

THE FRIENDS OF STAPLEHURST HEALTH CENTRE

NEWSLETTER No. 58 FEBRUARY, 2022

Sponsored by Staplehurst Community Events Group

The Annual General Meeting of the Friends of Staplehurst Health Centre (Charity No. 1119922) will take place on Wednesday, 9th March, 2022 @ 7.15pm in the Health Centre, Offen's Drive, Staplehurst.

The Agenda is as follows:-

1. Welcome & Introductions
2. Apologies for Absence
3. Chairman's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. As nobody has volunteered to take on the office of Secretary to the Charity upon the retirement of Robin Oakley, IT IS RESOLVED that the affairs of the Charity be wound up and the Trustees be authorised to take all necessary steps to have the charity removed from the register of charities.
6. Dispersal of any remaining funds in the Friends' bank account.
7. Any other business

The meeting will take place in the waiting area and social distancing will be observed. If possible please take a lateral flow test before attending and do not attend if you have a positive result or are feeling unwell. Please sanitise your hands at the entrance and wear a face mask, (unless exempt).

NEWS FROM FIONA EDWARDS, MALLING HEALTH'S DIRECTOR OF PRIMARY CARE:

New Practice Manager

The surgery welcomes Gillian Osborne as the new Practice Manager who commenced in post on 24th January 2022.

Repeat Prescriptions

Lloyds Pharmacy in Staplehurst have ceased their service of ordering repeat prescriptions. Online Patient Access is the fastest way to order your repeat prescriptions. If you do not have an online account, please contact the surgery by emailing

gp.q82681@nhs.net

Covid

Thank you for your continued support in keeping the Practice staff and patients safe by wearing a mask when attending for your appointments. The Practice has now delivered over 1000 Covid vaccinations to registered patients.

Patient Participation Group

The practice is launching a virtual Patient Participation Group, giving patients the opportunity to have their say via a Zoom meeting with the Practice. The purpose of the group is to:-

- give patients and practice staff the opportunity to meet and discuss topics of mutual interest
- provide a means for patients to become more involved and make suggestions about the healthcare services they receive
- explore issues from patient complaints and patient surveys, contribute to actions plans and help monitor improvements
- contribute feedback to the practice on National Patient Survey results and Friends and Family Test feedback to propose developments or change
- to support health awareness and patient education.

If you are interested in joining the virtual or face to face Patient Participation Group, please email your name and email address to gp.q82681@nhs.net

Thank you

Robin Oakley is retiring from Treasurer and Secretary of the Friends of Staplehurst Health Centre. We would like to thank Robin for his hard work and contribution to the Practice over the last 14 years. We would also like to recognise his continued support in the delivery of the COVID Booster Programme, his time and support has been crucial in delivering this programme.

In recognition of his support and achievements, a plaque has been placed in the patient waiting area at the Health Centre.

THIS NEWSLETTER IS PUBLISHED BY THE FRIENDS OF STAPLEHURST HEALTH CENTRE. Chairman: Mr. Rory Silkin, Secretary & Treasurer: Mr. Robin Oakley (Tel 01580 891516) Trustees: Mrs. Suzanne Douglas, Sister Alison Edwards, Mr. Lester Gosbee and Mr. Robin Kenworthy

PUBLIC HOLIDAY CLOSURES

The Health Centre opening hours will be closed over the public holidays during 2022 as follows:-

Easter weekend Fri. 15th, to Mon.18th inclusive

May Bank Holiday Mon. 2nd May

Jubilee Bank Holiday Thu. 2nd to Sun. 5th inclusive

HEALTH CENTRE CLOSURE FOR TRAINING

The Health Centre will be closed for professional development training from 1pm on the following date in 2022:- 3 March

If you need to contact a doctor urgently on this afternoon phone 111.

APPOINTMENTS

Appointments now have increased availability each day and this has helped to reduce the need for patients to call multiple times each day from 8am. Patients are now being seen face-to-face as required or on patient request, and the mix of telephone and face-to-face is working well. Patients no longer have to wait at the Reception desk to check in as they can check in at the computer screen opposite Reception. Once seated in the waiting area they should pay attention to the patient call system which is now working again and await their being called to see the clinician with whom they have an appointment.

***DISCLAIMER.** Please note that neither NHS Kent and Medway CCG, Staplehurst Community Events Group, Integral Medical Holdings or the doctors and staff at the Health Centre take any responsibility for the contents of this newsletter or for the opinions or the information contained therein.*

THE FRIENDS, NOW AND IN THE FUTURE

The Friends was set up as a Registered Charity, to provide support for the clinical and admin team at the Health Centre. In the 14 years since it was formed, £14750 has been raised and spent on various items of equipment and 57 newsletters have been produced to keep everyone informed on health matters. These will have cost around £5500 to produce and are an important form of communication which reaches every home in the village. Prior to the Covid-19 lockdown we held 3 or 4 health information evenings each year. These evenings were presented by consultants from local hospitals and representatives from various charitable and health promotion organisations. We also held annual Cardiac Pulmonary Resuscitation evenings when people could attend, learn how to do CPR and have the opportunity

to practice on a mannekin and familiarise themselves with the use of a defibrillator.

Probably the most important activity each Autumn was to assist the clinical team with checking in patients for the flu vaccination sessions. This gave us the opportunity to publicise our activities and sell tickets for our Christmas Draw which has been our main source of income. Since the start of the lockdown we have not been able to assist with the flu vaccination admin, or run the Christmas draw to raise funds. During the last two years we have been fortunate to have sponsorship for this quarterly newsletter by the Staplehurst Community Events Group and this help has been greatly appreciated. Their latest news appears below.

You will have read overleaf that nobody has come forward to take on the Secretary's role and so the Trustees of the Friends have met and decided that the charity should be wound up at the next Annual General Meeting. It will be sad to see that happen but life is changing and people don't want to be involved in community matters any more. The Trustees join me in thanking the patients for their support during the 14 years that the charity has been in existence.

Robin Oakley Secretary and Treasurer



NEWS FROM OUR SPONSORS, STAPLEHURST COMMUNITY EVENTS GROUP

For approaching 60 years the Staplehurst Community Events Group (and its predecessor Staplehurst Carnival and Fete Committee) have organised local events for the village, providing good fun and entertainment, alongside raising tens of thousands of pounds to support local groups and organisations. This year we are organising the Party in the Park to celebrate the Queen's Jubilee in June, White's Landscaping 5 and 10k runs and later in the year we hope to bring a fun fair to the village, also to repeat the successful Santa's Sleigh runs around the village in December.

However, we really do need both more committee members (including a chairperson) and helpers on the event days; could you help? If you would like to know more please email us at staplehursteventsgroup@gmail.com or via our Facebook page. Alternatively call Bob Ham on 01580 892742 or Mandy Carley on 07780 646960.

