

# U.G.I.

## Upper G.I. Blues

Raising Awareness of & Funding Research Into  
Upper Gastrointestinal Cancers

# Newsletter

# December

# 2017

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Upper Gastrointestinal Cancers.

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## Ewen Griffiths wins Christmas Party Prize Draw.



Mr Ewen Griffiths won the prize draw at our Christmas party at the Holiday Inn, Great Barr. The prize of a bottle of wine was part of the celebrations put together by the hotel that provided us with our best Christmas party ever.

On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> November patients, carers, supporters and the clinical staff who are part of Upper G.I. Blues got together for our annual Christmas Party. This was our first time at The Holiday Inn at Great Barr and this turned out to be the best venue we have ever used. Patients, carers and supporters were joined by members of the clinical staff who look after our group. We were able to give a



personal thank you to gastroenterologist Dr. Nigel Trudgill and his wife Jenny, UGI surgeons Miss Sonia Puig and Mr. Ewen Griffiths and their respective partners Damien and Susan and oncologist Dr. David Fackrell as well as our

own team of specialist nurses Jo Harvey, Kath Johnson and Claire Smith for all of their dedicated work.

An excellent meal, Kate and Jo both praising the fish choice, was enjoyed by everyone. The wines provided on the tables and the free bar helped towards the party atmosphere.

The disco that followed the meal was perfectly aimed at our party members with music that everyone could connect to and enjoy. As usual Steve Clare was the star of the show as his dad



Ivor wizzed him around the dance floor.

Although Dr. Fackrell and my old mate Alan Woodall did run him close as the last two to keep their party hats on. I have sent our thanks to everyone at The Holiday Inn and told them we hope to be back there next year with even more of our friends joining us for a great night out.



### Our Next Meetings

Walsall Manor Hospital hosts our next Upper G.I. Blues meeting on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> December. As yet a guest speaker is to be confirmed, but as this is the last meeting of the year expect mince pies etc.

The first meeting at our new venue at Sandwell Hospital, in the Education Centre ( new name for the old MEC) opposite the

Hallam Restaurant is on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2018. A number of speakers have been invited but need to confirm.

## A New Venue For Sandwell Upper G.I. Blues Meetings

I am really pleased to announce that Upper G.I. Blues support group meetings will be back at Sandwell in the new year. We will be in the newly rebuilt and refurbished education centre, with room 9 booked for meetings in January, March and April. I hope that more of you will be willing and able to join us at these meetings that inform you of new ways of treating UGI cancers, keep you up to date with what is happening with clinical services at our hospitals and most of all give you a chance to get together with other patients and carers who are going through or have gone through similar situations to your own. This not only lets you learn from others but lets you pass on advice to others as well.

These meetings are always enjoyable, informative and most of all informal. Here you will get the chance to chat with doctors, nurses and other patients about anything and everything and you will be amazed at how many times you will hear things that connect directly to you. More information about the times of meetings and our guest speakers will be in “Our Next Meetings” section.

Meetings will be on Friday afternoons, this has been found to be the best day for us to get guest speakers. The meetings will start at 2pm, tea, coffee and light refreshments will be served. This room has theatre style seating with each chair having its own fold down table for you plate and cup, very posh.

There is free car parking at all of our meetings but because the main car park is always very busy at this time we advise that you park on Outpatients parking, Little Lane entrance and walk past the MRI building and along the footpath to the Education Centre.

A Very Happy Christmas  
to All of Our Patients,  
Carers and Supporters at  
Upper G.I. Blues.



And a Happy and Healthy  
New Year

*From Brian & Kate.*