

# GRAVESEND EPILEPSY NETWORK

Registered Charity Number 802373

January 2012 Newsletter No 30

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## Chairman's Message

I am writing this during the period between Christmas and the New Year. I am in bed with a bad back staring at the ceiling looking for inspiration (I must paint that ceiling some time!!)

2011 saw the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Gravesend Epilepsy Network, and I think we celebrated it in appropriate manner. We welcomed guests from other national, epilepsy charities as well as Members past and present to a Celebration Party at The Granby Hotel in Northfleet. This celebration was made possible by donations given specifically for the occasion, and not taken out of existing charity or research funds. Many thanks to Fawkham Manor Golf Club, Bryan Dann, Joan Silverton, Bill Dean and Val & David Savill for donations, to make it an evening to be remembered.

Socially, I believe we are a strong organisation with many of the social events very well supported. The weather did not disrupt many of our events this year, but, for the first time in our history, the snow forced us to postpone our Christmas Drinks and Eats meeting from December 2010 to a New Years Celebration for 2011. The coffee mornings, the re-instatement of quarterly meetings, and the other activities have all attracted a high number of people. As ever, support, in whatever form, is available for people with epilepsy and their families.

In February GEN was the only charity present at the European Parliament in Strasbourg for the launch of European Epilepsy Day. Although we emailed all 72 UK MEP's, only 3 were available to meet Lynn & I during the day. One of these was local MEP Peter Skinner, and he has signed up to be Vice Chair on a Committee looking at epilepsy in Europe. Our thanks to him.

One of the best meetings that we had in 2011 was a talk by Andy Smith, our Epilepsy Specialist Nurse. Andy attracted a large audience and although we have all lived with epilepsy in one way or another over many years, there were new Members who welcomed this talk regarding epilepsy.

Many, many heartfelt thanks to everyone who turned out to shake a tin in the town centre for National Epilepsy Week in May. I hope we can count on your support again in 2012.

In 2011 I attended a Charity Awareness day run by a Legal company in Maidstone. There were speakers from the Charity Commission, the Governments 'Big Society' Department (Yes, there is an actual department with many millions of £'s to spend on delivering this rather vague concept), CAF (who we bank with) plus presentations from various legal people. I came away both exhilarated and depressed. I realised that there is so much more that we can do to help people with epilepsy, but to deliver we need more money, more training and more people. As some of us are getting older we need to encourage more and younger people to become involved in running GEN.

As ever, I wish to thank all the Committee members for their time and effort in making things happen during the year. A special thanks to Susan who texts and telephones everyone to let them know when and where our activities are taking place.

It just leaves me to wish you all a very healthy, happy and prosperous 2012, and ask you to join with me in hoping that a breakthrough can be found in combating the misery so often caused by epilepsy.

Fred Savill  
Chairman

**You will find initials at the finish of each item. These are of your Committee listed at the end.**

Welcome to new Members, David Reely, Lee Shiret, Helen Thomson, a friend of David's, Denise, Sam, Kyran and Catherine Broadhurst, Palo & Parkash Bangard, Janet & Tom Berrie & Trevor Wilson, a friend of Jean's. **LS**

Our 'Christmas Drinks & Eats' 2010 had to be cancelled because of snow. So instead we had a 'New Year Celebration' in January. This was really well attended and good way to start our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. **LS**

Many of our Members have had hospital stays this year. Jamie McGrath, Jim Ryan, Fred Savill, Bryan Dann, Susan Griffin and Sam Broadhurst. Then Valerie (Vav) Gauci and Kyran Broadhurst were admitted as emergencies. We are thankful that all have come through it, and wish them a healthy 2012. **LS**

Bill Dean has also had his fair share of ill health this year. We miss you Bill and hope to see you back with us again soon. We all miss your smiley ;- ) face. **LS**

Our supporters have been so kind this year. We have had donations from Boz & Pearl, Liz & Den, Doreen & Michael, Elaine & Richard, Peggy & Sharon, Frances & Steve, Lillian & Alan, Ann & David, Denise & Sam, Barbara, Matthew and every year a substantial cheque from Gwen & Fred Savill. We hope that you all realise that not a penny of this money is wasted. It is used for the Helpline, which is very busy, and literature that we send out free of charge. You enable us to help many people. Thank you to all. **LS**

