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Sedlescombe & Westfield Patient Newsletter (October 2020) Flu Special – Update on what is happening this year and why everything is different!

All GP surgeries provide Flu clinics every year and many of you will be aware that this has always worked well in the past. However, with the Covid-19 pandemic and alongside the many other changes to the way we live and work, the flu vaccination process has also had to change to ensure we keep everyone, Patients and staff, safe.



Also connected to Covid-19 pandemic, the Government announced that vaccines would be available for 'extra' groups - "Shielding patients" and their families and in addition those aged between 50 and 64 who did not previously require the vaccination.

We are pleased that we can offer the aged 50-64 patients a vaccine but unfortunately, we have yet to receive information on how we are to obtain these additional vaccines. The manufacturers of the vaccine will not accept any orders from GP Surgeries and we haven't any idea of when or if they will be made available. The latest information is that they may arrive sometime in November. We will endeavour to contact you when vaccines are available.

The surgery staff and the Patient Involvement Group are doing all we can to help everybody to understand what is going on this year. We are very aware how confusing the current situation is at times and how concerned some people are feeling. We hope the following information will help!

Why most vaccinations are not happening at the surgeries:

Vaccinations are taking place at the Village Hall in Sedlescombe as mass vaccinations cannot be carried out safely in the Surgery in the current circumstances. The Surgery needs to kept safe for people who are sick, frail or elderly and we must do everything we can to keep both these people and everyone else safe.

However, it is possible to carry out vaccinations successfully for large numbers of people in a big well ventilated space. Sedlescombe Village Hall was found to be ideal and is also much easier for patients and staff to park and to keep to social distancing rules.

Appointments rather than "walk in" vaccination sessions:

Patients are being sent a 'Flu Vaccination appointment by Text (Or telephone call if they have no mobile number). The surgery has detailed records of who should have the flu jab and the sessions are being organised in order of clinical priority, this means people who are most at risk from flu are being vaccinated first. (*continued on next page*



Sedlescombe & Westfield Surgeries

http://www.sedlescombeandwestfieldsurgeries.co.uk/

Westfield Surgery: Main Road TN35 4QE 01424 751609

Sedlescombe Surgery: Brede Lane TN33 0PW 01424 870225

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when it's less urgent than 999



Dr Peter Mirchandani MBChB DRCOG DFSRH MRCGP
Dr Camilla Pashley MBBS DRCOG DFSRH MRCGP
Dr Andrew Meilak MB BS MRCGP Dip SpMed
Dr Paul Di-Stefano MB BS MRCGP
Dr Sarah Davis MB ChB MRCGP DRCOG DFSRH STIF 2
Dr Sharon A. Margutti MB MRCGP DFSRH

continued from previous page)

- **Please do not worry if you have not been contacted yet! Please do not contact the Surgery with requests for the vaccination.**
- **We have already carried out three sessions for our most high risk patients and are gradually working through the list at a safe pace.**

We are guided by the Government on the procedures we must follow.

- If you would like to know more about how our vaccination process is working please see the short article below from a member of the Patient Involvement Group.
- If you are interested in finding out a little more about some of the challenges faced by all GP surgeries during this difficult time, please see below.

Finally, thank you for being so patient with us this year. We know it has been confusing and it may feel as though we are being unhelpful by not booking your vaccination but the staff, both clinical and admin are doing what they can in difficult circumstances and are under considerable pressure.

A Patient experience of our first Flu vaccination session: *"We held our first Influenza vaccination session of this year at Sedlescombe Village Hall on Saturday 19th September. The surgery discussed this process with members of the Patient Participation Group in advance to help think about how this would work best!*
The vaccination session at the Village Hall was a very smooth system. Parking was plentiful; ***though patients turning up early did complicate matters and arriving early should be avoided if possible to ensure social distancing can be maintained****. It is best to arrive only just before your appointment to help everything run to plan.*



On arrival our temperatures were taken to make sure we were not unwell. Then we went into the foyer where our details were checked, then into the main hall where two clinicians were set up to give us our jabs!
Inside there was plenty of room for social distancing to be maintained and with no need for us to touch any surface, so limiting the necessary cleaning.
From the temperature being taken to leaving the Hall took about 4 minutes."

The process 'behind' vaccinations: Our flu vaccinations orders were placed in November 2019 (last year) as is normal practice. We order enough to vaccinate all patients that were eligible at that time based on the take up the previous year, plus an additional 10%, just in case. But we now have considerably more vaccinations to provide and of course we could not plan in advance for this.
To complicate matters there are now two different types of vaccine. They come from different manufacturers and have different delivery dates.
The Surgery pays for these vaccines in advance and if they are not used, we have to throw them away and what we paid is lost.
Normally at a flu clinic, we vaccinate one patient every minute. This year, due to Covid -19 pandemic, we have to schedule 3-4 minutes per patient so that we can maintain social distancing and do not have too many patients in the building at any time.
Please look out for a text and further information on our website





THE FRIENDS OF WESTFIELD CHURCH

Charity No. 1048466

November is the time when subscriptions become due and all members have received letters in lieu of the AGM. Unfortunately the Christmas Fayre will not take place either.
If you appreciate seeing our lovely church as you pass on the A28 and wish to contribute to its upkeep, please contact the Treasurer, *Roger Bowe* on 01424 752728
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1ST WESTFIELD SCOUT GROUP

Scouts

Like other clubs and organisations, The Scout Association would like to get back to normal face to face meetings but with the very involved cleaning and risk assessments involved it has not been possible for us to return.

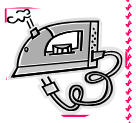
Our very old HQ off Cottage Lane (in fact a wartime nissen hut) is in need of urgent electrical works which we hoped to get done in October. We are taking the opportunity to have a survey of the building, whilst it is not in use.

