

# AUTUMN NEWSLETTER 2023

**COVID:** Is still very much with us. As such, vaccination clinics are being run every day at the Surgery for both flu and Covid vaccines, so if you have not yet been invited for a vaccination please contact the surgery who will book you an appointment. Remember it is over 65s only unless you have an underlying health problem and are at risk of infection.

**Covid Infections** - As we go into the Autumn/Winter season we are aware that cases of Covid infections are rising. If you wish to wear a mask when you attend the Surgery then you will need to provide your own as the Surgery are no longer able to provide these.

If you are booked to come into the Surgery and you have any Covid symptoms, ie: a temperature and feeling generally unwell, on arrival at the surgery **please wait in your car** and telephone through to the surgery telling us you have arrived and which bay you are parked in. We will come to you in the first instance. Please make sure you are wearing a mask.

**Shingles Vaccinations:** the government have reduced the age for eligibility for this vaccination. If you are aged 65 or over, and you are eligible for this vaccination, we will invite you to the surgery for this. We are currently working our way through all those patients who have become eligible recently. If you have any concerns please do call the surgery.

**DIABETES PREVENTION:** We have launched a new initiative for people at risk of developing diabetes. Patients who are eligible will be contacted by the surgery, either by text message, phone or letter, inviting them onto the programme.

The Patient Participation Group have been very fortunate to secure a donation from Alton Lions Club and the surgery staff would like to say a huge thank you to for funding a Dermatoscope for us. This is an important piece of equipment used in the assessment and early detection of skin problems including early diagnosis of skin cancers.

**THANK YOU SO MUCH!**

*Photo shows Dr Barber with Moira Baker (President) accompanied by and Frances Parris, from the Lions Club, following the presentation of the Dermatoscope*



Do we have your correct contact details? Have you moved recently?

Have you changed your email address or phone number?

**DO PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOUR DETAILS HAVE CHANGED**

**CALL US ON 01420 542542**

**CHAWTON PARK PHARMACY: THE PHONE NUMBER REMAINS THE SAME: 01420-590245**

A new team have taken over the pharmacy next door to the surgery. Khuram and his staff are working hard to put things on track to support patients in every way.

They offer a free delivery service within a radius of 5-6 miles, please contact them if you wish to make use of this service. If you are outside this area, and would benefit from a delivery, please ask them and they will discuss this with you. They are also able to provide blister packs for those who need them. Again, please phone them or pop in to discuss this.

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**Fancy a change of direction? Looking for a new challenge?**



The surgery are recruiting for admin staff, namely 2 patient co-ordinators (formerly known as receptionists). If you are interested please contact the surgery. Full training will be given as the receptionist role has now changed so they can direct patients to the best clinician to help them.

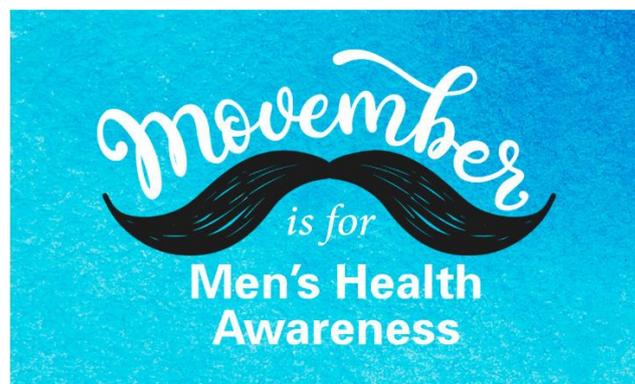
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**Staff Car Park:** We would like to politely remind patients that the car park and area around the back of the Practice are private and strictly for staff only, not for use by patients. This parking area is full most days with little space to turn vehicles around. Unfortunately, some staff have experienced damage to their cars whilst parked there during the day so we must remind everyone that patients are not permitted in these areas at any time. Please be aware that if anyone is seen parking, or on foot in these areas, you will be challenged. Thank you.

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We are looking for a group of volunteers to help look after the area around the surgery, including the garden. It has started to look rather unkempt but sadly we do not have the time needed to clear the overgrown areas and sweep up leaves. If you are interested please contact the PPG who will lead on this for us. [ppg.chawtonparksurgery@nhs.net](mailto:ppg.chawtonparksurgery@nhs.net)

**And finally.....**



November is men's health awareness month, known as **Movember**. This encourages men to 'grow a mo' and raise money for men's health including mental health, prostate cancer and testicular cancer. Check out their website <https://uk.movember.com> and see how you can help.

*Watch out for our next newsletter which will focus on awareness of different types of cancers*