



# WRSRG Newsletter

WOLVERHAMPTON RHEUMATOLOGY SUPPORT GROUP

Charity No 1041181

CARING IS SHARING

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**Please note;**

July will be our last summer coffee morning. We all have a break during August to hopefully soak up some sun.

Therefore, our next coffee morning is Monday 07 September 15. We have some good numbers attending our coffee mornings so far, lets keep it up. Thank you Joyce for arranging the information sessions, it's not always an easy task.

## **Coffee Mornings**

**Monday 06 July 2015**

10 30am – 12 30pm

(Doors open at 10 20am)

Linden House

211 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton.

WV6 0DD

## **Tigi Fashions**

A fashion show for all to enjoy, Tigi Fashions are based in Beatties and have a wonderful array of clothes, no buttons or zips to worry about.

**Please remember that it will be cash sales only on the day.**

**If you have any queries regarding the coffee mornings please ring Joyce Knibbs  
Mobile: 07539949723 (Monday –Friday)**

**Or**

**email:[jansimpson03@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:jansimpson03@yahoo.co.uk)**

## Dates for your Diary

### **Coffee Morning - 07 September 2015**

Julie Hibb will be joining us to discuss ways to self manage arthritis.

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### **Annual AGM 21 September 2015**

(further details in the next Newsletter)

Linden House  
211 Tettenhall Road, Wolverhampton.  
WV6 0DD

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## OUTINGS

### **Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July 2015**

WRSG 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Strawberry tea at Gunstone Hall, Whitehouse Lane, Codsall. WV8 1QQ

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### **Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2015**

**(Christmas Lunch Trip)**

**Warner's Leisure Hotels  
Alvaston Hall Cheshire**

There is still time to join us for a Christmas treat at Alvaston Hall. This day outing includes:

Mulled Wine Reception  
3 Course Christmas Meal  
Annual festive Pantomime

Spend the rest of the day enjoying the Hotel's facilities walk or shop or just relax in the lounge areas.

£38 per person

**A £10 deposit per person is required as soon as possible for this day out.**

Please make enquiries about any of these events to:

**Mary Allen. tel: 01902 685682**

(Please note Mary's new telephone number)

## NEWS ROUND UP

### **Sister Barbara Douglas**

**Clinical Nurse Manager**

**(Rheumatology)**

Barbara came along to our Coffee Morning on the 08 June, to introduce herself and to explain her vision for the Rheumatology department and patients.

Firstly, she explained that the merger with New Cross and Cannock Hospital was a good thing, it will mean bigger and better service. New Cross / Cannock will have the best RA department. Since Barbara came to Wolverhampton 5 months ago, three new consultants have joined the RA team, they are – Dr Sabkota (male) Dr Bateman (male) and Dr Raizada (female).

As you are all aware Dr Newton has retired. At this point in time Dr Dixey has taken on Dr Newton's patients.

The RA department is hoping to recruit seven nurse specialist to support the consultants in the team. In addition to supporting the consultants the nurse specialist will write letters of support for P.I.P, Blue Badge, care's allowance etc for patients if requested.

The plan is for consultants to rotate between New Cross and Cannock Hospital.

When asked, Barbara confirmed that if you are not happy with the consultant you are seeing, you have the right to ask for someone else, your care will not be compromised.

Since coming to New Cross Barbara has made already improvements, the help line being one of them. This is now open Mon to Fri 10.00 till 4.00. the phone is answered or the answer phone comes on, so make sure you leave your details when prompted, you will receive a return call to make sure you receive the help you need and if necessary you will be seen as soon as possible.

Also Barbara is insisting patients have their blood results. She believes that by knowing and understanding your blood results and medication it assists you in managing your condition better. It is important you discuss these issues with your consultant and or nurse.

A better understanding makes for better control and self- management of your condition.

**Watch this space;** Barbara says there is an evening clinic in the pipeline for New Cross.

Also she would like to introduce Community RA Nurses in Wolverhampton. Community nursing is something close to her heart as she set this up in Tamworth some years ago, with some 2000 RA patients being seen in their own home if not well enough to travel to the hospital.

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**WRSG committee has already received positive feedback, our group members have nothing but praise for the efficiency of the improved Help Line.**

**Telephone Help Line 01902 695491**

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### Healthwatch, Wolverhampton

Tracy Creswell also came along to our coffee morning on 08 June to tell us about Healthwatch.