We received cheques from families who had lost loved ones and who decided to ask friends for donations to us instead of flowers. Thank you to Mrs Carleton, Mrs Verona, Mr Frost and Miss Swallow. We sent our sympathies and thanks at a difficult time. **LS**

Just like previous years the Give As You Earn scheme has been very good for GEN. It raised nearly £200 and this was due to the regular contributions of Julie Sheldon and S Hayes. We would like to thank both of them for their continuing support. **DH**

Our Members and their families collect their used postage stamps all the year. There is nearly always someone at our coffee mornings that will give me a small bag of stamps. Thank you to regulars Joan, Bryan, Chris, Janet, Sheila, Fred, Sandra and Louise. **LS**

Adrian Sels compered a second variety show at the Glentworth Club in Dartford earlier in the year. A large crowd of us attended and although we had a very pleasant evening, the seating arrangements would need to be sorted out before we attended another. **LS**

February 15<sup>th</sup> 2011 saw the launch of European Epilepsy Day at the EU Parliament building in Strasbourg. GEN was the sole charity representing England and Wales at the launch. In the weeks leading up to this Lynn and I sent personalised emails to every UK MEP (72 in total) notifying them that we would be part of a delegation from around Europe hoping to meet them at Strasbourg. This was to bring to their attention the impact epilepsy has on those with the condition and on society as a whole. We spoke of the money wasted by misdiagnosis and how many people's epilepsy is not being treated properly.

Out of all the MEP's we got only one positive reply and that was from Nigel Farage, whose UKIP party is anti EU! Although Nigel said he could not meet us in Strasbourg he agreed to meet Lynn and I after a public meeting that he was attending in Gravesend the Saturday before the launch.

We also got a couple of replies from MEP's saying that they hoped to meet us, workload permitting!

Our day in the EU Parliament building started early (7.30), once we got past the tight security we would not be allowed back in, so we were there for the day. The International Bureau for Epilepsy (IBE), who had masterminded the launch, had arranged for Lynn, myself and a lady from Croatia to have a private meeting with Glenis Willmott MEP. Glenis is the leader of the UK Labour contingent in Europe, and after we put our case she said that as member of a Health Committee she sat on, she promised to ensure that epilepsy would be the next major medical condition that they would concentrate on.

IBE had arranged a formal luncheon which MEP's from various countries attended. During the lunch we were all able to hear personal accounts of people's experiences of living and dealing with epilepsy and how it had affected their lives, for good or bad. Later in the afternoon we were taken to the huge debating chamber to see how EU business was conducted, then from there to an informal reception to meet MEP's.

As Lynn and I approached where the reception was being held one of the IBE staff came rushing towards us saying that one of the UK MEP's was making a big fuss looking for the 2 of us. This turned out to be Peter Skinner, our local MEP, who proved to be very friendly, interested and supportive. Peter's very lovely assistant took photos of us and had them posted onto Peter's website in a very short space of time. Lynn and I had set up our own little area at the reception, with GEN info and leaflets and were visited by representatives from a number of EU countries. We were also visited by Keith Taylor MEP for the Brighton area who again, was very supportive of our cause. **FS**

Thanks to the contacts made during the launch of European Epilepsy Day in February, IBE were able to work with interested MEP's to set up a Committee to promote improved treatment for the condition throughout the EU. Our local MEP, Peter Skinner, was selected as Vice Chairman for the Committee. From this collaboration a 'European Declaration on Epilepsy' was formatted and later in the year, as part of a co-ordinated campaign, Lynn and I again sent out personalised emails to all 72 MEP's asking them to sign the Declaration. Adoption of this would make the condition a priority in Europe. After sending out 4 tranches of emails over a 4 month period we were able to get 46 members to sign the declaration. Despite the poor response from the UK members the Declaration was adopted by the EU with the second highest level of support gained for a medical condition in the EU's history. **FS**

As many of you know Lynn and I, along with another volunteer Linda Jadidi, have been working at Darent Valley Hospital in the Epilepsy clinic with Dr Delamont. This clinic is on the 1st, 4th and 5th Wednesday of every month from 8.30am till 12.30pm. If you have no appointment for the doctor but you'd just like to come along and chat about any problems, this is when we will be there. **SG**

