CHILTERNS PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT GROUP

NEWSLETTER
Autumn 2026

Our continuing collaboration with the Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust (BHT)

We are looking forward to a further PSA testing day in collaboration with BHT which will be held at Stoke Mandeville Hospital on Saturday 21st November. The flyer for this event can be found attached to this newsletter.

This follows an outstandingly successful earlier testing day which we organised at Wycombe Hospital in June, attended by nearly 500 men (team photo below).



The combined team of BHT and CPCSG personnel at Wycombe Hospital on 20th June

Creating Awareness

CPCSG has been represented at several events this year, including a very busy day at Amersham Heritage Day on 6th September *(photo below)* at which we were very pleased to receive a number of generous donations. As always, our grateful thanks to all the volunteers who man our stand. This photo (at top right) shows our smart new gazebo which proudly displays the names of several organisations who generously helped us towards its purchase:



On air with Marlow FM

Our Chair Barry Sarl and Secretary Andrew Scott-Priestley were privileged to take part in Chris Zaremba's radio show on Marlow FM on 7th July, answering questions and spreading the word about PC awareness and PSA testing. Here they are, in the studio:



Tuesday "chats" at Wetherspoons

Many thanks to John Crowther who came up with the idea of hosting informal "chat" sessions every second Tuesday of the month at The Chiltern (Wetherspoons) in Beaconsfield. These are working well and we are very grateful to Wetherspoons for allowing us to hold these events at their venue.

PSA screening programme

The frustration continues! Despite the growing public awareness and the efforts of several national media channels and various high profile persons who have fallen victim to PCa and have added their weight to a campaign for a national screening programme, this is still being rejected by the powers that be.
This message was put out by Prostate Cancer UK:

"Introduce a screening programme for prostate cancer, starting with high-risk men:
We are calling on the Government to reassess the UK National Screening Committee's (UK NSC) draft recommendation not to offer prostate cancer screening to anyone except men with BRCA1/2 genetic variants, and to introduce screening for all high-risk men. Prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed cancer in men yet has no screening programme. We disagree with the UK NSC's analysis of the evidence and the weight it has placed on avoiding unintended harms. We believe the Committee has fixated on potential harms that have already dramatically reduced, while under-weighting the very real benefits of early detection. The analysis has not kept pace with modern practice or acknowledged how this would be an improvement on the current inefficient and inequitable system.
Targeted screening for all high-risk men should be the starting point for building a screening programme that can ultimately protect all men. Early diagnosis saves lives".

A letter to our local MP

Our Chair Barry Sarl wrote recently to Joy Morrissey, MP for Beaconsfield, urging her to support our campaign for a national PSA testing programme which would lead to early diagnosis and save so many lives. This letter is attached.

A new committee member

We are delighted to have welcomed Alan Charnley as our newest committee member. Alan enjoyed a highly successful career, holding senior management roles over 35 years with Xerox Corporation and his energy and business acumen will be greatly appreciated within CPCSG. Thank you, Alan, for all that you will bring to the party!



Our Christmas Lunch and AGM

We will be getting together in our new venue for our AGM and belated Christmas Lunch, which will once again be held in Jordans Village Hall. Make a diary note for Saturday 23rd January! Members will receive an invitation in due course but if you have any queries in the meantime please contact Barry Sarl at cpcsghw1@gmail.com.
We hope to see you there!

Continuing our work

We are committed to raising awareness of prostate cancer within the local community and none of this work could be undertaken without the assistance of our essential volunteer Members who support the Committee. We would welcome Members to come forward and help us either on the committee or at events. Let us know how you can help.

These are exciting times for CPCSG and your Committee is encouraged to see how it continues to be a valuable part of the South Bucks community. BUT, we do need more helpers to assist us with the planning and delivery of our programme of events, so please let us know if you would like to be part of this rewarding activity.

Thank you!

