



South East Seminar Speaker Profile – November 2016



Sarah Collard, Coeliac UK

Sarah works in the Food Policy team for Coeliac UK and her expertise centres on legislation and the technical aspects of the gluten free diet. She manages the standards associated with the Charity's GF accreditation scheme for the catering industry and works closely with UK caterers who are producing gluten free. Her background qualifications are in nutrition.

David Smithard. Consultant in Elderly Medicine, Princess Royal University Hospital, Kings College Hospital

I am a consultant in Old Age Medicine. I work at the Princess Royal University Hospital, Farnborough Kent, part of King's College Hospital in London. I have worked both in acute and community settings and have provided support to Care Homes in East Kent up until 1 year ago.

I have been interested in swallowing for 26 years, particularly the identification and management of swallowing problems, which has been the basis of my research. I chair the UK Swallowing Research Group and I am a member of the European Society for Swallowing Disorders' hold a research post at the University of Kent. I am also an honorary of the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists.



Dirk van Dijk, Bernhard Baron Cottage Homes

I am of Dutch/American extraction and was educated in the Dutch, English and American systems - I learned to work with pounds, shillings and pence, a currency I never used thereby constituting the single most useless bit of knowledge I ever acquired.

Following my graduation from university I worked in the US, the Netherlands, and across Europe and found myself in the UK permanently 26 years ago. In that time I turned around a number of businesses in transport and technology. All this was a logical progression to running a charitable care home based in Polegate one of the most enjoyable jobs I have had.



Caroline Lecko, Patient Safety Lead, NHS Improvement

Caroline Lecko, Patient Safety Lead, NPSA (NHS England) working with Andy Jones, and Derek Johnson are the driving force behind Nutrition & Hydration Week, winning numerous industry awards for involving (during 2015) 32 nations took part; 4.4 million tweets happened; 191 friends on Facebook which subsequently reached 12,000 people – and they want to more in 2016. Are you on-board?





Andrew Little, Client Officer for Secondary Schools & Adult Social Care, East Sussex County Council

I am a client officer for adult social care and secondary schools. I work as part of the facilities team in Business services. I oversee the catering contract for secondary schools and also provide support to ASC by managing the community meals contract and providing support to the site kitchens when it comes to hygiene and legislation changes. Being an ex-chef also helps as the sites know they can ask for help with menu design if required. I have worked for ESCC for 4 years now and came from a restaurant background beforehand.

Dave Keeling, Laughology

Engaging trainer and presenter Dave delivers workshops and programmes for Laughology in the education, health and business arenas. He specialises in facilitating change management, improving teamwork and communication and developing creativity and well-being.

Having trained as a professional actor at The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art, Dave has worked extensively in theatre and television. His credits include 'Blood Brothers' in the West End and 'EastEnders'. He is also a stand-up comedian and has gigged across the country.

