



Ileostomy & Internal Pouch  
Association

Registered Charity

# Greater Manchester - I A

## NEWSLETTER



Issue 4 2025.

WEB Site: <https://manchester.iasupport.org>

Winter 2025

Hon: SECRETARY and One2one Volunteer: Marlene Evans, Phone: 0161 790 9380.- Email: [marlene.evans@iasupport.org](mailto:marlene.evans@iasupport.org)

### Dear Members.

The Manchester team have been very busy signing up 21 new members and 1 returning member during September and October..

### WE WELCOME,

Joan from Heald Green, Laura from Congleton, Malcolm from Wigan, Joan from Heald Green, Milr from Gatley, John from Marple, Samrina from Gatley, Michelle from Eccles, Phyllis from Salford. Rye from Manchester, Kathryn from Northenden, Michelle from Rochdale, Julie from Alkington, Helen from Sale, Adam from Altrincham, Janet from Urmston, Karen from Altrincham, Andy from Stretford, Michael from Altrincham, Maggie from Sale, Elizabeth from Bowdon. & returning member Susan from Rochdale.

Sadly one member passed away in September - Dave from Rochdale, our thoughts are with Janet his wife.

### Items in this issue are.

- [1] 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday celebration page 2. This will be a new feature for the newsletter.
- [2] No winners of Spot the Ball No. 17. Page 4.
- [3] MANCHESTER AIRPORT UPDATE, Page 3.
- [4] IA members private Forum, Page 3.
- [5] Trafford support group page 2.

### *The Manchester team*

*Paul, Marlene, Sophie, Christina and Charles*

*Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and our best wishes for 2026.*

### Rochdale Ostomate Group

Alkington Community Centre, Hadfield Road, Middleton M24 1TQ

Paul accompanied by Denise (wife) attended this event on the 16<sup>th</sup> October 25, this is the first time Denise has attended any event, I thought she would be bored, no way! she enjoyed every minute and found the questions and answers an eye opener.

Abigail and her team did an excellent presentation, with some very awkward questions, Tea/coffee was available for the 16 members that attended, 2 members of the Ostomate group signed up to IA-Manchester and their names are shown at top of this page.

After a successful meeting Abigail closed the event at 4 PM. The next Ostomate Group event will be in March 2026, more details will be in the spring 2026 newsletter. Paul.



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Registered Charity: 1172338 (England and Wales) and SC048658 (Scotland)

President: Professor Gordon L. Carlson CBE BSc (Hons), MB ChB (Hons), MD, FRCS, FRCS(Gen), FRCSEd (Ad Hom)

## Gwen Harries 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration.

By our roving correspondent, Christina.

Gwen Harries has been celebrating her 90th birthday! Gwen was born in Bridlington on the East Yorkshire coast on 23.8.35. and after leaving school she trained to be a State Registered Nurse at Scarborough Hospital. Her real passion was to become a midwife, so Part 1 training took place in Sheffield and Part 2 in Epsom in Surrey.

She worked as a Midwife in what was then Hope Hospital in Salford, Bristol, Wakefield and Bridlington. Then suddenly she and a friend decided to emigrate to Australia, off they sailed to Melbourne on the £10 passage in March 1963. After completing a year at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne, Gwen went on to do District Nursing with the Home Mission Society, a branch of the Anglican Church in Sydney for 2 and a half years. This was followed by 6 months at Brisbane Royal Infirmary working on night duty as a Nurse in the Psychiatric and the Prison Units! It was during this time that her mother became ill and she returned to Bridlington in January 1967.

Gwen felt that Australia was a wonderful country to be and was able to tour extensively, even to Tasmania.

Not being married and never having children of her

own, Gwen continued in her midwifery career in Woolwich in London and eventually worked for 24 years at Wythenshawe Hospital in Manchester, finally retiring in August 1995. These were very happy years, although she had 2 or 3 periods of severe depression for which she needed psychiatric treatment.....now completely healed.

During her retirement, Gwen has travelled quite a lot visiting America, Canada, Pakistan, twice to Israel, China, returned to Australia, New Zealand and Zimbabwe and some parts of Europe.

