



Newsletter

Issue 26 : April 2018

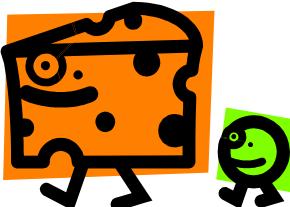
In this edition.....

**Message from Brian
Medical Detection Dogs Visit
Annual General Meeting
Future Events**

**PSA Testing Report
Living with and beyond Cancer
Cycle to The Moon, Save a Dad**

.... and don't forget to go to www.avpcs.org.uk for more news

Message from Brian



This is my last contribution to the newsletter as Chairman. You will all be aware I have mentioned on numerous occasions that this current year would be my last in the role, and at next month's AGM we will be looking for someone else to pick up the Chairman's gavel and continue with a fresh pair of eyes and new ideas. Not that I haven't enjoyed playing an active role over the years, and I will continue to offer my support to our group where I can. I know also that Roger, our Secretary, also plans to stand down as Secretary due to his many other commitments. I do hope we have members who might consider putting themselves forward at the AGM for these roles, which really are not that onerous. In fact, we have already had some who have offered their services to fill the various roles Roger has been carrying out. Please think about offering your services to keep our group going onwards and upwards.

PSA Testing Report

Our PSA testing day at Aylesbury Masonic Hall on Saturday 7th April was a fantastic success - probably our most successful ever with 165 men tested. Thanks to the hard work of the Graham Fulford Charitable Trust and our support group helpers no one had to wait more than a couple of minutes. It does seem word is spreading about the need for men to get tested. A vote of thanks must go to the team that helped on the day – Brian, Jim, Alan, Richard, Neville, Peter and others. We are also grateful to the Masonic Lodge for offering us the venue, including refreshments, at no charge.



Medical Detection Dogs

Members of our group recently had a return visit to the Medical Detection Dogs Centre near Winslow, Bucks. Readers may already be aware of the good work and world-leading research being carried out there, either as a result of the previous visit or from a recent two page spread in the Daily Mail!

The centre was established 10 years ago after a worker at the Hearing Dogs for the Deaf had her breast cancer "diagnosed" by her dog. That lady, Dr Claire Guest, went on to found the centre with support from HRH Princess Anne, Mr & Mrs Ian Duncan Smith and many others to the point where they have trained more than 200 dogs now working as Medical Assistance Dogs and over 30 others who are in training and performing research at the centre daily.

The breadth of the work being undertaken there is amazing. Young dogs are trained and assessed, with those suitable becoming Medical Assistance Dogs, detecting the presence of allergens or blood sugar levels, etc in the person they are protecting, before it becomes dangerous. Others are trained to detect specific smells from an array of samples, and though it is possible that any ailment might be detectable one day, at the moment they are concentrating on researching the detection of Prostate Cancer from urine samples and Parkinson's Disease & Malaria from sweat samples. They are also researching the detection of other cancers, bacteria & viruses while working with other centres of excellence to develop electronic "noses".

There is worldwide interest and support for this work and a four-fold expansion of the centre is underway. The old expression that there is no such thing as a free lunch holds true for the dogs too. They are rewarded by treats whenever they perform correctly but if they work hard and get too many treats they then don't get any dinner to avoid them putting on weight! The whole facility is full of lovely, lively, friendly & happy dogs, some working - who wear red "jackets" while performing, and some



waiting, but no dog stays at the centre overnight as they all go home with either staff or volunteers who bring them back the next morning. While there are a variety of dog sizes & breeds at the centre, one common factor is the length of their snouts - which gives an enhanced ability to detect the critical smells.

If you wish to read more about their good work, their web site can be found at medicaletectiondogs.org.uk or keep a look out for our next organised visit. We presented them with a £200 donation on behalf of the AVPCSG, but if you wish to

help them more or volunteer their email address is fundraising@medicaletectiondogs.org.uk

Finally, one statistic which shows the difference between the Human & the Canine sense of smell - The best "Super Smeller" Humans can detect one part in a sample of 10 Million while these clever dogs have been found to be able to detect one part in 1 Trillion = 100,000 times more sensitive!

Living with and beyond Cancer

At a previous meeting we had Fiona Tearle from Macmillan talk to us about cancer services in Buckinghamshire and the survey she was conducting. That work is now complete and there is a chance for you to hear the feedback she received, at an event in Aylesbury on Thursday 24th May. Details are given below.



WE'D LIKE TO INVITE YOU

**WE ARE
MACMILLAN.
CANCER SUPPORT**

**...to help us develop our
Living With Cancer and Beyond
treatment services in Buckinghamshire**

**24th May 2018, 9:30am – 2:30 pm
The Oculus, Aylesbury Vale District Council Offices,
The Gateway, Gatehouse Road, Aylesbury, Bucks HP19 8FF**

We received feedback from over 200 Buckinghamshire residents undergoing cancer treatment or living after treatment, or from their families and carers.

Come to our workshop to learn what people told us and help us develop our plans for the future.

This event is an opportunity for your voice, ideas and opinions to be heard as we work together to improve services.

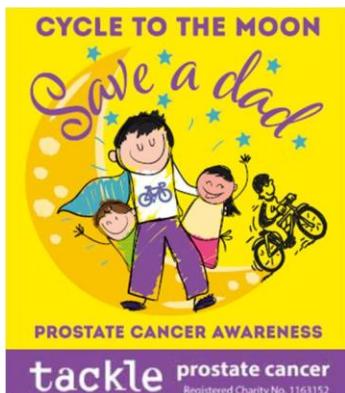
**Please contact lwbc.bucksccg@nhs.net to book your place
Refreshments provided - please advise of any dietary requirements
If you require support to attend this event, please let us know**

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM will be held at Chinnor Rugby Club on Tuesday 15th May. Please note this is a **TUESDAY**, not Monday. This is your opportunity to provide us with feedback on how the group is going and to raise any ideas you might have going forward. We need to elect a new Chairman and agree how we organise the Secretary's role going forward (Membership, Communications and Events). John Brown CBE, our Treasurer, has kindly agreed to continue in his role. We would like to see as many members attend as possible. Please email Roger or phone him on 07818 404004 to let him know if you can make it to the AGM.



Cycle to the Moon, Save a Dad



The Federation's major event for this year is Cycle to the Moon , Save a Dad, where it is encouraging support groups to organise cycling events to rasie money for its Save a Dad campaign. The target is to raise £250,000 (It is 250,000 miles from here to the Moon.) For more information see www.tackleprostate.org. We are looking into planning a family fun ride for our group. If anybody wishes to offer their help in organising a sponsored ride please email Roger (see email at foot of page).

Future Events

Please make a note of these events in your diary

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| Tuesday 15 th May | 12.00 – 14.00 | Our AGM at Chinnor Rugby Club |
| Tuesday 12 th June | 10.30 – 16.30 | Tackle AGM/Conference, Edgbaston |
| Thursday 30 th August | | Bucks County Show, Weedon |



Dates for Summer BBQ and meetings from September to be agreed

Brian

Roger

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