Also on the 1st and 2nd Wednesday Lynn and myself are working in the Children's Resource Centre from 1.30pm. We are working in the clinic with Dr Kulkarni the children's Paediatrician. **SG**

What an excellent meeting we had in April when Andy Smith our Epilepsy Specialist Nurse came along to talk to us. He told us of developments in epilepsy and explained, in simple terms, what epilepsy is. This was invaluable to our new Members. He kindly answered many, many questions thrown at him from the floor. He stayed on very late talking to individual Members and we know, from speaking since, how many people enjoyed this meeting. We will ask Andy back as soon as he has space in his diary. **LS**

In May we had our Flag Day. We have not asked GBC permission for this for many years. Many Members thought that it might be a good idea to start it again and gain some much needed funds for GEN. We had a record number of people collecting (27), some staying a couple of hours, and other stalwarts staying the whole day. We raised the goodly sum of £534! A huge 'thank you' to all those that came along to help. Joan, Bryan, Trevor & Pauline kindly gave donations in lieu of shaking a box! **LS**

At our July meeting we had our 'Fish & Chip Supper'. This is a well attended meeting and it was enjoyed by the 38 people who came along. We again got the delicious food from the Golden Fish Bar in Livingstone Rd, and they delivered it in individual boxes as before. A good evening. **SG**

For many years the father of the young singer Matthew Crane, has organised Charity golf days, including a dinner, entertainment and a charity auction in the evening, held at a golf club in Rainham. Members of GEN attended the last event. All the funds raised were split between 2 charities. At the end of the evening, Bryan Dann, who is a great supporter of Matthew, and a friend of the family, agreed with Matthews's father that he will be nominating our Charity as the sole beneficiary of his 2012 event. I would ask as many of you as possible to come along to support the evening event. It did cost each of us £25 last year, but that included a superb 3 course meal and entertainment. If you wish to come along, but cannot afford a lump sum, Bryan has agreed to collect your money, over a period, between now and then, to help anyone save up for the occasion. We would love to make up a large party, if possible. **FS**

At the July meeting Pat Wenman handed over £5. This was made in a raffle at a club which she attends. Thank you Pat! **DH**

Chris & Jim Ryan celebrated their 40<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary this year. They took over a huge house at Camber Sands for a long weekend with their family. They then renewed their wedding vows in a beachside ceremony. Very beautiful. Many congratulations to them. **LS**

Our Members, Sheila and Stewart were married in July at a lovely ceremony in Rochester. The Bride looked lovely, the Groom scrubbed up well and a wonderful day was had by all invited. There was an old fashioned car that brought the Bride to the venue and 2 beautiful Bridesmaids in attendance. Guests sat down to a sausage and mash wedding breakfast, which was delicious. After the tables had been cleared, the dancing was started by the Bride & Groom. A wonderful and memorable day. Many congratulations from all of your friends in GEN. **LS**

A second 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary this year was Maureen and Les Horsham. They celebrated with their sons by taking a Med cruise. The photos are great and filled with happy times whilst away. Congratulations to them from friends in GEN. **LS**

A real biggy was the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Vav & Louis Gauci! Louis had arranged a surprise party at The Old Town Hall. The many friends who had been invited were sworn to secrecy. Louis had found Vav's wedding dress in their loft and smuggled it to Chris. It was then cleaned and displayed on the night. A surprised and delighted Vav enjoyed the evening with friends and family. Her biggest surprise being her brothers and their wives, who had travelled from the North of England to attend. Congratulations to you both, and here's to the 55<sup>th</sup>! **LS**

George & Veran Heaver and their Family fundraised for us at The Invicta Club in Gravesend. They were able to raise the brilliant sum of £111 for GEN! Thanks go to them for their hard work and all friends at the Club who joined in the various events. **LS**

Unlike last year the weather was good when we went to enjoy our Picnic on the Prom. I must say that I had a good time, and it was made all the better by the fact that I did not have a blackout while we played French boules. The year before I was able to use that as an excuse for playing badly at cricket! This year my play was just as awful and I couldn't find an excuse to blame it on! **DH**

Two new venues have been opened in Gravesend and we were invited to view both, with the idea of transferring our coffee mornings. Sainsburys coffee shop service is slow and the drinks are not particularly hot.

