

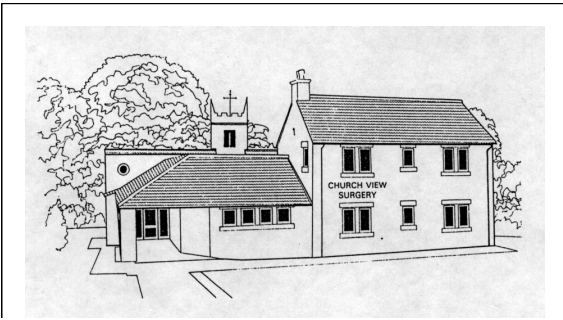
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# COLLINGHAM CHURCH VIEW SURGERY

Autumn 2021

Drs Toogood, Hance, Eyre and Trigg

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## Flu Vaccination Clinics

The flu vaccination clinics will begin in October and you will be notified by text or letter, in the first instance, if you are eligible. It is important that you attend for vaccination when called.

There were very few Flu cases in the U.K. last year and the Government is concerned that this may be reversed if people don't get vaccinated when called. The best time to have the flu vaccine is in the Autumn before flu starts spreading.



## Covid Vaccination Booster Program

The first clinic in our Covid Vaccination Booster Program took place at Wetherby Health Centre on Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October and will be taking place there on a weekly basis. The practice is inviting people in for these as the vaccines arrive either by phone or text message and according to the specified prioritisation groups. For a number of operational reasons we are not giving the influenza vaccine in the same clinic but please be reassured that research has shown that it is entirely safe to have both vaccines within days of each other or even at the same time.

## Why are GP's working differently?

GP's, their teams and patients have faced an extremely challenging time during the pandemic. Despite lockdown measures lifting

the pandemic is still not over. Face to face contact has been limited across all NHS services to protect you and keep you safe from the risk of infection. Nationwide General Practice is struggling to meet the growing demands of patients and cope with the backlog of work from the pandemic alongside a decreasing workforce of qualified GP's. This isn't the way any of us want it to be, but practices are here for you when you need us to be. Our own GP's at Collingham Surgery are working even harder than they were before the pandemic dealing with more patient encounters and paperwork each day.

Research has shown that lots of queries and problems can be safely and effectively discussed and sorted with your GP on the telephone and in fact telephone consultations have been extremely popular with a large cohort of our patients who struggle to get time off work etc. ***However, please be assured that if you need to be seen face-to-face you will be.*** At Collingham Surgery our doctors and nurses have continued to see patients face-to-face throughout the whole pandemic if that is what was medically needed for the patient.

## Why do receptionists ask such personal questions?

Receptionists are a vital part of the practice team. Their questions are to ensure that you are seen by the right person at the right time, and all answers are kept confidential. Not everyone needs to see a GP and most practices now offer appointments with other healthcare professionals including nurses, pharmacists, physiotherapists, mental health workers, social prescribers etc.

We know it can be hard to get through to practices at the moment as there is a unprecedented demand for appointments. Please be kind to our reception staff when you do get through-they are doing their best under pressure. ***Please note that we operate a zero tolerance policy on any physical or verbally abusive behaviour towards our reception staff.***

Please also be aware that appointments are time-limited and booked at intervals which are considered safe to manage ONE PROBLEM thoroughly. If you have more than one issue to discuss you may be asked to make another appointment.

Practices do not have direct access to the hospital appointment systems. You can contact St James Hospital on 0113 2433144 or Harrogate Hospital on 01423 885959 for queries about appointments. **Please contact your hospital specialists team directly for the results of any tests or investigations ordered by them.**

### **What is Wetherby Primary Care Network (PCN)?**

Wetherby PCN is a group of GP Practices who are working together to provide new services for our whole patient population. The member practices are:

***Crossley Street Surgery  
Collingham Surgery  
Boston Spa Surgery  
Bramham Surgery  
Wetherby Health Centre***

Together we cover a patient population of approximately 37,000 patients. The PCN team is constantly expanding and now includes e.g. Clinical pharmacists, Care Coordinators and an Occupational Therapist. A great example of the PCN working together was the local Covid Vaccination Clinic which ran from Wetherby Health Centre. Whilst Wetherby Surgery very kindly provided the building space the clinic was staffed from across the whole PCN and patients from all member practices were invited.

All of our staff worked tirelessly over evenings and weekends to vaccinate our eligible population whilst managing to keep existing General Practice services going too!

***PCN Manager-Ms Sophie Dawson  
PCN Clinical Director-Dr Francis Eyre  
(Collingham Surgery)***

## **September-World Alzheimer's Month**



World Alzheimer's Day takes place on 21<sup>st</sup> September and is part of World Alzheimer's Month.

Receiving a dementia diagnosis can leave a person feeling very alone. Alzheimer's Month is highlighting the importance of talking about dementia and raising awareness of how it impact the daily lives of people affected by the condition and their families. It also aims to challenge the stigma that surrounds it.

**The Alzheimer's Society** have dementia advisors who can support you directly by phone or face-to-face as well as connect you to a range of local services. **Call for support on: 0333 150 3456**

## **Childhood Cancer Awareness Month**



September is Childhood Cancer Awareness Month and is symbolized by a gold ribbon, worn to commemorate the event. This is an annual international awareness month to raise support, funding and awareness of childhood cancers and the impact for sufferers and families of sufferers of childhood cancer. It was founded in 2010 by former US president Barack Obama and is mainly run in the form of awareness events by cancer charities.

Some forms of cancer are mainly or exclusively seen in children, and that is something highlighted by the awareness month. Children can be more resilient to cancer treatments than adults, and there are many cases of triumph and complete recovery but awareness, education and support are vital.