

DECEMBER 2017 NEWSLETTER

I'm so proud to be sat here typing up our latest Newsletter, we have all achieved so much this year as a group. Our membership is increasing weekly, with just over 100 members! Thank you so much for supporting each other on a daily basis via our Facebook Group and all your fabulous contributions at our monthly meetings. Thank you Jo, as ever, for running our Facebook Group so efficiently and also for updating our Website, I know this is not an easy job and incredibly time-consuming. A big thank you to Suzannah and Natalie for arranging and facilitating our Canterbury meetings, it's wonderful to offer East Kent ladies the support and information they need locally. We are very grateful to The ABode Hotel for allowing us to hold our meetings there. I also wish to thank KIMS Hospital for allowing us to continue to hold our Maidstone meetings there and inviting us to attend their GP Events – this is allowing us the opportunity to increase the awareness of being a BRCA carrier in Kent and to promote our group so effectively.

The following are a few highlights of what we've accomplished for the second half of this year:-

- 4 support meetings arranged for West Kent
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- Attended a GP/Breast Surgeon Event at KIMS Hospital
- Suzannah and I were invited to the film screening of Pink & Blue by Ovarian Cancer Action
- Jo and I were invited to an Afternoon Tea at The House of Commons by Ovarian Cancer Action to launch a BRCA report
- Invited to a pampering evening/lingerie fitting in October by John Lewis
- Vickie Gadd, Gynae-Onc CNS came to our October Maidstone meeting to give us a very informative talk – it was an opportunity for us to feedback ideas to Vickie on how she can support any future BRCA patients – Vickie has also agreed to be part of our Facebook Group to help support our members
- Helped Macmillan to produce a Press Release promoting our group during Breast Cancer Awareness Month in October which led to numerous interviews (see below)
- Natalie was interviewed by KMFM and The Herne Bay Gazette doing a fantastic job promoting our group and spreading awareness
- Jo and I were interviewed by BBC Radio Kent
- Received a donation of £288.10 from our East Kent member Susan Ade – thank you so much
- Sent out 7 hospital 'goodie bags' to our members that have had surgery over the last 4 months. Again, I have been very touched by how grateful the ladies are.

What we have planned for 2018

- Confirmed dates for monthly support group meetings for both East and West Kent (please see our Facebook Page for dates) – *KIMS meetings will now start at 7.15 pm*
- Another John Lewis Bra Fitting at Bluewater (TBC)
- Arranged for Amy Pashler, member of BRCA Brighton and PhD student in Scientific Research to talk to us about the Scientific side of the BRCA mutation (March)
- Continue to encourage our BRCA Buddy system to grow – matching-up members
- Continue to send out our hospital goodie bags
- Attend further GP Events at KIMS Hospital promoting our group to local GP's
- Awaiting to confirm a talk by Anne Henderson, Consultant Gynaecologist and HRT Expert.

Please do continue to give us suggestions and ideas on how we can develop and improve the group.

Thank you again everyone for all your amazing support – Happy Christmas!

Liz