Our first tryout was at 'Elite Venue' in Dunkirk Close. They invited us for a tea & scones afternoon. We were shown to our own private room and tea & scones, jam and cream were provided free of charge! We were served by 2 delightful and willing young people. We were made to feel very welcome.

The other venue was in the new Central Library in Windmill Street where they have a new Community Room for local charities to use. Although lovely and new, space was at a premium and there was not a lot of room to make the drinks. A vote was taken regarding both venues with Elite Venue being chosen. There are 3 Members that will find Elite difficult to get to and the Committee have decided that there will always be a lift available to get them to our new venue. **LS**

On Saturday evening, the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2011 a party was held at The Granby Hotel in Northfleet. It was to celebrate the founding of the Gravesend Epilepsy Network (GEN) thirty years ago. Eighty five people attended the party and I think I can safely say that all who were there, thoroughly enjoyed the evening. The room was decorated with balloons and banners and a photo-board with photographs of Members and events over the 30 years took pride of place. A photographer came along and took photos of all those attending and there was a disco for dancing later in the evening. The Granby laid on a buffet which was delicious with little over at the end of the evening.

What surprised Sheila and I was the speed at which we sold the raffle tickets! We thought that we would be hard pushed to sell the 100 that we'd stapled and folded the night before. But, in fact, we sold them within 10 minutes; and could have sold them twice over! There were many upset that we had sold out, as they had not been able to purchase any. I am pleased to say that we raised over £100 with some generous people putting in donations.

So, was the evening a success? Undoubtedly so! And long may it continue. **SM**

At the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration Sam & Catherine Broadhurst went around the room selling envelopes for a

Rugby World Cup draw. At our December meeting Sam opened the 22 envelopes and the winners were pulled out. Winning a £30 first prize was Alan Gipson who had drawn New Zealand. Second prize with France was a £10 win for Louis Gauci. Thank you all who contributed. We made £70 after the winnings were taken out. **SB**

A few years ago a gentleman was in touch with me with an offer of a walk in bath. We were grateful at the time but did not take him up on his offer. He contacted me again recently and was SO generous! He has given a cheque to the Gravesend Epilepsy Network for £1000! This will help us so much in our work to help many people with epilepsy and their families. So a huge thank you goes to Mr Tony Smith for this amazing donation. **LS**

If you cannot apply for your driving licence because of your epilepsy you may be eligible for a bus pass from your local Council. Speak to Lynn or Susan about a letter to take to your local Authority offices.

I know that I mention this item in every Newsletter, but people that take this Newsletter from Darent Valley Hospital very often have no idea that they are entitled to free travel on the bus. This information is for them. **LS**

You may remember that we wrote last year about Pauline & Trevor Caselton donating 38 stamp albums, with any money raised going to GEN. She had collected these stamps over many years and there were thousands of stamps to look through. We had a gentleman come along to view them from Gravesend Philately Society and he told us that they would possibly make GEN £200-300. I actually had a word with Pauline about the money that she'd paid for them over many years. She had paid out, over a period, £2000+! We then had a friend come along to view and he offered £400. Then a friend of Stewart's came to our home (bear in mind that we've had them in 4 big boxes for the past 18 months!) and told us to put them on ebay. After much thought, Fred and I put them on to a site called Gumtree. We told the story in the advertisement that they had been donated to an Epilepsy charity in Kent. We had 7 replies! The difference with Gumtree is that you can name your price and I put on the ad that we wanted £500! (which Pauline said was a good price). At long last we sold them! It was a doctor in Cardiff who bought them, and as my son travels all over the country, he took them to the Services in Wales and delivered them too! So many thanks to Pauline and her albums. **LS**

Exciting news for our longstanding Member Elizabeth Allen! She has been invited by the Epilepsy Society (formally National Society for Epilepsy) to a Reception to celebrate their 120 years. This is to be held at 10 Downing Street with Samantha Cameron hosting the event. We wish her well and look forward to hearing how she gets on! **LS**

One of our longstanding Members Ray Candler is on a Neighbourhood Forum at Gravesham Borough Council. After seeing grants being awarded to other organisations he spoke to a Councillor John Cubitt. John told Ray how to go about applying for a KCC grant. After completing the many pages I sent them off with fingers crossed. Low and behold, we were awarded £1000! These two £500 awards came from John Cubitt and a second Councillor, Brian Sweetland. We were able to purchase a laptop and printer for Susan to use in her work. **FS**

