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C.C.S.G. Newsletter December 2010



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Happy Christmas to All Our Readers.

Don't forget to book your tickets for the group's 5th Anniversary/New Year party, please book and pay before or at the next coffee morning, this is going to be a really good night, don't miss out, do it soon.

The entertainer we have booked is called JJ Shannon, he was a past Stars in Their Eyes contestant, he has an exceptional voice, sings songs that cover 3 decades he also sings Tom Jones, Micheal Buble, Robbie Williams and this names just a few, JJ will be doing two slots during the night each lasting about 45 minutes, in between we will be having an interlude to feast on the magnificent buffet we have booked and do a prize draw.

You won't see any of this if you don't book your tickets, tickets are available now, get yours at the next coffee morning.

We are also running a local mini bus type taxi service, this will cost £10 per head, for this you will be picked up and taken back, if you would like to take advantage of this service please see David Lewis at the next group coffee morning on the 8th of December 2010. This service does have its limits so again if you want it, book it.

Tickets are going fast please don't leave it until the last minute and be disappointed, we want everyone to have a great night with us.

We are doing a pantomime trip in January 2011, details about this will be given out at the coffee morning and will also be published on the group website.



NICE Stripped of Power to Ban Life Saving Drugs.

The decision to strip NICE of its powers comes too late for many people who have been refused life-extending cancer drugs and have since died.

The scandal of patients being denied drugs just because the NHS rationing body decides they are too expensive will end, ministers have declared.

In a stunning victory for patients following the campaign by the Daily Mail the controversial organisation NICE will be stripped of its powers to ban drugs on the Health Service.

The current arbitrary limit on the cost of new drugs, around £30,000 per year of extended high quality life will be scrapped from 2014.

The decision will end the ordeal of tens of thousands of patients being denied life extending drugs every year, even though their clinician believes they could help them.

Critics blame decisions by the ‘penny-pinching’ National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence for the UK’s appalling record on cancer survival, which sees patients denied innovative new drugs that are available freely in Europe.

Several decisions by NICE have triggered a series of high profile battles in which it has attracted the anger of patient groups and become a byword for a heartless NHS money above patients lives.

Cancer charities say 20,000 patients die early or needlessly every year because of NICE decisions, the Department of Health now says that NICE would no longer be acting as an arbiter on the availability of drugs with GPs instead deciding what the NHS could afford.

Groups of GPs – consortia – will be responsible for deciding whether a drug should be funded or not. These consortia will be in charge of spending NHS money in their areas after 2013.

Editorial: I think it’s about time I have never liked NICE, they have played God far to long but like everything else in this country it never happens now, what about all the people between now and 2013 who might die until this comes in, it seems to be a permanent thing here, lets talk about it, do a report, sleep on it for a couple of years, I mean I suppose you have to have a brew first never mind the stacks of people falling at your feet. If the interest rate or petrol goes up they manage to get that in place by midnight the same day.

Just my little rant, getting grumpy in my old age. John.





Carers are already pushed to the limit and they can't take any more cuts say Carers UK, this is the message Carers UK has been taking to Government in the wake of yet further announcements of massive cuts to council spending and welfare benefits.



Cuts of billions from benefits will also hit disabled and older people and their families will be particularly hard hit.



Carers UK went on to state that whilst an extra £2 billion funding for social care was welcomed, the removal of ring fencing and 26% cuts to local council budgets has led to concerns that the money will not reach hard pressed families. It is vital that local councils make social care a priority.



From 4th January 2011 VAT is set to rise from 17.5% to 20%, pushing up the price of many consumer goods. But there are a number of everyday items that are exempt from this tax, such as most food items, books, newspapers, magazines and children's clothes. The 2.5% VAT increase will apply to items deemed as luxury items by the Government, such as a bar of chocolate a packet of biscuits, a new TV and your favourite tittle, just about everything that isn't a main food item.



It's getting near Christmas and the scams are coming round again, this has been confirmed by Royal Mail.



The Trading Standards Office are making people aware of the following scam.



A card is posted through your door from a company called PDS (Parcel Delivery Service) suggesting that they were unable to deliver a parcel and that you need to contact them on 0906 6611911 (a Premium rate number). **DO NOT** call this number, as this is a mail scam originating from Belize.

If you call the number and you start to hear a recorded message you will already have been billed £315 for the phone call.

If you do receive a card with these details, then please contact Royal Mail Fraud on 020 7239 6655.



Because of the groups AGM in January the next newsletter will be the January issue and will contain our annual report, this means that it will be a much larger document and we will not be posting it out, if you get the online version you will still get the message and it will still be on our website to read, if you



want the paper version they will be available for you to collect at the coffee morning on the 12th January 2011, the date of our AGM, please don't forget, we need to know if you are going to attend so we can make sure we have enough refreshments or you could be drinking water.



We hope you all have
a lovely Christmas
and an even better
New Year.



If you have anything you would like to see in the next newsletter, a poem or a story, an article, your favourite recipe.

Please Email it to:

ccsg.group@hotmail.com

or contact us on 07807 210913

All the views expressed in the publication are individual and not necessarily the view or policy of the support group or its supporters.

Editor. John Booth.

This service is supported by Wigan Council.



So far we have had a great response from people donating items for the Christmas hampers, thank you all very much for your support.



We would like to say a special thank you to David Lewis for offering to run a mini bus taxi type service on the night of the group's party.

We would also like to thank Karen Smith for helping with the arrangements of the entertainment.

Our coffee mornings are held at

Kingsleigh Methodist Church,



King Street, Leigh.



Coffee morning start time is 11.15 Am. on the second Wednesday every month.

That's it, short and sweet.