



**THE ORCHARD
PARTNERSHIP**

ISSUE:

April 2023

ORCHARD NEWS

NHS

WELCOME!

Orchard News is the monthly newsletter from The Orchard Partnership GP practices, serving the communities of Wilton, Codford, Fovant and Shrewton. Across our four sites we deliver NHS Primary Care Services and are part of the Sarum West PCN.

We hope you enjoy exploring this April edition.

The Orchard Partnership

WELCOME

Welcome to April and a brand new edition of our patient newsletter.

Spring is here and we are delighted to be able to enjoy the sunnier days. Being outdoors and active is a great way to boost your mental and physical health, so why not make the most of it and arrange to catch up with friends and family this April!



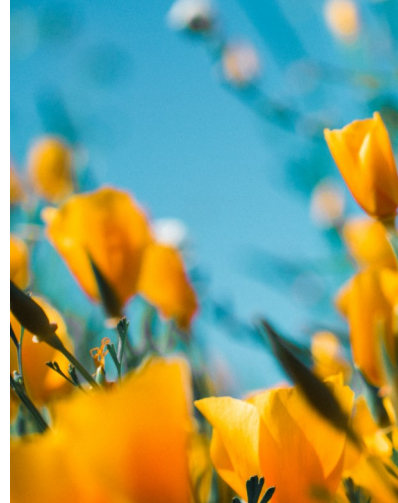
PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

We're looking for some members of our community to join the fantastic PPG, to help keep shaping the partnership and the services we offer. It could be for you!

Explore what we do and how you can join us in section two of this newsletter.

FACE COVERINGS

Although not compulsory in many settings, we strongly recommend you keep wearing a face covering when you visit any of our practices. This helps protect vulnerable people from infection and helps protect our staff. We will no longer be providing coverings, so please bring a covering from home. Thank you!



1. WELCOME

SPRING HAS SPRUNG!

Spring is finally here and we gladly look forward to longer days and lots of lovely sunshine! It's this wonderful time of year where we all look forward to making the most of being outdoors again and lots of research says just how good it is for us, so make the most of the sun in-between April showers and why not pack yourself a healthy picnic to celebrate!?

We have been very busy over the winter in our practices, and so with the longer days, it's nice for the partnership staff team to be able to look forward to making some sunshine relief. We hope you some nice occasions in the diary to get together with friends, family and neighbours to celebrate the joys of the warmer weather.

We have several new team members joining us over this month, from new Dispensers to Elderly Care Facilitators and Frailty Physio's - please do say hello if you spot a new face and help them feel welcomed and at home!



2. PPG

Q: WHAT IS THE PPG?

It stands for Patient Participation Group, and is a group which meets approx. 4 times a year to help bring staff and patients together to work on building the best GP services we can. It's a forum to share ideas, provide feedback, work on positive solutions and helps ensure the practice is always listening to it's community.

We have recently met as a refreshed group and would love to invite new members to help us provide a diverse range of views to help ensure we're representing our patient community.

If you would like to find out more or apply to join the PPG, please email orchard.clinical@nhs.net mentioning the PPG and we'll be in touch!



KEEPING EVERYONE SAFE

3. HANDS FACE SPACE

As we emerge from winter pressures, we still recommended that patients wear a face covering when visiting any Health and Social Care setting to reduce the risks of infection.

Please follow other guidance, such as social distancing and using hand washing facilities to keep patients, other service users and our staff safe.

We will however no longer be supplying facemasks to patients, so we encourage you to bring your own. Let's keep being kind to one-another, and give each other some space as we use our local surgeries.

We would like to extend a big THANK YOU for helping our team and other patients use our services safely, it has been a difficult time, so your cooperation is particularly appreciated.



4. NHS APP

Do you know about the NHS App? It is a fantastic App to help patients and those that may be a carer or guardian, have up to date access to a patients health record and a range of easy to use services.

Why should I download the NHS App to my smart phone?

1. It can save you a lot of time by avoiding to contact the surgery directly.
2. You can order repeat prescriptions, request appointments or message a healthcare professional.
3. You can access your health record, immunisation records and things like your NHS number and organ donation decision.
4. It's free to download and put's your NHS data right into your hands for convenient and secure access to your information.

What are you waiting for? Download to your smart phone today!

It is available from both Apple and Play Stores.



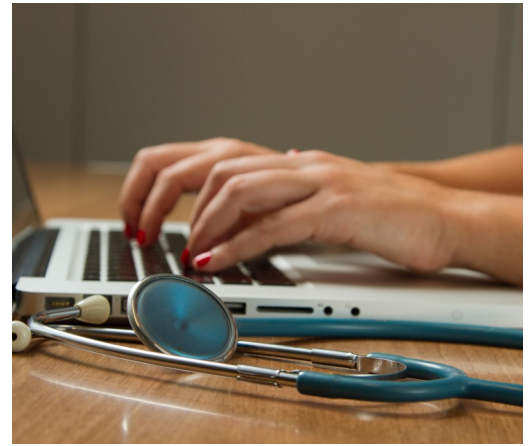
5. BUSY SERVICES

Thank goodness some of our winter pressures are easing, but if you have seen the news at all over the last month, you will be aware that NHS services continue to remain very busy and strike action is expected to be having a knock on impact.

Wider NHS services, such as those in secondary, tertiary and community settings all also remain very busy and because of the linked NHS ecosystem, this does impact the speed in which services and administration can be delivered across the services. It is a difficult time.

Please continue to be patient with our teams who support you directly, as well as those who work behind the scenes (such as in administration or referral depts). They are working hard and we are so thankful to have wonderful people a part of our team.

WHAT CAN I DO TO HELP? Please use online services through the NHS App where possible, to help reduce demand on services.



6. LOCAL EVENTS



LIVING WITH FATIGUE

Living Well with Fatigue - 6 session FREE course to talk about ways for anyone experiencing chronic fatigue to manage and improve their emotional wellbeing. It can be challenging living with chronic fatigue, so if you would like some support and encouragement - contact the teams to register. Contact awp.wilts-iapt@nhs.net for more info.

GREAT BIG GREEN WEEK | 15TH JUNE AT 3-6PM

The Great Big Green Week is all about inspiring and supporting ways we can come together as a community and inspire each other to protect our planet.

On Thu 15th June 3-6pm at the Guild Wiltshire (SP2 0RS, Wilton) join the experts and create some nature boosting crafty items to help nature thrive in our communities. Family fun and free food all provided, please contact karen.linaker@wiltshire.gov.uk.

