



# Orchard Surgery Patient Participation Group

Autumn/Winter 2023 Newsletter

**Welcome** to the new Orchard Surgery PPG Newsletter in which we will keep you up to date with developments in local healthcare as well as what is happening at the surgery and other matters of general interest. The role of the PPG includes facilitating good relations between the practice and patients by communicating patient experience, interests and concerns and providing feedback to the practice on current procedures and proposed new developments.

## Staff changes in the Surgery

**Dr Emma Woodcock** is stepping up from 1<sup>st</sup> November to become a Partner and will undertake 8 sessions per week whilst maintaining her management role

**Dr Richard Lewis** is increasing his weekly sessions to 9, again from 1<sup>st</sup> November.

**Dr Clare Stevens** is stepping down as a partner but will continue as a salaried GP, with the same number of sessions

Orchard is actively seeking to recruit another GP  
**George Murray** (Paramedic Practitioner/ACP) is leaving to rejoin the Ambulance service

## Headlines

- A **pre Christmas Coffee Morning** including raffle with Christmas hamper, tombola, cakes and book stall will be held in the Surgery on **SATURDAY 25<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER** from 10 -12 to raise funds for surgery equipment to benefit patients. Donations would be welcome – see Reception for more details.

It will also be a chance to meet your PPG team. Please try to support this event.  
Everyone welcome

## Winter Flu Vaccinations

Winter flu vaccinations are now available again at Orchard Surgery – check with Reception for dates

## COVID Booster jabs

These are available at local vaccination centres. See <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/covid-19-vaccination/getting-a-covid-19-vaccine/> for eligibility and how to book or call 119. PLEASE NOTE THE SURGERY IS NOT DOING COVID BOOSTERS

## Latest working practices in the surgery - prescriptions

The PPG is aware of the problems around obtaining prescribed medicines and has raised the subject with the Surgery at the last Committee meeting. We were told that the doctors are actively looking to move the majority of prescriptions to a three monthly basis, with the exception of controlled drugs where this is not permitted. This will generally take place at the annual medication review. Additionally new prescription requests can be submitted earlier than the current two week maximum period whilst current availability of some drugs is erratic. Whilst it is recognized that pharmacies are having supply problems, it is hoped that these measures by the Surgery will help patients obtain their medicines in a timely manner.

## Women's Health Initiative

Orchard Surgery, and specifically Dr Woodcock, is taking the lead in promoting a Women's Health initiative in Horsham. We are aiming to improve access to services for women within practice and collaboratively in the town. Our local MP Jeremy Quin is very supportive of this project.

## PPG news

**The video screens in the waiting rooms are now working**, with thanks to Clive and Matt