

PPG Newsletter November 2022.

Since my April newsletter I hope you will agree, that notwithstanding the turmoil of the 'Covid' pandemic and its effect on our daily lives and that of the Practice activities are moving forward and the service provided, positive.

You will be aware, I am sure, that the ongoing national Covid vaccinations are being delivered by either local pharmacies or walk in venues; indeed for West Street Surgery St Mary's church hall close-by was used.

The annual Flu vaccination has again been a Practice-led initiative and as in previous years, extremely well organised and delivered.

In April I made mention of the then new telephone system and I believe it has been well received and the 'call back' facility especially good.

I would again emphasis that the Practice website is exceptionally good for direction to the services available, and the 'On Line Consulting Room' an excellent facility. At a recent PPG meeting we discussed with Dr Price the benefits of video consultations which are not just confined to a GP Practice but the hospital as well. For a GP consultation a real benefit is that due to secure systems they can communicate away from the surgery. However, I am very aware that not all are able to access these online facilities, so please help if you can those who cannot.

As I mentioned in April Central Bedfordshire Healthwatch, including the 'Just Ask' visiting roadshow, had restarted and is very much to the fore. If you are not signed up for the regular email newsletters and other communication I do urge you to do so. It really is a great communication link for the residents of Central Bedfordshire and can be reached from the Practice website, or directly via, healthwatch-centralbedfordshire.org.uk

In April the clocks went forward and now in November turned back again, but I am sure members will wrap up and brave the wind, sometimes direct from Siberia, to keep the area around the surgery tidy.

Not a throw away comment, but as we head to the cold winter months, do wrap up and look out for those who may be vulnerable.

Chris Dilnot. (Chair PPG)