

PARTNERSHIP FOR HEALTH



FRIENDS OF DAVENPORT HOUSE

BULLETIN NO 16 – NOVEMBER 2020

SURGERY SNIPPETS

Lindsey Wright, Operations Manager

THE SURGERY DURING THE 2ND LOCKDOWN

We are now in lockdown 2.0 and almost all of our services are running as they have been throughout the pandemic. We are making every effort to keep all our patients safe and we are taking the correct precautions, however, there are always a number of people at the Surgery at any one time. We are trying to minimise how many people we invite into the Surgery while making sure we see everyone that needs to be seen. Please think before coming down to the Surgery for any reason, if there is a way we can deal with your query remotely first either over the phone or by email for instance. We are trying to be as flexible as we can by inviting you to have video consultations, asking for photos prior to your appointment and emailing blood forms, but for those that need to be seen, we are still here.

FLU VACCINATIONS

We have successfully vaccinated more than 75% of our over 65 population, with some help from the local pharmacies, but we are still waiting for a number of our jabs for the under 65 population. We have also ordered more from a government supply that has been made available to us and we are waiting for delivery dates for those as well. We hope to be able to offer everyone who wants one an appointment by the middle of December.

THE PRIMARY CARE NETWORK (PCN)

As some of you may be aware the Surgery has become part of a Primary Care Network (PCN) called Harpenden Health which is made up of Davenport House Surgery, The Elms Medical Practice and The Village Surgery. The PCN allows us to work collaboratively on projects to deliver services for all our patients in the Harpenden area. As part of the PCN we have been given the opportunity to bring on board staff that will work across all three Practices with the following appointments so far.

First Contact Physiotherapist

We have a lovely first contact physiotherapist called Lisa joining us here at the Surgery as part of the PCN. She is with us here at Davenport House on Monday mornings and is the first member of the new service across the PCN.

Lisa's role is to see people with musculoskeletal pain, rather than seeing a GP. Lisa has years of experience working in hospitals and also private Practice and will be able to determine the best course of action for you. Lisa's role isn't the same as a traditional physiotherapist, you won't see her every week for 6 weeks or so, instead Lisa will do an assessment with you and decide what treatment you need and refer you, just like a GP would, but will also give you appropriate exercises to do in the meantime and advice on how best to manage your symptoms.

Social Prescribers

We now have 2 social prescribers working for the PCN, Sonya and Florentina. Sonya has been with us since January and Florentina has joined us full time this month. You may be referred to a social prescriber if there are things in your life that you need some support with that aren't medical, or can help with a medical condition. Social prescribers can help with things like loneliness and isolation, support with some mental health conditions such as anxiety, financial problems, abuse, house adaptions, relationship issues and much more. They work in the community and have links with many of the services and charities in the area and their focus is on what matters to you. Sonya helped set up Harpenden Cares and continues to work closely with them. The job of a social prescriber has become very challenging during the pandemic as much of their work is done in people's homes or by accompanying patients to events, but both Sonya and Florentina are more than happy to try and find solutions for patients over the phone until they can get back out into the community and see you all face to face again.

Continued over

Clinical Pharmacists

We have one clinical pharmacist at the moment within the PCN and 2 more joining us next month and they may call you to do a review of your medications.

We look forward to introducing more new staff in the coming months as well.

Covid Vaccinations

At the moment, we know very little about the vaccinations and what a vaccination programme may or may not look like. What we do know is that it will be delivered as a PCN, so all 3 Surgeries in Harpenden will work together to

make sure all our patients have access to the vaccination. We also know that it is the Over 50s that will be coming to primary care to be vaccinated.

This is going to be a huge project, even larger than the flu programme this year and we will update you when we have definitive information. This project will move quickly and information is changing on a daily basis. We understand that can be frustrating for our patients and sometimes they feel we are not updating them enough, but we never want to give you wrong or misleading information, so when you do hear from us it will be because we know information is accurate.

Annual General Meeting of Friends of Davenport House

Wednesday, 16th December at 7.00pm

Dear Member

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Davenport House will be held on Wednesday, 16th December at 7.00pm.

Please note that this is the rearranged 2019 AGM which it was intended to hold in March 2020 but had to be postponed due to lockdown.

We would have preferred to wait until we could hold this meeting in person, but our Constitution, following incorporation in August 2019, requires us to hold another AGM within eighteen months of its inception and, therefore, we have decided it will take place on 16th December 2020. The meeting will be held using Zoom and the link will be provided nearer the date.

On 2nd December we will be sending online the agenda and the annual report and audited accounts for 2019. The Chairman will add a short report for information on activities during 2020. We will also include a resolution to confirm acceptance of the reports for 2019, the reappointment of the auditor for 2020 and the reappointment of the current trustees, all of whom have indicated their willingness to stand.

If any other member of the Friends would like to be considered for appointment as a Trustee they should advise the Secretary, Joan Shopper, by 2nd December 2020, indicating their willingness to stand.

We hope to be able to hold the 2020 AGM in person in March 2021.

Joan Shopper, Secretary
secretary@patientgroup.org.uk

COVID-19 VACCINATION TRIALS

See last month's bulletin re Health Research

YOUR NHS NEEDS YOU. HELP US FIND A VACCINE FOR COVID-19.

Join the NHS COVID-19 vaccine research registry today: nhs.uk/researchcontact

For those expressing an interest in supporting the current Covid-19 vaccine trials, please register using the link below. This does not mean you are consenting for a trial, it simply records your interest in hearing about possible vaccine studies for which you may be eligible. nhs.uk/researchcontact

In addition the website "Be part of Research" allows people to search for trials taking place in their local area for specific disease areas.

<https://bepartofresearch.nihr.ac.uk/>

Join your hospitals – It's free

Become a member of Bedfordshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

Includes Luton & Dunstable Hospital

As an NHS Foundation Trust we are accountable to our local community.



Your hospitals are in your hands.

You can shape the future of your hospitals and its services, and influence the way it runs its affairs, by becoming a member.

What are the benefits?

As a member you will:

- Receive newsletters and updates about the hospitals' activities
- Be able to elect the Governors
- Have direct access to the members of the Council of Governors, to raise any concerns
- Be eligible to stand for election as a Governor
- Receive invitations to members' meetings
- Attend medical lectures given by Trust staff
- Be eligible for Health Service discounts via on-line shopping

Encourage your family and friends to join as members – It's free

Ways to Join!

Go [online](#) to webpage www.bedfordshirehospitals.nhs.uk/get-involved/ft-membership/become-a-member/
Email us at FTMembership@ldh.nhs.uk for a membership application form.

Your local hospitals: Luton and Dunstable University Hospital & Bedford Hospital

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