

St James LTSG North West Meeting, Beesley Green Community Centre, Worsley. 8th April 2017.

Janet welcomed everyone to the meeting on a cracking Saturday afternoon. As usual we had a great feast with a number of delicacies including a selection of pasties provided by David "Mr Pasty" Fielding. Our thanks to everyone who brought food and raffle prizes.

We welcomed a new member, Mike Davis from Stockport, to his first meeting.

We were also able to welcome JoJo W-L to her first meeting after her transplant and Steven, her husband, effused his gratitude at having the woman he married back.

As usual we went round the table with introductions and this led to some lively and interesting discussion not least to highlight the impact of our transplant journeys on our family, friends and carers. It certainly made me reflect again on how much my journey had impacted those around me. It was good to share different perspectives on our illnesses and we had many expressions of how our group had helped patients and their carers with coming to terms with their journeys. Providing a listening ear or a comforting and supportive word had really made a difference.

Janet and I mentioned meetings we have been having with our Liver Unit Matron and her team with a view to strengthening our links and working more closely with them to be able to help them with purchase of much needed equipment from the funds that our members raise. We have been looking at formalising our volunteering activities on the ward.

We have also been working on a new leaflet design to promote our group in the clinics and the ward. And we are working on a Newsletter. Watch this space.

JoJo mentioned that she was hosting a pop-up meeting in the Barton Arms, in Worsley from 12.00 on Monday 8th May followed by a canalside walk.

There will be more pop-up meetings in various locations across the North. All will be advertised.

We closed the meeting with a raffle which raised £76

My thanks to everyone that attended.

Alec