

# Somerset Local Group

## Annual General Meeting

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> April 2019



Somerset  
Local Group

### Opening

The second AGM of the Somerset Local Group was opened by Wendy Hughes, the group organiser.

### Organiser's Report

Looking back over the past two years...

It is a pleasure to be able to start my report by commenting on the fact that Somerset Coeliac group has now been going for just over two years. So first of all, I would like to thank my committee members, current and past, who have put such a lot of hard work into shaping this group and keeping it going. I would also like to thank you, our members, who continue to support us, grow in number and support the events we run.

In the last 2 years, I feel we have achieved a lot:

- We have set up our own group that covers the whole of Somerset.
- We have an email address and Facebook page, both of which are well used.
- We have managed to raise a few hundred pounds to help finance our group.
- We have held a number of events across the Somerset area; including Fish and Chips suppers at Glastonbury; coffee mornings/afternoons in Taunton, Burnham and Weston super Mare, as well as our AGM's. Other committee members have also held a cream tea afternoon and we attended Wells Food Festival last year.
- We have, through our events, managed to support manufacturers and businesses who themselves support us. For example, our 2 events that we have held at Knights Fish & Chips in Glastonbury, have resulted in them having regular patrons at their Fish & Chip shop. Knights have fed back to us that since we held our events; they regularly have people come to their restaurant and have said that they are returning now on a regular basis. This has brought added income and interest to the GF side of it.
- We have and are running our group in line with the Coeliac constitution including, as we are today, holding our AGM
- We, the committee, are continuing to meet regularly and plan events
- We continue to ask for contacts and new committee members to help keep the group going and to move forward.
- We were extremely honoured last year to have our CEO, Sarah Sleet attend our AGM and have sent our thanks to her, along with our good wishes for her new post as she leaves Coeliac UK.

So overall, I feel that as a new group, we have achieved a great deal.

Currently and moving forward.....

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We are now hoping to build on what we have achieved so far. We are now hoping to plan three future fundraising events this year, as well as hoping to keep our coffee mornings/afternoons going. Over the next year we are planning on:

- Hold a summer fish & chip event at the Burnham Fish & Chip shop on the seafront. We are hoping to hold this on an evening when families can attend and sit outside and enjoy a meal. We hope this will be June/July time.
  - Hold a cream tea event later in the year
  - During the year, we - those of us on the committee - will continue to try and hold regular coffee mornings/afternoons across Somerset, where people can come and have a chat and ask any questions
  - Finally, at the beginning of December, we are planning to hold a Family Christmas meal event. Venues have already been contacted and we plan to find somewhere where we can have a Christmas dinner meal for you our members, but also where non GF family members, partners, can also come to enjoy. As part of this event, we are also planning to have some evening entertainment suitable for all the family. However, numbers will be limited to look out for information about this on our Facebook page and on the link to our page on Coeliac UK.
- Finally, I would like to thank everyone involved in our group; the committee themselves and all our supporters, whether you have here today or not. We have approximately 700-800 members on our books which we email, as well as over 120+ on our Facebook page. As always, we are looking for anyone that is interested, to be a co-opted member of our committee. Particularly in outlying areas where you may feel that not much is happening. We are also open to any new ideas or suggestions for future events that you would like us to look into.

### **Secretary's Report**

Our group currently has 780 Members within Somerset with 101 joining since our AGM last May.

We are changing our plans for communicating with you by sending emails and updating our Facebook group with news and events as it crops up to keep you updated more regularly. If there is anything you would like to share with the rest of the group like your own recipe for scones or you are doing a charity fun run for Coeliac UK then please email us. If you aren't getting any emails from us, then please email us and I'll add you to the list.

If you have any comments about the group and events etc., please let us know.

### **Treasurer's Report**

We ended last year with £303.82 in the bank and £3.36 in petty cash.

During the AGM in 2018 we raised £120 on the raffle and £5.25 in donations and by providing tea and coffee we raised a further £39.60 totalling £168.26. Out of this we spent £21.09 on blu tac, milk, biscuits and raffle tickets.

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We spent a further £64.71 on printing costs. This has left a total in petty cash of £82.46. This year we have had a donation of 1 book of raffle tickets and bought a further 3 books of raffle tickets at a cost of £4.50; coffee at £3.00 totalling £7.50 which if we estimate £3.00 for milk on the day will leave £71.96 in petty cash.

I have found the role of treasurer somewhat challenging and due to Coeliac UK changing banks last year, it has been difficult to access our account at times. These issues have now been sorted out though. Due to these issues, I am pleased to say that Lloyds Bank have donated a sum of money to our account as compensation.

I am also aware that we have spent £65.00 on the hire of the hall for the AGM this year so I am told by one of the committee members that the amount in the bank account is: £782.46. I will leave the breakdown of this to the organiser as I am unable to see why amounts have been deposited in the account.

I have enjoyed my time as being a treasurer for the local group but feel that more could have been done at times to provide more support. Although I understand, there have been many changes at Coeliac UK which has not helped. Therefore I wish my successor all the best as it is my belief that the difficulties I encountered will not go forward with the next treasurer. I believe in the group and for that reason and the continuation of the group I would like to stay as a co-opted committee volunteer and hope that we will be able to organise some good events so that people with coeliac disease in Somerset will be supported. It would be really nice if a few more of the members were able to offer support as the committee is still very small and we could do with your support too.

Thanks to all of you who have bought raffle tickets and thanks to those of you who also donated raffle prizes. Your support for this group is greatly appreciated and we look forward to raising more funds at our events over the next year.

### **Elections**

It was proposed that the present committee members be re-elected into the same roles: Wendy Hughes as Organiser, Anika Cox as Secretary and Denise Hurr as Co-opted Committee Member. This was proposed by Sue Harte and seconded by Yvonne Black.

Liz Smart decided to step down as Treasurer and Judith Middlemiss decided to step down as Events Coordinator. Richard Derry Was proposed to be elected as Treasurer. This was proposed by Sue Harte and seconded by William White.

Liz Smart decided to be nominated to be a Co-opted Committee member. This was proposed by Sue Watt and seconded by Jason Belcher.

The committee going forward into the next year is as follows:

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Organiser – Wendy Hughes  
Secretary – Anika Cox  
Treasurer – Richard Derry  
Co-opted members – Denise Hurr and Liz Smart

**Close of Meeting**

The meeting was closed and Wendy Hughes introduced our speaker Marianne Williams, Specialist Gastroenterology Community Dietitian from Somerset Partnership NHS trust to talk about what they can offer for support in following a gluten free diet and to introduce their informative webinars. We also had a talk by Margaret Morgan, governor from Coeliac UK with their latest updates. This was followed by a raffle and refreshments.