**WGP Patient Participation Group Update - June 2021**

I am starting with some very sad news. Rosemary Henderson passed away on 7th. May 2021. She had been a member of the PPG and of the Sub-Group for a long while. She was an active member of the group and was always willing to help and to participate where she could. Rosemary had been unwell for a while but she remained cheerful and forward looking throughout. She was always a pleasure to talk to on the telephone. Her funeral was held on 27th. May. I attended and conveyed our condolences and those of WGP to her family.

**Review of the last Update published in February 2021 and matters arising.**

The Update was circulated.

Since the last Update, the Covid-19 vaccination programme has continued with increasing speed. Besides WHHC, Shaunaks has also become a Vaccination Centre and, despite some initial doubts, this has worked really well. Never has the Car Park at WHHC been so busy!! Once more, all WGP staff must be congratulated on their very successful roll-out of the programme.

It was good news to read in the “Surgery Update” that 4 new GPs have been recruited. This should spread the workload a bit more easily and give some greater flexibility in deployment. It was also good to read that WGP has been successful in recruiting a Mental Health Nurse. I guess that this role has never been more important than at the present time.

No further matters of A.O.B. were notified to SC.

**Surgery Update**

As mentioned above, the Covid vaccine programme is continuing in earnest and we are getting through the age cohorts as advised by NHS England. Our staff have worked tirelessly providing the vaccine alongside their own “day jobs” and we thank them all for giving up their spare time to aid the programme.

Sadly, Dr Claire Balysz has left the practice. We are actively seeking a replacement for her and have interviewed a promising candidate. We have also taken on Pam King, a mental health nurse and welcome her to the practice.

Dr Imran Safeer and his wife Zoya have welcomed a new baby daughter and Dr Helen Sangster is off on Maternity leave. Dr Edwards has taken a well deserved sabbatical after being with the practice for 28 years. He will be away until the end of August. Dr Gumbley and Dr Beale will be providing locum cover.

We are in the process of developing a “polyclinic” and also looking at ways in which we can restart our drop in blood clinics and hope to have more information shortly on how that will happen, Covid restrictions dependent of course!

We are now seeing many patients face to face, but are still encouraging telephone and video consultations where possible. Not only is this safer in terms of infection but we have had excellent feedback as to the convenience and avoided waiting times in the surgery. We will continue to develop this and it will only improve and get slicker with time.

We would, once again, like to thank all our patients for their continued support and appreciation and to all the volunteers who have helped in the Covid vaccine programme.

**A.O.B.**

* As I am writing this, further lockdown measures are easing and, hopefully, larger indoor meetings may be allowed once again. SC would like to think that our next meeting scheduled for Tuesday, 7th. September at WHHC may be-able to go ahead. However, there are many hurdles to be crossed before then and a decision will be made much nearer to the time. If it is to go ahead, members will be notified in plenty of time and a Sub-Group meeting will be arranged before the main meeting.
* If a face-to-face meeting cannot be arranged, SC will write a further Surgery Update.
* We hope that Dr. Edwards enjoys his well-earned sabbatical and that he will return to WGP in September much refreshed.

**Date of Next Meeting:** Fingers crossed……maybe…….Tuesday, 7th. September

at WHHC at 6.30p.m.????????

We will let you know!!!!!