So as you read this, it will either have come through the post and there will be some documents enclosed, or you will have received it via email and there will be some attachments giving full details of the event

Either way, the information is regarding an Open Meeting on 4 February at the John Radcliffe Hospital. You should be able to read a flyer and a copy of the agenda. Hopefully you will agree that the evening looks very interesting and we look forward to as high a turnout as we experienced last year at a similar event. It includes the chance to ask a team of experts questions.

It starts at 5 for 5.30pm and last years’ meeting was very well received. The only negative comment in the feedback was travelling to the JR. Now anyone who has ever had to visit the hospital will be aware that it can be difficult - to say the least!

Please understand that there is no real alternative to using the JR as the venue for a number of reasons but, if you’ve never visited the JR in the late afternoon, *usually* all the traffic is coming the other way and you should be able to reach the hospital relatively easily and, at that time of day, there is *usually* plenty of parking.

So please try and come along, it will be great to see you. We will have a stand there so come up and say hello. Sarah Sleet will also be there and she is giving one of the talks.

One thing you should be aware of is the need to register which you can do by visiting

**<https://openeve-cc.eventbrite.co.uk>**

As we’ve mentioned above, we realise there are a number of you who do not have access to the internet so will be unable to register via that way unless you can get a friend or relative to do it for you.

Be assured that if you turn up without registering, you won’t be barred from entering the venue. The reason for the registration is so we can try and evaluate just who and from where delegates turn up on the day. Last year we were a little overwhelmed and had no idea of who were members, who were hospital staff etc., etc.

So, if you can, please register. If you don’t have internet access, you can always give us a ring on **0300 222 5700** or drop us a line on;

**31 Brinkinfield Road, Chalgrove, Oxon. OX44 7QX**

#### Contacts

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