At our AGM in November there were a number of changes to the Committee with Dave Hall standing down as Treasurer to become our new Funding Officer, and Sam Broadhurst taking over the Treasurers job. We also now have a Fundraising Committee headed up by Denise Broadhurst. **FS**

During the AGM in November a draft Programme of activities was put together by those present. You will find the final diary of events at the back of this Newsletter. Please detach it and put it on your home notice board as a reminder of what we have got happening during 2012. **FS**

Please do not forget to return your Membership forms. This is the easiest way we have to obtain details to let you know of events we are holding. The Membership fee also helps when sending the Newsletters out and also pays for literature and postage for people newly diagnosed with the condition. **LS**

My name is Denise and I am your new Fundraiser. I am heading up a team and I am eagerly awaiting names that will help with fundraising. I am on a waiting list for Fundraising Training and I'm awaiting a vacancy on the Course. We are investigating the opportunity to get cheap theatre tickets at dress rehearsals to sell on. I will check and feed back to the Committee in the near future. **DB**

As promised I went on the Disability Alliance course in November 2011 and I found it very informative. The new testing for Disability Living Allowance (DLA) will be changing in 2013 and the criteria will be more difficult to claim, especially for people with Epilepsy. They would bear the brunt of these changes. The Care component will be reduced to low and high. The middle rate will fall away completely. The Motorability component will stay the same. DLA will eventually be a point based test like Employment & Support Allowance (ESA) by 2015. The good news is that the Disability Alliance feels that the Department of Works and Pensions (DWP) will only start to assess old claims by 2014 at the earliest. So good news and some bad.

Oh by the way, I am now open for business so if anyone wants help, and their situation needs reviewing ie health has deteriorated/got worse, I would be happy to discuss the options open to you in confidence. **SB**

At the beginning of December I attended a course at the Council for Voluntary Service training department. It was held at The Veterans Hall at Northfleet. This was to enable me to take up my new position within the GEN as the Funding Officer (not funny officer as some people thought it was!) The Course was very informative and lasted the whole day. It taught me very many useful things, and I am now confident that I will be able to contact large companies that may support epilepsy. I will try and get them to part with their money and donate to GEN. I intend making a start in January. Watch this space! **DH**

Our Christmas meal on the 16th of December was a great success. 44 of us all descended upon The George in Gravesend. (I don't think they knew what had hit them!) We were mainly all seated together, which considering the numbers was very good on their part. Several had soup or pate for starters while others were more adventurous and opted for prawn cocktail! Many had the traditional Christmas dinner with all the trimmings, while a few had fish. The food was finished off with a lovely Christmas pudding amongst many other choices. There was a young lady singing throughout, and although she had a lovely voice, most thought it too loud for such a small area. If we ever go back we would definitely get this rectified. Other than this, a lovely evening. So on behalf of Gravesend Epilepsy Network I would like to say a big thank you to The George, and I look forward to organizing Christmas dinner for 2012! Hope you all had a lovely Christmas and a happy healthy New Year to everyone. **SG**

In March we have booked the Day Centre in Clarence Row for our meeting. It is to be a 'Bring and Buy Sale'. This is where you bring anything you have to donate to the Group and you buy other peoples unwanted items. So clear your cupboards (unwanted Christmas gifts?) and help us make some money for GEN. **DB**

After the success of the 2011 Flag Day, we again have permission to collect in Gravesend Town Centre. This will be on 26<sup>th</sup> May 2012. Once again, we would be very appreciative of your help. The Committee decided that the local Superstores should be asked if we were able to have a collection. We asked if buckets at the end of each checkout could be arranged. Sainsburys and Morrisons have said no to buckets, but have come up trumps and said we can collect, in person, at both stores on 24<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> & 26<sup>th</sup>! So we are in a slight quandary as we need some collectors here too, as well as the Flag Day in the Town! Would your family and friends spare some time please? I think this is the only way we are going to be able to cover all 3 venues.

