

# U.G.I.

## Upper G.I. Blues

Raising Awareness Of & Funding Research Into  
Upper Gastrointestinal Cancers.

# Newsletter

# April 2017

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Raising Awareness of & Funding Research into

Upper Gastrointestinal Cancers

Registered Charity No 1124418

92 Brackendale Drive, Walsall, WS5 4BU

Phone 01922 864404. E-mail

[uppergiblues@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:uppergiblues@blueyonder.co.uk)

Patrons; Professor David Gourevitch M.B, Ch.B., M.D.,  
F.R.C.S.

Mathew Marsden.

See our web-site [www.ugiuppergiblues.org](http://www.ugiuppergiblues.org)

Facebook/[uppergiblues](https://www.facebook.com/uppergiblues)

Upper G.I. Blues is a support group for upper gastrointestinal cancer patients and their carers. The group is staffed entirely by unpaid volunteers and is financed by public donation.

## A Full House for Sandwell Upper G.I. Blues Meeting

We had a full house for our first meeting in our new venue of the Ground Floor Conference room at Sandwell. After meeting in the main reception area of the hospital, by the wards entrance, we were taken through to this new temporary venue by Jo Harvey and Kath Johnson. Being in a secure part of the hospital meant that we had to be bleeped in by Jo or Kath to be shown the room and facilities available to us. We were a little concerned about refreshment facilities and had brought in flasks of hot water in case we could not get to a suitable water supply to fill our urn. We need not have worried as the small kitchen there has a wall mounted boiler for making tea and coffee, a better facility than we had at the MEC.

We had three guest speakers at this meeting, firstly Dr. Nigel Trudgill who spoke to us about bringing the new service of Radio Frequency Ablation to Sandwell Hospital and how this treatment worked.

Our second speaker was Mellissa a young lady from Healthwatch Sandwell, the organisation that looks into all the NHS services offered in the borough including hospitals, GP surgeries, walk in services and dentists. These are the people you contact if you have any concerns about your NHS treatment in Sandwell. Forms for contacting this service should be available at your GP's surgery and at most pharmacies.

Our final speaker was Kelly Jetson from "The White House" the cancer support centre in Dudley. Having found out about our group Kelly wanted to introduce us to the services that are available to cancer patients and their carers throughout the Black Country offering emotional and practical support. Services available include Support & Information, Counselling and a range of complimentary therapies including aromatherapy, Indian head massage, massage, reflexology, reiki and relaxation. There is an Upper GI support group who will be meeting at 2pm on the second Tuesday in June, September and December. For enquiries into what services are available and to make bookings contact The White House, 10 Ednam Road, Dudley, DY1 1JX, phone 01384 231232 or email at [info@support4cancer.org.uk](mailto:info@support4cancer.org.uk).

All services are free but a £5 donation towards running costs would be appreciated.

## £42,000 Donation to Sandwell Hospital's Endoscopy Suite.

Upper G.I. Blues made a donation of £42,188 to the Sandwell & West Birmingham NHS Trust following the request from senior gastroenterologist Dr. Nigel Tudgill for help towards the purchase of a Haloflex Energy Generator so that treatments for Radio Frequency Ablation can be carried out at Sandwell Hospital



Dr. Nigel Trudgill accepts our cheque for £42,000 from Brian Childs

This very important piece of equipment is used in the treatment and removal of early stage cancerous and non-cancerous tumours in the oesophagus and stomach. Until now when early stage tumours have been discovered by endoscopy at Sandwell, doctors have in some cases been able to remove the tumour by using the procedure called Endoscopic Mucosal Resection (EMR). With this method a tubular probe with a banding system is used alongside the endoscope. The scope then finds the microscopically small tumour and the tubular probe is used to suck up the surface of the lining of the gullet to form a polyps over which is fired a small elastic band that cuts off the blood supply. A fine wire snare is then placed around the base of the polyps and an electrical charge burns off the join and seals the wound. Although this can be very successful there is a chance that not all of the tumour is removed. There is also the chance that there may be several small tumours that have developed in the one site and successive bandings by EMR can leave an area of scarring leading to further problems.

Radio Frequency Ablation is a totally different approach to the treatment of early stage tumours. Carried out in the endoscopy suite with the patient under sedation the endoscope now fixed with a special radio frequency probe which is equipped with a small balloon fitted with minute electrical contacts is directed to the tumour. The balloon is then inflated so that its surface makes contact with the complete contact with the lining of the gullet or stomach. The computerised probe makes sure that the balloon has full contact and calculates the depth of the treatment needed

to destroy the tumour. An electrical signal is then sent to the probe and the contacts on the balloon burn off the surface of the lining of the stomach or gullet destroying the tumour. The probe is removed and the lining surface regenerates leaving a healthy lining without any scarring. The entire process takes around thirty minutes.

This new treatment, with the full cost of the energy generator paid for by Upper G.I. Blues will be offered to patients across the Black Country with gastroenterologists from Walsall Manor and Dudley's Russells Hall hospitals already agreeing to refer patients to Sandwell for treatment. It is hoped that patients from Wolverhampton's New Cross hospital will also be referred for treatment. This would mean that not only patients in the area but the four NHS trusts involved would be getting the best value from our investment. This could also lead to fantastic savings for the NHS if tumours are caught early enough not to require a full oesophagectomy. The cost of each probe used in the treatment is around £2000, this compares to the cost of around £15,000 to £20,000 for the full theatre operation and following hospital stay.

## The Next Meetings

The next meeting of Upper G.I. Blues is on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> April 2pm at Walsall Manor hospital where the guest speaker will be Specialist Gastroenterology Registrar Dr. Mathew Harbourne.

There is a meeting of the QE support group on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> of May and Sandwell group meet again on Wednesday 24<sup>th</sup> May.

## Book Your Tickets For Our Take A Chance Show



You can pre-order tickets for our special Take a Chance show featuring leading ABBA tribute group stars on Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> October before they officially go on sale in June by phoning or texting Brian on 07906 358320 or e-mailing [uppergiblues@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:uppergiblues@blueyonder.co.uk). The show is at The Robin 2, Mount Pleasant, Bilston and tickets are just £12 per person. Because of limited seating at this venue it is best to pre-book to reserve a table. As well as the Take a Chance stars there will be a support act and a special charity auction, we hope to see you there.