



# AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2025

[www.fotvs.org](http://www.fotvs.org)

## Message from the Surgeries

The flu vaccination season has commenced, beginning with children and pregnant women. As of 1st October 2025, approximately 2,500 patients over 65 years of age and 700 eligible patients under 65 have booked appointments.

COVID - From 1st October 2025 the COVID Vaccination Eligibility is different this year. The announced and authorised cohorts eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine are currently:

- Older adult residents in a care home.
- All adults aged 75 years and over.
- Persons aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed.

The Practice Managers for the Village Surgeries are now Anita Mixides and Elaine Pope, who share this job role.

The surgeries are now open from 08:00 to 18:30.

Why not visit our New website for more details [www.thevillagesurgeries.co.uk](http://www.thevillagesurgeries.co.uk)

## **Do You have a spare 2-3 hours per month?**

We're looking for someone to help us review best practice for our Patient Participation group by reviewing the National Association website and sometimes contacting other PPGs to find out how we can be better. If you're interested please use our contact form on the website at <https://fotvs.org/get-in-touch/>



## GET HELP QUICKER ON-LINE!

In order to make better use of our resources, the surgeries are now using an online system referred to as "total triage". A full explanation of how to use it and its benefits is described over leaf. We are all encouraged to use this resource, however for those who have difficulty getting online the reception is still there to help.

The system is available via the NHS app under the [+ services] tab or through the website

[www.thevillagesurgeries.co.uk](http://www.thevillagesurgeries.co.uk)

## **FOTVS to Arrange Palliative Care Talk in 2026**

Now that we are being jabbed to protect us from the latest variants of COVID, we're considering a return to actual in person talks in a local hall.

Our first one will be in early 2026 by Rennie Grove Hospice and will cover palliative care, something that might be needed by anyone at anytime in their life.

We will let you know details of the date and the venue once they are all confirmed.

## Total Triage - The Appointment System

To ensure timely access to medical advice for patients, whilst safely managing rising patient demand, the surgery utilises a Clinical Triage System whereby all patients are assessed based on their clinical need. The system enables patients to see the right clinician in an appropriate timescale, ensuring faster care and better outcomes. As part of a PCN (Primary Care Network) we can book appointments directly with a number of specialist clinicians who can meet some patients' needs more appropriately and more quickly than a doctor.

To request an appointment please complete the [online request form](#) on our homepage or via the NHS app; patients who do not have smart devices, internet access or are digitally excluded for any reason can speak to a receptionist in person or on the phone, who will complete an online form on their behalf. However, in our experience the quality of information is far better if the form is completed by a patient themselves or their representative as it ensures a more efficient triage process. Furthermore, this enables our reception team to assist those who are most in need of their help. All requests are triaged by a GP who may contact you for more information e.g. a photograph of a rash so it would help enormously if as much relevant detail is included when the online form is submitted.

With the recent announcement of the NHS 10-year plan, the NHS App will deliver increased functionality. Currently, patients can order repeat prescriptions, view test results, view hospital letters and their consultations. Very soon patients will be able to track the progress of prescription requests and receive notifications when medication is ready to be collected at the pharmacy. We encourage patients to sign up to and utilise the NHS App as much as possible to ensure they remain well informed and empowered regarding their health.

### **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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Webpage

[www.fotvs.org](http://www.fotvs.org)