In between times, she has had a quadruple by-pass in 2007, and after the visit to Zimbabwe, came back home with amoebic dysentery in February 2013. The end result of that, was the beginning of my life with a stoma! This was in July 2013. Emergency surgery was carried out and now she has an end ileostomy. A year later, the stoma twisted, resulted in ischemia and emergency surgery again was performed and a new ileostomy was fashioned. Each time she was told that "you might not come through this" when she was in the anaesthetic room!!

All was well, when in January 2024, abdominal pain and considerable bleeding started. After a series of tests and the result of a flexible sigmoidoscopy in July 2024, the known risk of a perforated the bowel (the dormant left colon) happened. Major emergency surgery followed and she has now also got a mucus fistula; it was thought she definitely would not recover this time. But she did!! And now pursues her activities in rambling, going to the gym, is a Director of the Freehold Company of the flats where she lives and has legal powers of attorney for a friend in a Residential Home. She is still driving, visiting family in Bridlington and holidays in this country. She loves to eat out with friends, see her nieces and nephews and their children. As this has been a time of reflection, she says she looks back and has had a very happy life.

She attributes her life to her Christian faith, confidence in the expert Surgeon and the wonderful support and help of the Manchester I.A. Group. and all her many friends.

*Gwen.*

## Trafford Stoma Support Group.

At Parish Centre St John Henry Newman Parish Davyhulme on 22<sup>nd</sup> October 25.

IA-Manchester committee representative Charles attended this event and gave a Generic presentation, Paul was unable to attend due to a last minute flare up of his Crohn's condition.

The meeting was very well attended, lots of visits to the Manchester table for literature.

8 new members signed up on the spot, with a possibly one or two more may do so on line.

In all a very good morning all round.

*Charles*

## UPDATE ON MANCHESTER AIRPORT for 2025 NEWSLETTER

We would like to give you an update when travelling through Security at Manchester and other UK Airports. There has now been some new developments that we would like to keep you informed about. National Office have advised that they are concerned that UK airports are not held to account in meeting their accessibility obligations through their Airports Accessibility Framework and that much more needs to be done to ensure that the rights of anyone wearing a medical device, such as a stoma bag, are respected. Where the IA has been successful in feeding into practices at some regional UK airports, IA calls for the CAA (Civil Aviation Authority) to work with us more holistically to establish detailed, considered guidelines on the training provided to and by, UK airports, so that ostomates can expect a standardised approach wherever in the UK they are travelling. National Office have released a statement which is available on our website to this affect.

Following on from this our National PR and Communications Manager had a meeting with the CAA which was also attended by the Urostomy Society and Colostomy UK which was a very successful one.

### Topics discussed included:

- [1] The rollout of more up to date scanners which are picking up stoma bags under clothes
- [2] Medical devices card
- [3] Issues around levels of care/dignity provided by airport staff and training  
Improving training of airport staff
- [4] Managing the expectations for travellers

The CAA welcomed input from the three charities to help improve guidelines and language and they asked what else could/should be done.

We will of course keep you up to date with these meetings with the CAA but it is important for you to know that we are moving forward with this and that all our members are aware of the work that is being done by the IA to help our members when travelling through UK airports with a stoma.

I continue to attend the quarterly Manchester Airport Accessibility Forum which has enabled IA Greater Manchester to have a voice. It is not just Manchester Airport where there have been complaints it appears to be others through the UK which is why the IA is involved nationally.

Regarding our members travelling through Airports' Security most people do not have any problems. It does help having a Sunflower Lanyard (available from the airport and online) and a Travel Certificate (available from the IA)., However should anyone have a complaint (and on other airports in the UK as well) this should be taken up with the airport in the first instance but further action is available through the CAA (Civil Aviation authority) if you are dissatisfied with the response. All complaints can be done in detail online. It would be helpful, because of the work I have been doing with this, and my attendance on the MAAF Forum (Manchester Airport Accessibility Forum).that you let me know of this in the first instance.

Marlene Evans – IA Greater Manchester Secretary/One2OneSupport Volunteer Co-ordinator

### Greater Manchester -IA members private Forum.

Did you know you can discuss any subject or report on any subject that any member wishes to discuss on our very own PRIVATE members forum. To date there are 41 members and 1 stoma nurse.

Here is the link to join....<https://www.facebook.com/groups/293252486035956>.

There are 2 administrators Paul and Sophie, Sophie is the group expert.

If you have a problem someone on the forum will have a solution,

Look forward to seeing your name wanting to join. Paul.



