**PSPA Wimbledon Local Group**

The group met on Saturday, July 13th for an informal discussion session and we were delighted to welcome a new member attending for the first time.  There were fewer of us than usual, but the discussion was as lively and wide-ranging as ever, and some of the key points discussed were:

**Blue Badge applications**. There had been varied experiences on this, as local councils differ in how they handle applications.  There was general agreement that a lot of emphasis was placed on the distance that could be walked, whereas with PSP/CBD the problems relate to the risks associated with balance and potential for falls and it was suggested that these factors, along with the progressive nature of the disease, should be explicitly mentioned in the application and supporting letters from GPs/consultants,. It was also recommended that, when providing information in the application, it was important to describe the situation on the worst day rather than the best, as there can be considerable variation in capabilities from day to day.

Since the meeting, we have seen reports that, from 30th August 2019, the Blue Badge scheme is to be extended in scope to include people “with hidden disabilities…… who cannot undertake a journey without serious risk of harm to their health and safety…….”  This should work very much in favour of people with PSP/CBD.     More information at:

 <https://www.disabilityrightsuk.org/news/2019/may/blue-badge-scheme-extended-30-august-2019>

As always, the **PSPA helpline (0300 0110 122)** will be an invaluable source of help and advice on this and many other matters.

**Eyesight and PSP/CBD**.  It was agreed that the specific eyesight problems experienced in PSP/CBD were not within the scope of general ophthalmic opticians, who provide primary eyecare, and people with PSP/CBD should therefore request a referral (from their GP or optician) to a hospital specialist department.   There they will be seen by an orthoptist, who specialises in eye movement disorders and who will be able to prescribe special prism lenses.

**Lightweight wheelchairs**. During discussion on this, Martin said he had found a light weight wheelchair from **Fenetic Wellbeing** extremely useful.  His model (ECSPO1) was bought in 2015: the current range (mostly under £200) can be seen at:

<https://www.feneticwellbeing.com/wheelchairs/lightweight-wheelchairs>

**PSPA Tea Party** We discussedthe possibility of hosting a group tea party to celebrate 25 years of PSPA.  The Wimbledon group, unlike many others, is not embedded in a local community and Wimbledon is simply a conveniently accessible meeting point for our members, who come from many locations within a wide surrounding area.  We therefore have no local roots or common network of neighbours/friends/family to act as a focus for such an event, so reluctantly had to conclude that in our case it would not be feasible.

**The next meeting will be on Saturday, 14 September** (more details nearer the time).  We look forward to seeing you at this or future meetings (see dates below).

Best wishes,

Shauna,  Jeanne

**2019 meeting dates**:

**14 September   9 November**

**(**all on the second Saturday of the month)