

The Friends of Combe Down Surgery  
Charity Number 1109889

February 2024

Dear Friends,

Our Autumn and Christmas Fayres were both well attended and successful events enjoyed by all. Many people took the opportunity to come along and say goodbye to Dr Smith at the Autumn Fayre and he was presented with a small farewell gift by the Friends. Former GP at the practice, Dr Batterham joined us at the Christmas Fayre to sell her handmade silver jewellery and donated a generous share of her profits. The Fayres raised £661 and £829 respectively. All money raised goes towards improving patient care and the running of the patient minibus

The Spring Fayre will take place at the surgery on March 23. In addition to our usual stalls of cakes, books and puzzles there will be an Easter gift stall and a Spring Garden stall. We also have some exciting prizes for the raffle including a free MOT for your car from Combe Down Garage

### **Notice of AGM**

This year's AGM will take place on Tuesday March 26 at 6.30 at Combe Down Surgery. The surgery website is being updated but in due course you will be able to find the agenda and minutes of last year's meeting on there and there will be copies of both at the meeting. Debbie Williams, John Weinle and Janet Read have agreed to stand for re-election to the posts of Chair, treasurer and secretary respectively. Please could you let me know by email or phone (07890 995356) if you plan to attend so we know how many to expect.

### **Surgery Update**

The old pharmacy is being developed into two new clinical rooms and more storage space. Conversion work starts on Feb 18th with completion due in April. The refurbishment of the upstairs room into a total triage hub is already nearly complete. Recruitment of new staff is proceeding with the planned appointment of a Practice Manager, Reception Lead, Apprentices, and GP Assistants all in the pipeline. The new appointment system is now in place and working well. Sixty people attended the public meeting to explain the new system and there was much positive discussion and useful feedback. Patients requiring an appointment can now go to the surgery website and complete a simple questionnaire. This is read and discussed by the triage team and appropriate action taken. Patients who do not have the capability to go online can phone the surgery and the reception team will fill out the form on their behalf. The new system means there is no mad rush at 8.00am and the system is fairer. Overall the experience has been positive for both patients and staff.

### **Future Date**

The summer fayre will take place on June 29<sup>th</sup>.

Kind regards

Janet

Janet Read  
Secretary to the Friends of Combe Down Surgery