

December 2020

Dear PPG

As I write, it's late November and as we near the end of 2020 it's perhaps timely to have a period of reflection and consider where we are, what has been achieved in 2020 and our aspirations for 2021.

Covid-19 has impacted us all significantly in our home and work lives. At the surgery, we have had to change our standard working practices in line with Government guidance towards more virtual consultations by phone or video and less in the traditional face to face manner. We have had to restrict the numbers of people into our waiting rooms and distance ourselves from our patients in ways we would never have dreamed of in the past. Part of that process led to the introduction of these newsletters in an endeavour to maintain communication between the surgery and our PPG members. We have now expanded the newsletter concept to monthly and they will be included within the HUB newsletter. Hopefully this will enable us to reach many more of the local community.

Right now, we are in a second lockdown and we await the Government's decision on what comes next for us personally and professionally. We continue on with the seasonal flu campaign targeting the traditional cohorts as well as the new over-50s group. If you've not yet had yours please book in with reception. We have also started planning as a Primary Care Network (PCN) how we will begin to deliver the Covid-19 vaccine once it has passed through the final testing and licensing procedures. As I'm sure you will have seen in the media, there will be strict guidance on how and to whom it can be delivered. When we know more, we'll share this with you.

Looking forward to 2021, we expect to continue to be very busy(!) contributing to delivering the Covid-19 vaccine. Hopefully, immunisation will ultimately mean fewer restrictions on all our daily lives. As a surgery, we continue to look forward and consider how we can improve the services we provide for patients as well as encouraging good mental and physical well-being with targeted messages about screening etc. As you may have seen in Dr Hickey's November message, the surgery supported awareness of the 'Mo'vember men's health campaign. We had a day of staff wearing stick-on moustaches on their masks although Jack went one better and grew his own. Check out what he kept hidden under his mask! It's small things such as this which have helped us maintain staff morale and well-being during these challenging times and we're looking forward to Christmas Jumper Day in support of Save The Children.



We don't yet know how the Government will allow us to celebrate Christmas, but all the staff at Woodchurch Surgery would like to wish you all a very happy, healthy and safe Christmas.

Best wishes

Helen

Helen Fox
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