Asda has again turned us down. First saying that they only support national charities, and then contradicting themselves in the same letter by saying that they only support charities in the local area?!!!! What can be more local than GRAVESEND Epilepsy Network? **LS**

In June we again return to Clarence Row for our 'Fish & Chip Supper'. Susan will be phoning around nearer the time for numbers. **LS**

We are booking an Historian for a talk in August. We don't usually have an official meeting in August because of holidays. But judging by the amount of people that attend the Coffee mornings in this month, we think holidays in August can't be as popular as they used to be. Perhaps the cost of going away at this time is slightly off-putting! **LS**

We have our Picnic in the Park at the end of August. We are of course talking of Woodlands Park in Wrotham Road Gravesend. We'll meet at 1pm. Each of us brings a packet or plate of food to share. **LS**

After the success of The Granby, we are contacting them to enquire if we can get a good deal for a Group meal. I don't know if we'll be able to match the deal Susan got us for The George at £10.95 but we'll have a go! This will be in September. **LS**

Then we're back to our AGM in November. Please consider putting your name down for one the posts on the Committee. We need YOUNG people as we're all pushing on a bit! We also put together our draft programme for the year. **LS**

Do come along to our 'Christmas Drinks & Eats'. We have Members coming along that perhaps can't make Coffee mornings in the day. We can guarantee you a lovely evening! **LS**

I think after the success of The George we would be hard pushed to find a better deal or more convenient spot for our Christmas meal. We are of course always open to suggestions. **LS**

Any nice Anniversaries coming up this year? **SG**

Your Committee would like to wish all Members and friends a happy and healthy 2012. A year to enjoy our Queen's Jubilee and the 2012 Olympics to be held in London and various venues around the Country. **FS**

### **Committee for 2012**

Chairman	Fred Savill	07936705068
Vice Chairman	Stewart Marshall	01474350901
Treasurer	Sam Broadhurst	01474832242
Social Sec	Susan Griffin	07921862764
Grants Officer	David Hall	01474745434
Benefits Officer	Sam Broadhurst	07872583091
Minutes Sec	Anthony Pinder	01474355537
Fundraising Off	Denise Broadhurst	07946325979
Counsellor	Lynn Savill MBE	07743351320
Hon Member	Chris Ryan	01474567945
<b>HELPLINE</b>	<b>SUSAN GRIFFIN</b>	<b>01474351673</b>

I have had a letter from an unhappy lady complaining that GEN 'has nothing for people with epilepsy'. It upset me, because my aim from day one was an Epilepsy SUPPORT Group. I had always thought that that had been at the foundation of all we do. She mentioned Sainsburys Coffee mornings, Picnic on the Prom and the Mayors Ball. She doesn't like the fact that people without epilepsy attend these events. Gravesend Epilepsy Network is not, and never has been, just for people with epilepsy. It is a SUPPORT Group for people with epilepsy, their family and friends. Anyone with an interest in epilepsy. I am sure I do not need to tell anyone who receives this Newsletter that *epilepsy affects the whole family*. Someone said to me during the early days, 'you don't know what it's like to have epilepsy'. I replied that the person did not know what it was like to be a parent of a child with epilepsy. I do believe that SUPPORT Groups exist and grow when the SUPPORT is there for everyone. We all have different strengths and ways in which to SUPPORT each other. The people that the lady mentioned by name was Stewart our Vice Chairman, who cared for his wife with epilepsy throughout their married life; and Sandra, Fred's daughter, who is official Carer for her brother who has uncontrolled epilepsy. Should these two be barred because they do not have epilepsy themselves? Or shouldn't we SUPPORT them in what they go through and have gone through? Our Committee consists of 3 people with epilepsy and 4 parents of children with epilepsy; also one who has lost a loved one to epilepsy. They all, without exception, carry out duties to make the Gravesend Epilepsy Network work for all. That is why our Members now put together the programme at our AGM each year. The programme is what our *Members* want. Social meetings do not mean that SUPPORT isn't always available if anyone should need it. We have a Helpline and provide an Information Desk at Darent Valley Hospital 5 times a month. If a person wants counselling, they will receive it free of charge. If a person wants help with benefit forms, they will receive it free of charge. Nobody should judge us on a Newsletter and the events that are listed. There is an awful lot that goes on behind the scenes (much of it carried out in confidence). Everyone of your Committee works throughout the year to make the Gravesend Epilepsy Network a strong SUPPORT Group. **LS**