If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please contact the CPCSG Secretary, Andrew Scott-Priestley,

Joy Morrissey, MP
House of Commons
London
SW1A 0AA

Dear Joy,

Re: House of Commons Debate on Prostate Cancer (October)

Ahead of the upcoming debate in the House of Commons on 26 October, I am writing to urge you to be our champion on the critical importance of early diagnosis through accessible testing to reduce death rates locally and across the country.

As I'm sure you know, prostate cancer is the most commonly diagnosed male cancer. Early detection saves lives, yet barriers to testing (including cost, lack of awareness, together with historical or cultural hesitancy in high-risk communities) continues to cost lives unnecessarily.

In your constituency, the **Chiltern Prostate Cancer Support Group (CPCSG)**, a patient-led charity founded in 2005, whose Patron is Baroness Pidding, has demonstrated what targeted, grassroots community engagement can achieve. Operating in partnership with the Buckinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust, ScanAppeal, and local community organisations, CPCSG provides an additional clinical pathway. We help facilitate PSA tests with results delivered by SMS, within 48 hours; formal letters follow within five days; and men requiring investigation receive urgent urology appointments at High Wycombe Hospital alongside direct GP notification.

Between June 2022 and June 2026, CPCSG facilities over 2,400 men being tested, resulting in 150 men receiving early, life-saving assessments, bringing our total life-saving diagnoses to over 250 men since launch. Crucially, CPCSG is also helping to bridge health inequalities by tackling heightened risk head-on:

High-Risk Demographics: South Asian men face a 50% greater risk than the Caucasian population, with African Caribbean men facing an even more significantly enhanced risk. Through trusted partnerships with local institutions—such as the Hilltop Multicultural Community Club in High Wycombe and local mosques—CPCSG has successfully doubled the acceptance of PSA testing among African Caribbean men.

The Financial Barrier: A PSA blood test costs around £25 per person, making external funding essential to ensure cost is never a barrier to early diagnosis. Our charity fund raises and supports these events.

The purpose of this letter is to urge you to use your powerful, respected voice, on behalf of all men in your constituency in the October 26th debate to:

1. **Highlight the proven impact of community-led PSA testing models** and the necessity of seamless primary-secondary care integration (such as the Bucks NHS Trust pathway).

2. **Advocate for incremental funding to support national strategies** that actively reach high-risk ethnic minority groups (African Caribbean and South Asian men) where early detection is most critical.

3. **Emphasise that removing cost barriers to testing** is a vital public health imperative to drive down preventable prostate cancer mortality rates in the UK.

Thank you for your time, dedication to your electorate and consideration of this vital health issue. My team and I, look forward to hearing about your contribution to the debate.

Yours sincerely,

Barry Sarl

Chair, Chiltern Prostate Cancer Support Group

TARGETED PSA TESTING

21 NOVEMBER 2026 9AM – 1PM

Stoke Mandeville Hospital

Who can take part?

- If you are 45-61
- Have not had a PSA test for 2 years
- And are not currently under urology care

And meet at least one of the criteria below

- Are Black African or Black Caribbean
- Have been identified with the BRCA2 pathogenic variant
- Have a strong family history of Prostate Cancer

We will not on this occasion be testing if

- You have had a PSA test in the past 2 years
- Are currently under urology care / PSA monitoring
- Have any urinary symptoms
- Have had a UTI in the past 6 weeks
- Have a urinary catheter
- Or are under 45 or over 61

This is a locally agreed targeted awareness and testing event and is not part of a UK national screening programme. And will be run by BHT supported by Chilterns Prostate Cancer Support Group

Need help to make or reschedule your appointment?

Email: bht.psatesting@nhs.net

NHS
Buckinghamshire Healthcare
NHS Trust

Free PSA blood test for higher risk men

Free Parking

Results within 24-48hrs

- Scan the QR code
- Complete the questionnaire
- Receive your invitation
- Attend your PSA Blood test appointment

PSA Decision-Making Questionnaire

CPCSG
Supporting Men since 2005

Buckinghamshire Healthcare Charitable Fund

SCANNAPPEAL