

BEWICKE MEDICAL CENTRE - PATIENT GROUP



Our patient group is an opportunity for you, our patients, to influence the way we do things here at the surgery. We now have three very successful meetings under our belt and we feel that there is a real job for the group to do in making sure we continue to deliver quality services in a good environment.

We have been lucky enough to recruit 12 members to the group and would still like a few others.

June Anderson (pictured) is one of our members who says that she joined because she is a relatively new patient and also because she knows it is not easy to recruit people to groups such as these. June was born in Wallsend and has lived in Hadrian Park since 1977. June brings an interest in staying healthy to the group. She has been an active member of Battle Hill Townswoman's Guild for 34 years.

Joining June (also pictured) is **Alison Errington** who has been a patient at the surgery for 25 years. Alison, who is a mum to 2 young sons, feels that membership of the group would be an interesting experience.

Joan Mitchell, (pictured) describes herself as 59 years young. Since 1972 Joan has worked in various voluntary organisations, the most recent being the Samaritans where she also trained new recruits. Joan has also served as a School Governor and was a school Fundraiser for a period of time. Joan joined the patient group as she is interested in how her local community is serviced. She also wants to gain knowledge on any proposed changes and present ideas which might be beneficial to the practice.

Debbie Bennett (pictured) is married with 2 young daughters. Debbie decided to join our group as she felt that it would be interesting and she was keen to find out how things work at the practice having been a patient for 30 years.

Next month we will introduce other members of our group but in the meantime, we are very grateful to everyone for giving up their time. Anyone interested in joining the group, contact May, our Practice Manager, or Jackie, our Nurse Practitioner and you too could help us make important decisions.

The purpose of the Patient Group is to provide a consultative forum which will ensure that patients are involved in any important decisions which we make here at the surgery. At the meetings we will discuss the range and quality of services which we currently provide and how we might improve or extend them. We will also discuss the Commissioning activities of the practice as part of the Governments plan for GP practices to have a role in commissioning services from local hospitals and other organisations.

The meetings will be held every couple of months and will involve our Practice Manager, our Nurse Practitioner and one of the GP's - we would like new members. If anyone reading this article would like to join our informal group we would love to hear from you. Just leave your name with one of the receptionists or ask to speak to May, our Practice Manager. The more the merrier!