

PPG Open Meeting 17/7/18 at Hannage Brook



Following an introduction by chair Chris Saunders in which she referred to the current national problem of loneliness, we had an extremely interesting talk by representatives of Hope Care Line. This voluntary organization has been running since 2011 and with 17 volunteers provides telephone support 365 days a year for, currently, 17 users living in Hope Valley. They explained to us how their organization was set up, how it functions, and how successful it has been. This was of much interest to us all and Dr Blackwell wondered whether we might be able to set up a similar system in Wirksworth. The visitors explained the problems of setting up their system, but clearly it had been well worth the effort. They would be happy to show us their file.

Moira Knowles provided an update on the WISH group which meets every Thursday and is growing in strength. They too are well aware of the problems of loneliness among all age groups and in Derbyshire it is a problem in rural areas.

Sue Stockwell invited suggestions for future open meetings from our members. Contact can be made via Hannage Brook.

Dr Penny Blackwell spoke about efforts to deal with loneliness in Duffield. It was felt that there could be better publicity for the various social groups which already meet in Wirksworth.

Chris Saunders reported on the success of the Memory Café which meets monthly, and the aim to make Wirksworth a Dementia Friendly town, which is progressing well.

Sandy Tomlinson gave an update from Hannage Brook:

The focus on DNAs seems to be having positive results though the practice still has some areas to look at.

Our links with AGS are improving following careers talks from Dr Packer and Anna, and we are aiming to help with a Young Persons' Fair in the spring term which will focus on both physical and mental health.

Staff changes – Dr Bernadeta Bridgwood will be replacing Dr Williams; our new advanced practitioner will be Nurse Ruth Regan, and 3 new registrars will be starting soon. A new receptionist will be recruited soon.

Roy Pearce reassured members that the new management at the leisure centre was very positive and had already begun to improve facilities there.

Another member praised the support he has had from WISH

In conclusion, Chris Saunders thanked everyone for their support and said that in the fullness of time we should look to set up something like the Hope system.

Kindness is powerful – pass it on!