

# Buzz Bulletin

**April 2023**  
**Edition 4 Vol. 8**

Newsletter of the  
North Hampshire Prostate  
Cancer Support Group



## *Welcome to the Buzz Bulletin*

### Chairman's Chat



**N**ew Chairman – Keith Jones

At the AGM in March, I was elected to be the new chairman of the NHPCSG. Unfortunately, on the day before the meeting I tested positive for Covid, yes, it is still around, and so, disappointedly, I was unable to attend.

Therefore, for those who were at the AGM and were wondering who I am or for those who were unable to attend the April meeting, I thought I would start by giving you a short summary of my background.

- Married and live in Winchester.
- Retired 3 years ago at the end of March 2020 at the age of 66 after a career in accountancy and IT working primarily in manufacturing companies. Hardly the best of timing as we went into lockdown two weeks before I retired.
- Diagnosed with Prostate Cancer December 2020, 4:3 on the Gleeson Scale with an extremely large prostate.
- As a result, I underwent a radical prostatectomy in Southampton General at the start of June 2021.
- Post surgery I have suffered from medium incontinence and am now on a waiting list to have an artificial sphincter fitted.
- My interests include
  - Sport, in particular rugby.
  - Going to see live music, I have a very broad taste.
  - Cake baking.

### DIARY DATES

**Thursday 4th May**  
**Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke**  
**Pub Pint and Chat**  
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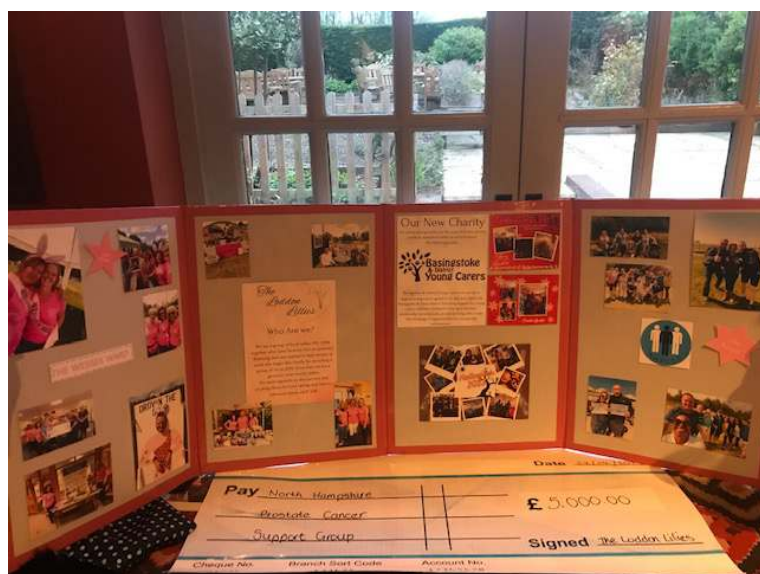
**Sunday 14th May**  
**Festival of Transport**  
**War Memorial Park**  
**Basingstoke 11am to 4pm**  
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**Thursday 25th May**  
**Group meeting**  
**Speaker from Majestic Wines**  
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**Thursday 1st June**  
**Red Lion Hotel, Basingstoke**  
**Pub Pint and Chat**  
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**Thursday 29th June**  
**Group meeting**  
**Presentation by Sarah Gray**  
**Tackle Prostate Cancer**

## Lodden Lilies



As Allan wrote in the last edition of Buzz, the Lodden Lilies completed their fund raising on our behalf at the end of 2022 and one week ago I attended a presentation at the White Hart in Sherfield on Lodden in the company of other committee members for a formal presentation of a cheque for the funds raised.

As has previously been explained, the Lodden Lilies select a worthy cause each year and then carry out various fund-raising activities throughout the year. For us, one of these was a sponsored parachute jump by two of their members.

The first recipient of their fund-raising was the Wessex Ward at Basingstoke General Hospital and their 2023 cause is the Basingstoke and District Young Carers, a most worthwhile cause.

Already this year two of their members have completed the Reading half marathon, raising over £1,000. They will be present at the Sherfield on Lodden Village Fete on 10<sup>th</sup> June, so if you are around on the day, please give them your support.

