

## Chair Person's Report

For anyone who doesn't know it was March 26<sup>th</sup> 2009 that a group of New Pond Row Patients met with Drs. Starbuck and Bartlett. Shortly afterwards the New Pond Row Patient Participation Group was formed, formalized by Constitution, Launched at Lancing Parish Hall with its' first AGM taking place on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2011. I always find it hard to define our group, as all patients of a practice are automatically members of its' PPG, however to conduct business, ensure good practice etc. a representative group is necessary, so this is how I would describe the NPR PPG about which I write.

As can be understood from the above, this is our Second Annual General Meeting. The Group holds Four Full Meetings and Six Committee Meetings Per Annum.

To date most of the Group's activity has been fund raising based, helping to provide NPR, or perhaps more accurately its patients, with equipment over and above that considered the normal expectation of NHS provision. NPR and its PPG are extremely grateful for donations and all patients are most welcome to further information re: the use of these.

As at outset it remains another of the Group's aims to facilitate specialized Groups, such as for those living with chronic health conditions, bereaved, in need of other support. However the difficulty has been ascertaining what fellow patients feel their needs to be. Despite much advertising etc. the feedback from patients has been virtually zero, therefore is hard for this team to work to any skills and needs matches. So please fellow patients of NPR, let us know your feelings, thoughts, needs and wishes, then we can do as my title said, represent you. Thank You.

We have been most fortunate in that the core of our group has remained, with very few resignations. Currently we have one member on sabbatical due to health problems, our most treasured Minute Secretary and Newsletter Editor Ernie left us and for me the saddest news for years was Dr. Bartlett's need to move onto a different geographical area. Along with Dr. Starbuck, Dr. Bartlett was most instrumental in facilitating the birth and growth of NPR PPG. Therefore I use this opportunity to greatly thank Dr. Bartlett & Ernie and to wish the member on leave a return to better health and to us.

On the flip side, The Group has been blessed with some new members, just now I can think of five, all delightful, all kind, all wonderful gifts. One of whom has taken the role of Publicity Officer, another as Newsletter Editor, both very active and Committee Members. Thank You. My gratitude also goes to our initial Treasurer whose expertise safeguarded the Group's finances and kept everyone abreast of same, as he has since most kindly taken on the role of Minute Secretary of our Full Meetings. Our Committee does a grand job and I am extremely thankful to you and to all active members, regretfully space prohibits the elaboration I would choose and is so greatly deserved.

For NPR PPG to succeed in more than name/presence only, it needs active members, doers. It is good to see regular faces at these core group meetings but unfortunately just attending meetings will not achieve the Group's Aims, Objectives or Mission, thus in addition to what for now I'll call 'closed meetings' (purely due to room and to allow for structure, business, the bonding and belonging of a team) I would like to see interim open meetings, or information sessions so that the attendance of NPR Patients can swell, some Cluster Groups be formed, maybe such as 'Friends Of NPR PPG', more skills can be embraced and a wider stage for representation can be set. This of course can only result if Patients make it happen, so if you are interested or you know a NPR Patient who may have the time and motivation etc., please let me or a colleague know. Thank You.

Although this doesn't necessarily tie in with the number of AGMs, I and several Committee Members have held Office since NPR PPG's outset. All current committee members have offered themselves for re-election. The outgoing Treasurer is willing to remain on committee in a different capacity but the role will now be covered by two people, a Treasurer and an Assistant, this being a vital post for the continuation of NPR PPG two members could help to safeguard its longevity, provide holiday cover etc. Now to your Chair Person! I was elected to this post quite soon after the Group's initial gathering in March 2009 so although time of office not really running concurrently with AGMs, does mean that in practical terms I have reached the three year term as laid down by our mutually drawn Constitution. Due to absence of a replacement I have said I will stand for a while longer **if** a Vice Chair/someone to shadow me comes forward. At time of writing no one has, so I am not able to update further until the actual AGM. For anyone unaware, the Group does not have to have a Chair to continue but must have an Administrator/Secretary and a Treasurer. **So please enable your NPR PPG to continue.**

As my epistle needs to reach its close I use my last few lines to urge everyone to regularly check our Notice Board in NPR, to look at our Website (via NPR Surgery's), to share their time and skills with us and other fellow patients and to read our Newsletters. The latter, whilst PPG drawn also embrace information regarding NPR Surgery, Your Surgery, so in my opinion well worth a read.

Heartfelt thanks to Dr. Starbuck, Dr. Bartlett, Derek & All At NPR for the wonderful care they give to so many and to my PPG Colleagues for their input, support and friendship.

*Your PPG Looks Forward To Another Year Of Service  
... Hopefully Bigger And Better ...  
'By Patients For Patients'*

With Appreciation And Affection  
**Charmaine Skinner – Chair Person**