

Garway Medical Practice Patient Participation Group



Minutes of Special Meeting on Thursday, 28 June 2018 in Pickering Hall

UNDERSTANDING MEDICATION

The date of this special meeting had to be changed because, on application, it transpired that the venue was not available on the agreed date of Wednesday 27th June. Every effort was made to inform members of the change of date. But in spite of widespread distribution of flyers and requests for members to indicate whether or not they were likely to attend, the uptake prior to the meeting was disappointing and the unexpected excellence of the performance of the England football team meant that our meeting would coincide with a crucial game in the World Cup. All of which led to some despondency about likely poor attendance and to thoughts about possibly cancelling the event.

However, it was decided to go ahead and members arrived early to prepare the venue for the meeting and Angela Reeves had provided refreshments which, at the height of our 2018 heatwave, would prove invaluable.

In the event attendance way exceeded our best expectations and more and more chairs had to be put out to accommodate patients as they arrived.

Odetta Pakalnyte from Healthwatch had booked two pharmacists to speak at the meeting and they were Grainne Dunphy and Gwen Hopkins. They were a brilliant double act. Many of the patients attending were elderly and all expressed anxieties about managing their own medication which often consisted of multiple prescription drugs to be taken at various and often confusing frequencies. It was always going to be difficult to prevent patients from talking about their own personal medication problems and anxieties but Grainne and Gwen were so clever in the way in which they dealt with them sensitively and steered their answers back from the particular to the general. Feedback from the patients has been very appreciative and the event was just perfect for our community practice.

Dr. Phornnarit was in attendance throughout and was able to answer specific anxieties as they were expressed. Afterwards he said how invaluable he had found the interaction with patients in this public forum and expressed his appreciation for our efforts. It was first such meeting we have attempted and if others we have planned go half as well, it will have been worthwhile.

After much lively discussion, co-chair Christopher Penfold brought the meeting to a close at 8:00 pm with a vote of thanks to Grainne Dunphy and Gwen Hopkins and to Odetta Pakalnyte for her help in setting it all up.

DATE OF NEXT MEETING

In the light of past experience of poor attendance during the summer holiday period it was decided to postpone our next members meeting until Wednesday September 26th at Pickering House.