## Basingstoke Festival of Transport

This year's Festival of Transport will take place on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May in the War Memorial Park, Basingstoke. Once again, we will be in attendance with a stall promoting our group and more widely, the organisations that support Prostate Cancer research. A number of members have volunteered to support our stall, but if you think you can spare even one hour on the day between 11am and 4pm, please contact Allan Roper at [info@nhpcsg.org.uk](mailto:info@nhpcsg.org.uk). Your support will be much appreciated.

**Finally**, it is an honour for me to take on this role and I am looking forward to meeting and speaking to everyone in the coming months. Please come and say hello at the next meeting.

**Keith**

## April Meeting



**A**t the Group meeting we treated to a fascinating talk from one of our own members, Roger Bensaid Pi FEI. His talk was entitled 'From Rebel to Writer via pigs and palette'. After rebelling from his father's RAF roots his ambition was to be an Army, white helmet display rider. Instead he joined up as a soldier in the Royal Corps of Signals as an electronics technician. Destined for greater things he was commissioned

into the Royal Army Ordnance Corps specialising in Oil and Petroleum Installation, but supplying any and all of the needs of the army. In this role he travelled the world, from the peace line in Cyprus to wonders that are Belize.

After leaving the Army he put skills in fuel supply to good use getting involved in UK pipeline fuel supply lines, storage tanks and road tanker distribution. All vital to the our everyday lives. His next adventure was in PIGs - Pipeline Inspection Gauges. The devices are used to clean debris from the insides of pipelines, and/or make non-destructive measurements of pipeline internals. This led inevitably to a career in Oil and Gas Industry operations management. Of course Roger was still a Reserve Officer in the Army where he was variously Commanding Officer for Ordnance Disposal, Ordnance Supply and Squadron Commander for support roles. Finally he became a Consultant specialising in Compliance and Trouble shooting both in the UK and overseas, which had him visiting both commercial and military installations.

In retirement Roger has been able to pursue his interests, which include a house in France where the adjacent farmers love to use their ancient harvesting equipment to bring in the crops and he is able to exercise his first love of painting and produce works of art, many of which have been exhibited at an Art Gallery near his home in France. And finally, Roger is a published author. Despite his difficulty in obtaining an English 'O' level he has already written a trilogy of novels, with the forth in the series on its way and some children's books which have been translated into four foreign languages (the fourth being English!!!).

Who knew we had such a talented gentleman within our midst. Thank you Roger for a most interesting talk, we can't wait to hear part 2.

**Richard**



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## Your New Committee

**Keith Jones** - Chair

**Richard Holt** - Deputy Chair

**Allan Roper** - Secretary and Membership  
Secretary

**David Jannetta** - Treasurer

**Keith Bunker** - Publicity

**Martin Budd** - Webmaster

**Mike Davies** - Webmaster

**Brian Blanchard** – Guest Speaker Co-  
ordinator

**Roger Bensaid**

**Brian Tidbury**

**Basingstoke Neighbourhood Care** is a free service offered to people in Basingstoke who need help. Their website highlights the ways they can help for instance in driving patients to appointments.

**Basingstoke Neighbourhood Care**

Contact: Web Site: <https://www.neighbourcare.com/>

Tel: 01256 423855 Email: [info@neighbourcare.com](mailto:info@neighbourcare.com)



If you have subjects you would like publishing in YOUR newsletter please send them to us using the contact information



## Some Useful Web Contacts

Macmillan Cancer Support with  
advice relating to coronavirus  
Prostate Cancer UK advice at  
Macmillan Cancer Support at

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/coronavirus/cancer-and-coronavirus>

<https://prostatecanceruk.org/>

<https://www.macmillan.org.uk/>

## Group Meetings

**Brighton Hill Community  
Association Hall**  
Gershwin Court  
Basingstoke.  
RG22 4NN

Meetings are held on the last Thursday  
of every month except December



**Together we are Stronger**

## Contact

For more information

call or text: 07377 430242

email : [info@nhpcsg.org.uk](mailto:info@nhpcsg.org.uk)

website: [www.nhpcsg.org.uk](http://www.nhpcsg.org.uk)



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