

Dear All,

On behalf of the Chair of Hilary Cottage Surgery Patient Participation Group, we are very pleased to be able to send you the November 2016 'Friends of the PPG' update.



We have attached four items for you:

1. **The minutes of 27th October meeting.**
2. **Quick Guide to Urgent Care Services**
3. **The latest information on the Diabetes Awareness Event 24th November.** Places are limited so if you, or someone you know, would like to join us for this event please book a place at the surgery as soon as you can.
4. **Appointments System Update** –An opportunity to help us with developments

Updates with thanks for your support

- **Minor Injuries & Illness Unit Cirencester**

The PPG and staff of Hilary Cottage Surgery would like to thank everyone who contributed to Gloucestershire Healthcare Services review of the county's Minor Injuries & Illness Unit provision, including that at Cirencester. As you will have seen in the press, the decision has now been made to close the Unit between the hours of 11pm and 8 am. We will all have to work with that, ensuring that HCS patients know where help is available and when. We have produced the attached Quick Guide to Urgent care Services for HCS patients.

- **Men's Health**

We asked for feedback to help us to provide something focused on Men's Health. Following very limited response, we have prioritised other healthcare areas.

- **Coffee mornings**

We are aware that there are patients of HCS in many of the surrounding villages. So, in addition to coffee mornings in Fairford, we will be taking steps to join events in surrounding villages to meet members of these communities. Forthcoming events:

- ▶ Fairford Community Centre, Glass Walkway, during the Country Market morning on 14th December 2016
- ▶ Quenington Village Hall on 14th January 2017

- **Gluten Free prescriptions**

Hilary Cottage Surgery PPG and staff are concerned about the decision by Gloucestershire Clinical Commissioning Group to stop prescribing gluten-free foods from 30th November 2016. In common with a number of surgeries, this decision is being questioned. Therefore, for the time being, **HCS will continue to issue gluten free prescriptions appropriate to patient needs.**

- **Boots the Chemist**

Over the last year, HCS staff and the PPG, in particular our Chair John Read, have worked with a number of managers in our local branch of Boots the chemists. We are very pleased to hear that this branch has won the regional award and were put forward for the national award of Boots Store of the Year. Congratulations to our local manager and staff.....

Can you help us?

As you will see from Appointment System Update, the working party has met, reported back to the PPG, and drawn together a summary for HCS patients. As a Friend of the PPG, we would like to ask you to **complete and return the SURVEY if you are a patient of HCS.**

Vacancy on the PPG

As a 'Friend of Hilary Cottage Surgery PPG' we would like to give you advance notice that we will have a vacancy on the PPG from January 2017. We would like to recruit a new PPG member from our 'Friends' group because of the interest you have already taken in our work. If you think you might be interested in being a member and would like to know more about of the PPG then please contact John Read(Chair) or Liz MacFayden (Vice Chair) to arrange a time to chat informally.(both copied above)

Finally, we are continually adding new members to the 'Friends of HCSPPG. So, if you know someone who is registered with HCS and would like to receive updates, as you do, please invite them to leave their names with the Surgery or email hilarycottageppg@gmail.com

With thanks for your support,

Liz McFadyen and Ann O'Hara

On behalf of the Chair of Hilary Cottage Surgery Patient Participation Group.