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Support group aiming to set up new outreach clinic

A support group has outlined its plans to set up a new outreach clinic at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital to help liver patients.

The Norfolk and Norwich Liver Group was set up 21 years ago by nurse Ruth Perfitt, who received a liver transplant after being diagnosed with primary biliary cirrhosis (PBC). Members of the support group now hope to provide more help to new patients diagnosed with liver disease and their families. Committee members are liaising with the Addenbrooke's Liver Transplant Association to set up the outreach clinic at the N&N.

Marjorie Dingle, secretary of the liver group, said eight of their members had volunteered to staff the clinic at the gastroenterology department of the N&N. Specialist liver consultants from Addenbrooke's Hospital in Cambridge hold bi-monthly clinics at the Norfolk hospital. She added that it would be "wonderful" to

Adam Gretton

adam.gretton@archant.co.uk

set up the outreach clinic. "We do not want to pry into patients' privacy and we do not want to intrude. We want to be there to help in any way and if they need us," she said.

Last year a new fibroscan machine was unveiled at the N&N after the Norfolk and Norwich Liver Group raised £77,500 in eight months to buy the new equipment.

Mrs Perfitt said liver patients needed a Big C centre equivalent to give information and support related to conditions which are not commonly talked about.

The liver group will be holding the first of its 2013 events on February 18 from 1.30pm with a talk about medication and its side effects at the Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital.

→ For more information about the liver group, visit www.norfolkliverfibroscanappeal.org.uk



Specialist equipment: The presentation of the new fibroscan machine at the N&N hospital last year. PHOTO: BILL SMITH

Quiz night raises cash for charity

A recent quiz night organised by Norwich Blackfriars Rotary Club raised £650 for a charity which helps people with drug and alcohol issues.

The money will be allocated to the Matthew Project's Voicebox campaign, which aims to raise £40,000 for a new caravan and towing vehicle to replace the Youth Team's ageing caravan.

The team takes the vehicle to areas where there may be issues with young people within the community around drug and alcohol use or antisocial behaviour. The team provide a listening ear for the young people and give information about the effects of drugs and alcohol.

Since the launch of the Voicebox campaign in October, more than £9,000 has been raised.

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