

267th Meeting, Thursday 2nd November, 2017, Mount Vernon Hospital

1. WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Welcome: The Chairman, Joan Davis, welcomed all present including guests, particularly our guest speakers from St Marks Hospital, Northwick Park, Dr. Ayesha Akbar, Consultant Gastroenterologist, Dr. Omar Faiz, Clinical Director and Colorectal Surgeon, and Matthew Fitzpatrick, Divisional General Manager.

Apologies: Valerie Rees (*League of Jewish Women N'wood*), Mary Perkins (*Mountwood Patients*), Herbert Levinger (*N'wood Hills RA*), Tony Ellis (*Northwood Live at Home Scheme*), Valerie Mellor (*N'wood RA*), Connie Evans and Chris Hickman (*Oak Farm RA*), Carol Melvin (*Ruislip, N'wood and Pinner Conservatives*), Donald Edwards (*Ruislip RA*), Liz Segal (*Vine Lane RA*), Janet Baddeley, Jane Galbraith, Mark Grimwade, Susan Grunewald, Barbara Kalopsidiotis, Barbara Porket, Trikam Vadher (*Ind. Mems.*)

2, GUEST SPEAKERS: Dr Akbar, who opened the presentation, joined London North West Healthcare Trust in 2009 and is currently that Trust's Research and Development Director, but on this occasion all three speakers represented St Mark's Hospital. Dr Faiz and Mr Fitzpatrick particularly contributed in response to audience questions. Their main points were as follows:

a. In 1835. Dr Frederick Salmon, tired of working within the medical establishment after disputes with management at the Aldersgate Street Dispensary where he worked, set up his own "Fistula Infirmary" for "relief of the poor inflicted with fistula and other diseases of the rectum".

b. Privately funded and largely for outpatients, by 1838 larger premises were needed and, on a site adjacent to Smithfield Market, St Mark's was born. A butchers table from the market was his first operating table!

c. Charles Dickens became a grateful patient. Suffering from anal fistula, he was operated on in his own home by Frederick Salmon and subsequently gave the hospital a donation and several autographed copies of his work.

d. By 1854, further expansion required the next move, to City Road, initially with 24 beds. Donations from Prince Albert helped to offset major debts.

e. When he retired in 1859 Salmon had performed, no less than 3,500 operations without a single fatality, at a time when anaesthetics were in their infancy and antiseptics unknown.

f. The scale and scope of the work of the hospital went on expanding, reflected in 1909 in its new title "St Mark's Hospital for Cancer, Fistula and other Diseases of the Rectum"

g In 1948, Sir Francis Avery-Jones was appointed as St Mark's first gastroenterologist. His pioneering work, including peptic ulcer treatment, led to him being known as the "Father of British Gastroenterology".

h. St Mark's moved to Northwick Park in 1995, amalgamating with London North West Hospital NHS Trust in 2014, where its international reputation for clinical excellence and groundbreaking developments continues to grow.

i. It is a national centre for endoscopy, one of only two UK centres of excellence in intestinal failure and a leader in intestinal transplantation.

j. In short, St Mark's is now acknowledged as a leader in virtually every field of gastric medicine from research to treatment.

After answering many questions, the speakers were thanked by Jon Spain on behalf of the audience. They left the hall accompanied by sustained audience applause.

Part II

There were no issues that members wished to raise from the speakers' presentation.

3. MINUTES OF LAST MEETING: The Minutes of Thursday 5th October were agreed and signed.

4. MATTERS ARISING: There were no matters arising from the Minutes.

5. URGENT BUSINESS:

- **Items on display in the outer hall:** Reports from NHS Board meetings held in public were available for collection, also posters for our meetings December 2017 to February 2018.
- **Misleading Uxbridge Green Party leaflet .** The Chairman reported that a delegate had contacted her about an Uxbridge Green Party leaflet that caused him concern, which stated that North West London is facing a big cut in NHS funding. She was very surprised by this information and made enquiries which assured her that there was gross confusion on someone's part, but it is possible that a warning in a NHS public document that the NHS must make changes to avoid future debt may have been wrongly misconstrued as a reduction in funding. The Chairman had not seen the relevant leaflet – nor had any member of the audience – but she hoped her report would reassure members.

6. OPEN FORUM:

a. Issues in our October news-sheet:

- **Our Hard of Hearing Campaign:** There was discussion on how this campaign can be carried forward and members were urged to participate. Anyone can take part. Delegates are asked to involve their own members. If we empower the public to ask simple questions the total impact can be huge.
- **Editor for our website:** The Chairman reported that our news sheet request for a website editor was unsuccessful. She noted that no technical skill is required as the job requires only reading and simple updates which would be provided. She suggested that possibly members' children or grandchildren might be interested in responding to this request as being website editor of a voluntary organisation could be a useful addition to a CV.

b. Discussion options:

- **Topics for discussion in January:** The agenda for January is currently open but will possibly include brief reference to :
 1. A review of our "Hard of Hearing" campaign
 2. An opportunity to suggest speakers or topics for our 2018 programme
 3. A discussion on our news sheet purpose and format.

Members are invited to suggest other topics to the Chairman.

5. ANY OTHER BUSINESS:

- Members were reminded that although we do not take up personal cases we are pleased to record personal experiences after the meeting, for our records.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday. 7th December when the speaker will be Dr. Peter Ostler, Senior Consultant Mount Vernon Cancer Centre, updating us on news from the Cancer Centre - business will be kept to a minimum so that we can adjourn early to welcome in the festive season in our traditional manner.

Closure: The meeting was closed at 9 .25pm.

Chairman

Mrs Joan Davis

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Hon. Treasurer

Mr .Jon Spain

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