## Greater Manchester-IA, President and Committee.

**President.**  
**Mr Jonathan Epstein.**  
MBChB MD FRCS,  
Consultant & Colorectal  
Surgeon, Salford Royal  
NHS Foundation Trust.



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**Committee Member.**

**Charles Flannery**  
One2One Volunteer



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Our roving reporter.



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Also, IA-Manchester members private forum.

**NOTE:** If you find that your three monthly journal and newsletter has not arrived you may be in arrears with your payment, but reminders are sent out twice before you are finally removed from the mailing list.

### S u b s c r i p t i o n s 2 0 2 6 .

Renewal subscriptions can be paid using any of the details below please - either online, by standing order or via cheque sent to IA national office. Subscriptions are due annually please. If you have yet to pay 2024/25 subscriptions please arrange to do so ASAP to continue your Membership .Under 60 years of age as at 01.01.2026: £15 PA. Over 60 years as at 01.01.2026: £10 PA.

Please send a cheque made out to **IA BRANCH POOLED.** (Make sure you put your name and address is on the back.)

\* Send to: IA National Office, Danehurst Court, 35-37, West Street, Rochford, Essex, SS4 1BE. \*

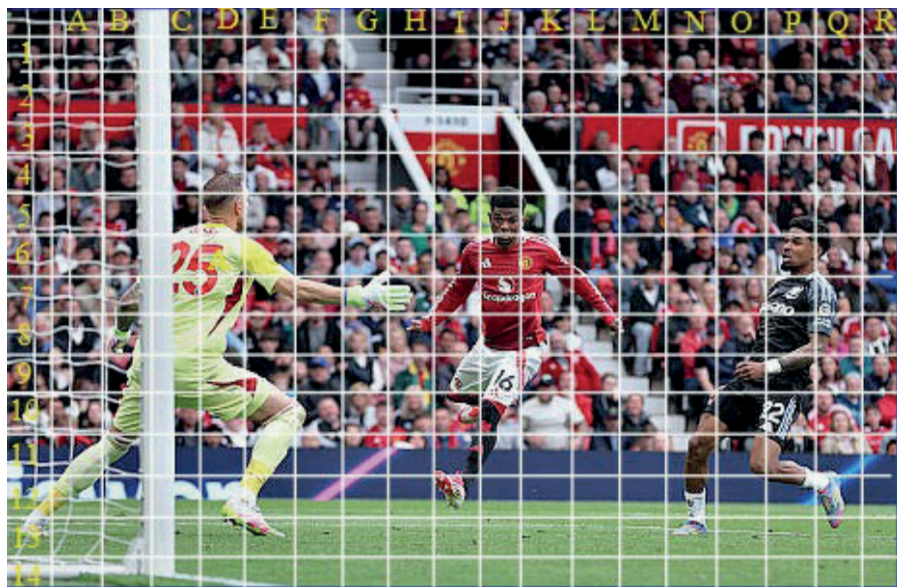
Or pay on line at <https://www.iasupport.org/membership/renew>

If you want to pay by standing order go to your bank make standing order payable to :  
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You can also download a standing order form from <http://www.iasupport.org/membership>

\* PLEASE DO NOT USE ANY OTHER ADDRESS

### Spot the Ball Manchester City V Aston Villa No 17a,



No winners of Spot the Ball No. 17 and is re-submitted . All the members who sent their numbers for No 17, are allowed to try again for this version No. 17 a.

There are 252 boxes for you to choose from where the the ball may be located. This is one of the easiest 'Spot the Ball' but, on this occasion has got members stumped , anyone with an eye for football will spot where the ball is easily, Prize for the competition is a Tesco or Morrisons £20, gift voucher handy for extra treats for Christmas..

Rules are easy, you have 5 goes at where you think the ball is located. If you think the ball is in box A-1, And so on until you have used your 5 goes. Competition runs from 1st December to the 31 st, please do not enter before the 1<sup>st</sup> December as your entry will be void, this is to give members who live in remote parts of the country a good chance, and

other areas where post is a problem ..If there is a tie, the winner will be the member with the correct result that reaches us first..Send your winning entry to.

[marlene.evans@iasupport.org](mailto:marlene.evans@iasupport.org) or phone: 0161 790 9380. Or newsletter editor at; [paul.stott@iasupport.org](mailto:paul.stott@iasupport.org)

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Good Luck, Paul.