



## Dates and Programme for 2021

Tuesday 17 August - Carol Redfern, Blood Bikes  
 Monday 27 September - Dr Rudralingham, Consultant in Oral  
 Medicine  
 Tuesday 9 November - Samaritans  
 Monday 13 December – Christmas lunch

## Committee Members

Chair - Christine Hacking 07980 398109  
 Secretary - Joan Smith 0161 766 4669  
 Treasurer - Mel Smith 0161 766 4669

Stephanie Skinner - 01706 662388  
 Chris Hodgson - 0161 654 8963  
 Ian Hodgson - 0161 654 8963  
 Martyn Warburton - 0161 797 9730

## Future Items

If you have any items for future newsletters or mini reports on the meetings please contact Joan Smith 0161 766 4669 or [joansmith.parrfold@btinternet.com](mailto:joansmith.parrfold@btinternet.com)

## Sad News

I am sorry to let you know that Yvonne Burbery passed away recently. Yvonne's son has Myeloma, but as he has gone back to work it was Yvonne who attended the meetings. We send sincere condolences to all the members of Yvonne's family.



West Pennine Myeloma Support Group

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## Next Meeting

Our Next meeting will be on **Tuesday 17th August** at the normal time of **1.00 p.m.** We are delighted to say this will be our second face-to-face meeting this year. As the Elizabethan Suite is being used as a Vaccination Centre we are meeting in the **Fusilier Museum** on Moss Street. Directions and full address are below.

Our speaker will be Carol Redfern from the charity, **Blood Bikes**. If you don't know about this important charity it will be the opportunity to find out!



## Meeting in person again

It was lovely to have the opportunity to meet in person again. After Rachel's talk, we reintroduced ourselves as we felt as it was a long time since we had been able to meet, we might have forgotten each other's names. It was lovely the way people introduced themselves and were very open about the stage they were at in their treatment.

MYEWORD

Please note that we ask you to follow COVID guidelines, wear a mask on entry, hand sanitise and keep socially distanced.

## Previous meeting (Rachel Beezley, Pharmacist)

Members were treated to a very informative and enlightening presentation given by Rachel Beezley, Adult Haematology Pharmacist at Manchester Royal Infirmary. Initially Rachel outlined her professional career to date which gave members a general sense of the commitment pharmacists make to a lengthy period of study in a very exacting discipline. As the presentation moved forward Rachel's passion for the role and her obvious commitment in doing her best for patients suffering from a variety of 'haematological' conditions became very much evident.

Detailed information around the role of the Pharmacy Team (in terms of 'what do we do?') described how adult haematology pharmacists (there are five at MRI) liaise with colleagues as part of a wider disciplinary team in order to facilitate timely treatment for all new and existing myeloma patients. Preparing chemotherapy options, processing of prescription receipt through to final check and release of same to the wards and day units was described, along with information relating to Pharmacy Clinical Trials, Outpatient Services and the use of targeted treatments by drugs, cycle and dosage. Rachel outlined too the common side effects of different myeloma drugs, the role of inpatient services, myeloma patient numbers and the involvement of pharmacists with autologous/allogenic transplant procedures.

Members raised a variety of questions ranging from the cost of drugs used, differing combinations of drugs and why they may work better for some patients than others, side effects (potential hair loss, impact on peripheral neuropathy), and importantly, if there were any future advances in drug treatment options for myeloma on the horizon. Rachel was extremely knowledgeable responding to all the questions and suggested that if a member had a specific issue not covered she was most amenable to being contacted directly at MRI.

Joan thanked Rachel on behalf of the group for her presentation and wished her well for when her new baby arrives.

*Many thanks to Martyn Warburton for this*

## New Venue

At least for the next couple of meetings, we will be moving to the **Fusilier Museum, Moss Street, Bury, BL9 0DF.**

This is in the town centre, near the Town Hall. There is on street parking nearby (free if you are a blue badge holder) and it is only a few minutes walk from the Bury Interchange. We will ensure there is someone to direct you at the museum.



Town Hall

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Photo of Fusilier Museum



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