

## Update from Woodchurch Surgery – April 2022

We have been waiting for the drip-feed of information about the Covid Boosters and sadly we are missing the detail. The crux is that the booster will be offered to anyone over 75 years old, living in a care home or identified as having a weakened immune system.

We have signed up to be a vaccination centre and we are expecting to receive vaccines soon. We had been told to use the National Booking Service which was going to cause havoc – however at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour they have changed their mind which is fantastic news. We can now order vaccines and can create appointment sessions and book people in directly. We expect to be running clinics from the end of April and more so in May.

We are a bit worried that Covid has meant that some cancer screening programs have been missed. Anyone that thinks they may be behind on Breast Cancer screening can contact the screening service directly on 01227 783000 or 01622 710185. Screening is automatically offered to women at age 50 and the recall should be every 3 years until your 71st birthday. Women over 71 can ask for screening but will not be invited. 80% of all breast cancers are in those over 50 which is why it starts at 50. Also sometimes in younger women other tests can be better at identifying cancer. Breast awareness needs to be constant and not a 3 yearly event so please come and see us if you detect a lump or difference that you are not used to.

Looking forward, April celebrates Parkinson's disease, Irritable Bowel Syndrome and Allergies. With the arrival of all the stunning blossoms we also get the runny noses and streaming eyes. For the sufferers of hay fever please start the antihistamines and nasal steroids early to try and nip it in the bud. In the old-days we used to give a steroid injection before the season started but these days the preference is to give oral steroids if you get a really severe attack.

Our year starts again on April 1st so it is going to be a new start this month. Hopefully less Covid and more getting back to normal...

Best wishes on behalf of the Surgery  
Jack Hickey - GP