We need a Scout Leader and Assistant to take on the Scout Troop; it would be good to have them ready for our eventual return. We urgently require a Treasurer with accounting experience and with computer skills. For more details, and if you feel you can help us, please contact me, details below.

Rosemary Bond **(Secretary) 01424 754080**
rosebond@btinternet.com

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WESTFIELD LUNCH CLUB

With all these present restrictions we are still unable to meet but hope that it will be possible sometime in 2021.
At the time of writing I believe when the time comes we may be able to have social distanced tables of up to six with everyone remaining seated during the meal but this means we are going to need at least two new volunteers to set up and lay the tables, serve the meals then clear and sanitize the tables when the diners have left. All volunteers will have to wear masks while in the hall.
If you would be willing to help with this please contact me on the number below.
Apart from my initial thoughts for the future I'd like all members to know I'm still thinking of them and hope that they all keep well and safe.
Also members may contact me any time they wish on 01424754927.

Sally

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PEOPLE'S PAGE

Brighten up a January day and enjoy the birds in the garden and take part in
The Big Garden Birdwatch
29 - 31 January
check out the RSPB website: www.rspb.org.uk
Photo: Allan at Feathers
Wild Bird Care info@featherswildbirdcare.co.uk



To all new residents
'Welcome to Westfield'



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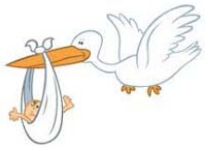
Children with Cancer UK

Paul Hobden writes: The 40th London Marathon this year was a virtual run of 26.2 miles. The day was wet and windy but I was chuffed to complete the hilly Kent marathon course in a PB time of 3hr 41mins.
So far I have raised just shy of £500 for Children with Cancer UK. A huge thank you to those who have sponsored and encouraged me during these strangest of times. If you see me or any other runner out doing a bit of exercise/training, a friendly wave or beep on the horn really does help and gives us a little bit of encouragement to continue and not give up.
Best Wishes to you all Paul
(*Ed:* see Paul's advert for phone no.)



Belated congratulations to *Doreen Smith* who celebrated her 80th birthday in August

Christine Delves is delighted to announce the birth of her granddaughter *Meadow* on 22 July. Her son *Peter* and his wife *Jasmine* welcomed their baby girl at 13.47 hrs, weighing 7lbs 2oz.



Lorraine (TheatreSense) and *James* welcomed their third grandchild on Friday 30 October, *Charlie Edward* (10lbs). Mum (*Holly*), Dad and baby all doing well.

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The 'Window on Westfield' is the responsibility of the Parish Council.

St Andrew's Day

30 November



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Broadband - Ultra Fast broadband project

During the first lockdown more of us had to rely on our internet connections for work and keeping in touch with our friends and family. This highlighted a greater need for much better broadband speeds. The Parish Council has taken this project on, together with ESCC, and it is hoped that before long we will all benefit with better connections. Please see Window on Westfield, the Parish Council's newsletter on page 36.



If you'd like to discuss this and see if this could be viable for your home please contact me at JonathanVH@btconnect.com

Please always feel free to call or email me if you have a District Council issue you need help with on 0797 312 9505 or Cllr.Jonathan.Vine-Hall@rother.gov.uk

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We are very sad to have lost two of our great friends and colleagues recently.

Charlie Fellows passed away on 8th September. Charlie was well known in cricketing circles in Sussex having played not only for Westfield CC but also for Crowhurst Park CC, Sedlescombe CC and Sussex Seniors. We were privileged to hold his funeral and wake at our ground, unfortunately the pandemic restricted the numbers attending which was a great shame. Our condolences go to Jackie and his family.

Brian Scollay passed away on 15th October. Brian was also well known in cricketing circles in Sussex having played for Battle CC as well as Westfield CC and in recent years for the Sussex Seniors at all levels and had played in over 220 championship matches, he was also a regular Sussex panel umpire. He represented England Over 70s in the winning series against the Australians in 2013. Our condolences go to Gillian and his family.

The truncated season finished on Sunday 11th October with a good win away to Beckley CC. We won all of our 6 games in the August Cup organised by Sussex Cricket to replace the league. We also played 13 friendly games, arranged by Kevin Baker, with a mixed success however we were only too pleased to be able to play any cricket this year!

Well done to Patrick Edwards, in his first season as groundsman, and his dedicated team of volunteers for getting the ground ready in July and keeping it in condition throughout. The cricket square has been "put to bed" for the winter but the few jobs left were hopefully completed before the wet weather arrived.

We would normally be starting our Indoor League campaign this month but this has been cancelled because of the pandemic.

Sussex Cricket are planning for a full league season in 2021 and in addition Kevin Baker has already arranged 18 friendly games, hopefully we will be able to get a full season.

We were really disappointed about having to cancel all of the cricket for young players particularly as it has taken us 4 years to build up the enthusiasm. However, we are looking forward to welcoming all of our youngsters back in 2021 for All Stars, Dynamos and Colts and the after-school club at Westfield School.

The new pavilion build is still a challenge but we will get there in the end. In addition to the difficulty with funding, there was a new appointment at the ECB which has meant we had to make some internal adjustments to our originally approved design but I am happy to report that our new design has received ECB approval---unfortunately no funding with it!

From everyone at WCC we hope that you will be able to enjoy Christmas, so Merry Christmas and Happy New Year for 2021.

For further WCC information please contact any of those named below:-

Kevin Baker: kev753909@sky.com 07988 635573
Ian Taylor: ianinbexhill@gmail.com 07925 585721
Peter Baker: peterbaker007@hotmail.com 07899 756286
Patrick Edwards: newinn-westfield@hotmail.com 07791 456573