Healthwatch is an independent service, to make sure you can have your say about your health care and social care. This could be your GP, Hospital, Podiatry, etc. Staff can offer support to help you make choices about the services you need.

If you have views, concerns or suggestions to improve the services in Wolverhampton you need to have your voice heard, Healthwatch will listen and look into these things on your behalf.

They would like to hear about your experiences, good or bad, this includes services you use or need to use and are still waiting for help.

Healthwatch Wolverhampton are based at  
16 Temple Street, Wolverhampton, WV2 4AN

Phone – 01902 426 271

Email – [info@healthwatchwolverhampton.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchwolverhampton.co.uk)

Website – [www.healthwatchwolverhampton.co.uk](http://www.healthwatchwolverhampton.co.uk)

Healthwatch are looking for volunteers who will help with research, attend meetings and assist around the office. If you would like to volunteer please use the contact details above to make enquiries.



### BLUE BADGE HOLDERS

WRSG has been advised by the Blue Badge Scheme, Wolverhampton, that in an attempt to resolve delays and problems in obtaining or renewing your Blue Badge, a new system was introduced in June 2015.

Libraries will offer a check and send system and will take passport like pictures for the application form, free of charge. You will receive accurate feedback regarding progress on any application.

You are able to apply on line, at home or on a courtesy PC in the Civic Centre, or ring 01902 551155 for a hard copy of the application form. Text messages will soon be used to notify you if the team require more information from you. Please remember NO reminders are sent to you, so check your expiry date and allow up to 12 weeks for the badge to be issued.

The cost remains at £10.00.

You could be fined if you use an out of date Badge.

As a group we need to feed back to Wolverhampton City Council regarding the new system. Please notify Jan Simpson of your experiences, good or bad, in order for her to report back to the appropriate bodies. Your name will not be disclosed, all feedback will be done under the name of WRSG.

Also, as a group we are not allowed to make enquiries about your application on your behalf unless named on the application form. Therefore, should you wish to, you may name a committee member as the person you are authorising to discuss progress of your application.

Liz Walker - 01902 563751; Joyce Knibbs - 01902 862198 and Jan Simpson- 01902 834248

Please check with the person you wish to nominate prior to putting their name on your form.

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### Support for Carers in Wolverhampton

A carer is anyone who provides a significant amount of support for a relative, friend or neighbour on a regular basis without payment. Being a carer involves many things, supporting or keeping a check on someone, or full time caring role.

Wolverhampton's Carer Support team support carers in a number of ways, they offer practical and emotional support.

A carer provides support to a person with a disability on a regular basis and does not receive payment for that care. The person you provide care for must live in Wolverhampton and is either in receipt of or entitled to a Community Care service.

As a carer you are entitled to an assessment of your own needs. You can ask for an assessment yourself.

A Carer's assessment can be completed at the same time as the assessment for the cared for person or at a different time and place. After the assessment you will be told what support services are available to you. You may be eligible for a personal payment for the care you give.

The team offer support, training, social events and activities, monthly meetings and much more.

More information can be obtained on the website, it makes good interesting reading.

All contact detail ;

Phone: **01902 553409**

Text phone: **01902 553404**

Email:

[carer.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:carer.support@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

Website: [www.wolverhampton.gov.uk](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk)

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### Road Works Queens Square & City Centre

(Quick Update)

Joyce and I attended a meeting concerning the changes to the City Centre. Steve Randall, Project Manager advised he will send a full report on the road works together with a map explaining what is planned for Wolverhampton.

Meantime, Steve and Paula Lewis assured us that there will be more facilities, pick up and drop off zones with blue badge users in mind. Also it was confirmed that taxi's and vehicles displaying a blue badge will be allowed to pick up and drop off in Queens Square.

The full details will be published in our newsletter when available.

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### Wolverhampton to Cannock Hospital.

The 68 and 70 bus services from Wolverhampton to Cannock Hospital will remain the same during the day. However the evening services has been withdrawn. The service was not being used enough to continue.

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**Jan Simpson (WRSG Secretary)**

**The views expressed in this Newsletter are taken in good faith and are not necessarily endorsed by the editor of the WRSG.**