

Trustee Profile:

Amanda Ladell
Patient Support and Meeting Coordinator, and Trustee

Amanda has been living with symptoms of achalasia for about thirty years, but did not receive a diagnosis until 2005.

Since 2008, Amanda has been organising and hosting monthly informal achalasia support meetings in Central London under the banner of the London Achalasia Meetup Group. Over the years she has talked to more than 1,000 other people with achalasia about their experiences and how they manage their condition. This has helped her live more comfortably with achalasia and she is keen to pass on her experiences and the knowledge she has gained to all those who need help and support. There is great satisfaction in bringing people together who may never have met anyone else with achalasia before and see their faces as they realise for the first time that there are others who understand what it is like to live with achalasia.

Since 2013, working with Alan Moss and Majid Hashemi, we have held large meetings with achalasia specialists, which have proved very popular.

Formation of the charity, Achalasia Action in January 2020 coincided with the start of covid, but we have embraced the challenges, with meetings held online. We still hold our monthly meetings and big specialist meetings, but we have added meetings for "Parents of Children with Achalasia", " Young People with Achalasia", "Achalasia Action Writing Group" and a number of other regional groups.