

Dates and Programme for 2021

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



West Pennine Myeloma Support Group

Issue 82

December 2021

Next Meeting

Our Next meeting will be the **Christmas Lunch** at **Owens Restaurant, 10 Railway Street, Ramsbottom BL0 9AL** on **December 13th at 12 noon**. If you have not already booked it is now too late to do so. If for any reason you are no longer able to come please contact Joan on 0161 766 4669.

If you are not coming to the lunch then we wish you a Merry Christmas and look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Christmas Shopping



Do you do online shopping? Did you know that if you use Amazon Smile they will donate 0.05% to your chosen charity which could be Myeloma UK. Or if you buy from other stores, e.g Marks and Spencer go to **Easy Fundraising** first and then search for the store. A donation will be made to your chosen charity which can vary. Both ways of fundraising are at no additional cost to you.

MYEWORD

Dates for 2022

We have started to plan the programme for next year and will take other ideas at our AGM in January.

Monday 10 January – AGM and Quiz
Tuesday 22 February – Fusilier Museum – Paul Dalton
Monday 4 April – Welfare Benefits
Tuesday 17 May – Dr Phil Crea, Consultant Haematologist MRI
Monday 27 June - tbc
Tuesday 9 August - tbc
Monday 19 September – Underground Manchester, Keith Warrender
Tuesday 1 November -tbc
Monday 12 December - Christmas Lunch



Christmas Lunch : December 13th, Owens Restaurant, **12 noon**

Previous meeting (Samaritan's Talk)

We had a very comprehensive and interesting talk on the work of the Samaritans. The two Ladies who came were currently two of the twenty thousand in this work. These ladies were from the Bury Branch which has forty members.

Some of the details they stressed were to be good at listening, not to give advice to the caller and to use open questions. It is most important to be patient to give the client time to respond. The ladies said the calls were in complete confidence, between the two Samaritans and the client.

Some of the organisations suggested to help the client if needed were Social Services, Mental health groups, Housing organisations and a telephone link for help.

At the end of the talk there was ample opportunity to ask questions. Thank you to the speakers for a full and informative talk. *(Many thanks to Chris Hodgson)*



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



CONFUSED !! - DIFFERENCE BETWEEN COVID-19 THIRD JAB AND BOOSTER

Vulnerable patients could be missing out on a life-saving COVID-19 vaccine as confusion grows over the difference between the third dose and a booster, Myeloma UK has warned.

Concern has been expressed that some GP's and clinical specialist teams don't quite understand that a third primary vaccine is part of an immunocompromised Myeloma patients' vaccination schedule and that people with weakened immune systems will need a booster **after** they've received their third dose.

The two are not interchangeable and must be offered in the right order. Patients offered a booster instead of a third dose may be missed off the list of people eligible for a booster further down the line – which is crucial to maintaining their protection against COVID-19. The Joint Committee on Vaccination have said that a third dose should be followed by a booster around 6 months later.

Further confusion about who is responsible for identifying patients in need of a third jab and/or booster can complicate matters too. The decision of who is eligible for a third dose of the vaccine is up to a patients' clinical specialist team who contact patients' GPs. But, when it comes to identifying who should be receiving a booster, the decision falls to GPs and vaccination centres.

Myeloma UK have created a letter to help patients experiencing difficulties explain eligibility for a third COVID-19 vaccine to a healthcare professional. This can be given to your GP and/or haematology team to inform them about your need to receive a third vaccine and not a booster. More information via Myeloma UK's website: visit COVID-19 Information Hub Vaccine FAQs.

(Many thanks to Martyn for this information)

Christmas Lunch : December 13th, Owens Restaurant, **12 noon**