

AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2023

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NEW PPG!

Friends of the Village Surgeries – Launch Event

We are looking to have a Launch Event following the rebranding of our PPG from our existing name to the new name of **'Friends of the Village Surgeries'**.

The launch will focus and highlight on the new website, the new logo and the new name. Additionally, we want to celebrate this event and our new direction with some of our supporters such as our residents in both Wheathampstead and Harpenden. This will be a lunch function with food and other refreshments also supporting this celebratory event will be a live band.

During the Launch, we will demonstrate information that will be available on the new website. Further information relating to date and venue, of the Celebration Launch will be communicated in the new year.

Message from the Surgeries New faces

Dr Emma Wright works Wednesday, Thursday and Friday in the Harpenden surgery and Thursday afternoon in Wheathampstead.



Dr Louise Plumtree will be working in both surgeries all day Monday and Tuesday and on Wednesday mornings.



We have also recently welcomed Hannah Moor (below) and Ellie Delves to our nursing team.



Why not visit our New website for more details
www.thevillagesurgeries.co.uk

Defibrillator for the Hillydye Centre

Wheathampstead is crowdfunding to raise £750 to match-fund a government grant for a defibrillator for the Hillydye Community Centre. The Friends of the Village Surgeries have given £100 towards the campaign as part of our commitment to the health of patients. A cardiac arrest can affect anyone at any time – from young children at school, to adults when they're at home, work or out in public places. Without the correct treatment, cardiac arrests are often fatal with The British Heart Foundation's figures revealing that only one in ten victims survive. However, the chance of surviving a cardiac arrest jumps from 6% to 74% if the casualty is in a shockable rhythm and a defibrillator is deployed within 3 minutes. To support this worthy cause which hopes to reach the target by Christmas, you can view more details at

<https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/p/defibrillator-for-the-hillydye-centre#start> .

Using Online Consult

The Practice is aware that Surgery telephones are busy; taking a while to get answered and are working on improvements. The alternative, especially at this busy time of the year, is to use the Online Consult system available through the Surgery website (<https://www.thevillagesurgeries.co.uk/>).

You need to go through a series of questions to verify who you are, then enter the symptoms and upload a photo. Can be done from a smartphone. You will receive texts from the Surgery confirming receipt and telling you the next steps which might ask you to book an appointment via a link in the text. The whole process is simple and takes very little time and with A.I. becoming an increasing part of our lives we need to get used to this approach.

Exciting new role

Arif Devji has joined the PPG to increase our activity so that we better represent the views of all patients of the surgery. He brings marketing and communications experience and has been living in Kimpton with his wife and two daughters.

WHAT IS PPG?

Since the PPG (Patient Participation Group) has evolved and combined with the Harpenden surgeries, we have renamed it “Friends of the Village Surgeries” (FOTVS.ORG) to better describe its function. We are here to improve communication between patients and surgery. Membership is now free.

Please note: Membership of the Patient Participation Group was £5 per annum by standing order but is now free.

We have no control over payments made to us by standing order, which were made on 1st April each year. If your standing order is still operating, please contact your bank to cancel it.

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