



Chairman's Chatter

Hello, and welcome to this, the latest edition of your Patient Participation Group Newsletter, produced by our new Editor. I hope you will find it interesting, and informative about the things we are doing on your behalf, to support the Surgery looking after your health and wellbeing. Everything we do is with the approval of the Surgery, with whom we work hand in hand to ensure the best possible outcome for all the Patients.

I am pleased that we have been able to support the addition of some new, brightly coloured fish for the fish tank in the waiting room, as well as being able to completely fund the new Blood Pressure machine, which has been installed for the use of Patients at the end of our Waiting Room.



Group photo - Antony, Neeta, Mike, Veronica (PPG), Dr Robertson, Jo Farnworth (Practice Manager), Peter, Mike, & Gavin ... and Dr Robertson with Les Fry from Dorchester Casterbridge Rotary, (the group enabling raffle ticket sales at flu clinics to raise the funds) and Peter. More details about the raffle and the money raised through the Rotary will follow in the Autumn newsletter.

We are working hard on a number of projects, all aimed at enhancing your experience of healthcare at the Surgery. There are a several articles in this edition which will bring you up-to-date with what is happening, alongside a few new ideas which are under consideration for development.

As a group, we meet four times a year, with some members meeting between these formal meetings to progress various projects. This is your Patient Participation Group, and you are welcome to attend any meeting to see what we are doing on your behalf. If you have any comments, observations or ideas, please email them to me at: Boxdragon54@gmail.com or if in written form, they can be left at Reception for me. (Peter Hazelton)

Digital Champion Service

As you may remember, the Prince of Wales Surgery had a weekly Digital Champion (DC) Service for quite a while, but when the NHS-WiFi service was withdrawn, our DC Service was, sadly, suspended.

As a temporary alternative, a DC Service was started in Pip's Café, overlooking the Great Field.

This free Drop-in Service has been very successful and will continue every Thursday between 2p and 4.15pm. To book a slot, call the Digital Hotline – 01305 221048. Not had time to book? No worries, just pop in and Mike will be happy to help!

We now have better news! The NHS-WiFi service has been restored at the Surgery, and the DC folks in County Hall are recruiting a DC to resume this free one-to-one service. Until this is up and running, please feel free to drop in at PiP's Café! Watch this space for further news (Mike Watson)

Surgery Book Stall

The Bookcase project at the Surgery has been running for nearly a year now, and it seems to have been well received by the Patients. The books are checked and rotated with newly donated ones on a regular basis, and this keeps the stock fresh. The Donations continue to come in, for which we are very grateful, the amount raised so far being in the region of £170. Some of the profits so far have enabled the PPG to donate the cost of restocking the fish tank in the Waiting Room with some more brightly coloured fish.

I am conscious that the PPG are running a Wellbeing Event focussing on Dementia, so I am planning to expand the bookcase to include Jigsaw Puzzles. It is known that solving Jigsaws is of benefit to Patients with Dementia, and initially I am going to present Puzzles of any difficulty, whether aimed at children or adults.

We would be very grateful for any donations of books or Jigsaw Puzzles – they can be left at Reception or we can arrange to collect them. Please contact us on: Boxdragon54@gmail.com. (Peter Hazelton)

Surgery Car Park Survey

From the results of a four-day detailed review by PPG of parking outside the surgeries, held randomly fourteen times from 12th March to 11th April, and with further follow-up space reviews from various members, these were undertaken randomly throughout the day, vacant spaces were recorded.

From these four days, it was determined that 12.7 per cent of all spaces were parked in all day and due to poor parking a further 10.8 per cent were lost, on only four occasions no spaces were found available on the Great Field side. Of these four, twice there were no spaces on the Surgery side, and on the other two occasions, only two "child only" spaces were found free - and at the time, instances of double and also parallel parking were reported. The time was between 15.30 and 15.50, on a warm, sunny afternoon.

Conclusion ; even with poor and all day parking, there is generally not a problem. This may change when weather encourages greater use of the Great Field, and Damers School parents collecting children.

The Duchy is known to be reticent over parking control notices, better clarity of parking spaces, etc, but this can be challenged - either now, or when the Council adopt the road.

Recommendations: Clear signage for all spaces on Surgery side – saying 'Surgery Appointments Only', Retaining current 'Mobility' and 'Child' spaces - all in an effort to influence the 'all day' and 'Great Field' users to be more conscious of the reason why these marked spaces are near the Surgeries. (Gavin Skinner)

A date for your diaries

The first in a series of 'Health and Wellbeing Events' will be held in the Surgery Waiting Area on Wednesday 18th June, from 4pm to 7pm. This first event will focus on Dementia and Memory Loss. There will be a series of table-top displays with various Clinicians, Professionals in the field, and other related personnel who can give valuable advice and support to sufferers, their carers and families. Watch out for posters and further information on this exciting venture!

