



NEWSLETTER February 2011

Only eight months away from Conference 2011 and we are happy to announce the details as follows:

**15th/16th/17th September
Macdonald Holyrood Hotel
Edinburgh**



Following the success of Conference 2010 we are returning to the venue for a 2nd year. A return visit gives us the opportunity to use last years experience to ensure an even smoother running event so 2011 will be even better. We also learn and act from your feed -back forms so you will see items and changes you have suggested in the forthcoming programme. We like to provide the workshops you want and we are already setting up some as requested. Please continue to let us know what you want for your conference by phone, letter, email or now by Facebook.

The SCCSG Facebook site contains a discussion page and we hope that this can be one way of keeping communication open between conferences. We hope to run a workshop this year to help us all utilise tools like Facebook.

We are delighted to announce that our two key note speakers will be Dr Rosalie Dunn and Dr Roelf Dijkhuizen



Get the date in your diary now and look out for further details and application forms in the next few months. Keep an eye on the web site for updates.



Important Funding Information.

Macmillan Cancer Support is making a significant change this year with the administration of their Training and Conference grant system.

Macmillan has proposed giving SCCSG a sum of money for us to allocate to groups for delegate attendance at Conference. From this we will still be able to cover delegate fees for a number of members of each group to attend. We are not clear yet as to how much help we will be able to give for travel costs. We are hopeful that financial difficulties will not prevent anyone from attending but ask Groups to look into fundraising for their travel whilst we ascertain just how this is going to work. Details will be on the application forms and on website and Facebook as and when they become available. We must emphasise that we wish to continue as we have in the past in making sure that all who will benefit from the Conference will be able to attend.

Guest Speakers 2011



Dr Rosalie Dunn

The Haven in Blantyre was opened by local GP Dr Rosalie Dunn, who was concerned at the lack of support for families who were living with the emotional and practical impact of life-threatening illnesses on everyday life. The Haven has been recognised for excellence in its work and its commitment to improving the quality of human life and making a real difference to the health of the community.

Dr Dunn has recently retired from General Practice and will be concentrating on her work as MCN Lead Clinician, Macmillan GP Facilitator and Cancer Lead.

Dr Roelf Dijkhuizen

Born in Holland, Dr Dijkhuizen studied Tropical Nutrition and worked for short spells in Africa before he took up Medicine. Immediately after graduation he came to the United Kingdom in 1988 and worked in the London area for 4 years. After obtaining his MRCP he came to Aberdeen Royal Infirmary to pursue a career in infectious diseases but before completing his training he was invited to set up an Acute Stroke Service for Grampian. During this work he became interested in the patient pathways across Primary and Secondary care and Medical Management. In April 2004 he was appointed Medical Director for NHS Grampian. He has joined the Board of CLAN Cancer Support Centre as Medical Advisor.





Highlights of Conference 2010:

Extract from the Convenor's report:

Convenor's Report - Bill said that this year's Conference theme is "Listening" and there was a varied, interesting and busy programme ahead. All delegates who are part of support groups, or provide therapies or counselling, or other services to those whose lives are affected by cancer are all used to listening. It is extremely important that those who need help are given the opportunity to be listened to! He encouraged delegates to use this conference to think about how they and/or their groups go about helping people. We all need to keep focusing on the support we provide and how we can adapt it to better support those in need. Bill said Conference had very appropriate speakers - Professor Sir Kenneth Calman and Dr David Reilly - as during their careers they have both felt it very important to listen to what patients were telling them.

Bill said that whilst stepping down from the convenor role, he will remain on the committee and was delighted to do so. Being part of this conference is a tremendous experience. He said that this is one of the most enjoyable events around and he knew that the Committee are very proud of it, and thanked the attendees for making it so.

Taster Therapies

For the first time we added taster therapies to our fringe evening which proved so popular that not all delegates managed to fit in a slot. We will have therapies available again in 2011 but will organise in such a way that all who wish will get an opportunity. We will also follow up on the Protecting Vulnerable Groups legislation and how it affects our groups.

Piper

Conference ended on a high note in 2010 with the stirring sound of the pipes so wait and see what we have in store for the finale of 2011!

Conference 2012

Looking ahead, committee members have visited a possible venue for 2012. It is getting increasingly important to book ahead and contract to fixed terms as venue costs are increasing all the time. It is a long time since conference has met in Glasgow and there is a wonderful conference centre at the Beardmore Hotel on Clydebank. All the conference rooms and bedrooms are of a high standard as is the food. We found the staff pleasant and helpful and the communal areas large and comfortable. The hotel also has leisure facilities. The hotel is adjacent to the Golden Jubilee Hospital and is part of NHS Scotland. We want to gauge opinion of future delegates as to whether the close proximity to a hospital might detract from the weekends enjoyment. Please visit the web site and let us know what you think. www.thebeardmore.com

Newsletter

In an effort to cut down postage costs I will be sending this newsletter to group leaders where appropriate for distribution. If you need more or there is anyone else you would like to receive this then please let me know: claredavidson@btinternet.com





SCOTTISH CONFERENCE OF CANCER SUPPORT GROUPS

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2011 CONFERENCE COMMITTEE

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As an organisation that holds information, we are required by law to ask those who are on our mailing list if they still wish to receive mailings from us. Should you wish not to remain on our mailing list or if the information we hold on you is incorrect, please contact us immediately by calling Clare on 01224-647000 or emailing her at: claredavidson@btinternet.com so that we can make the necessary alterations.