November 2026

Dear Friend of Combe Down Surgery,

As we find ourselves well into Autumn, with the nights drawing in and cold weather approaching, your committee is thinking about the future. But first, our summer fair which seems a long time ago now. This was a quieter event than normal with fewer visitors despite the reasonable weather. It is possible that the Firs Field event that took place the week before and attracted a good number of attendees made it harder for us to attract donations, raffle prizes and other gifts. We raised £567 which was considerably lower than previous years and part of a downward trend.

As the committee gets older and with no new recruits year on year the task gets harder. This year we have evaluated our fundraising and the effort far exceeds the rewards. We currently have a substantial amount of money in our account reserved for a replacement minibus but as this service is no longer required it can be used for the purchase of equipment and other requests from the surgery. Fund raising as such is therefore less urgent. For this reason and after much heartfelt discussion we have decided that from 2027 onwards we will only hold the Christmas fair.
We feel proud that the Friends has been operating for 21 years and we will continue to support the surgery but in a smaller capacity. It is a reflection of the changing times . We would like to thank you all for your continued support.

In the meantime, this year's Christmas Fair will take place as usual on Saturday 5th December at Combe Down Surgery from 10 – 12 pm. Stalls will include books, puzzles, Christmas bric-a-brac, cards and a raffle. Entry is £2 to include tea, coffee and mince pies. If you have any donations for the Fair, please bring them to the main surgery from 4.00 on Friday afternoon or from 9.00 on the day. Please only donate good quality items.

In the past few months, the Friends have financed the purchase of new surgical equipment, including an Ankle Brachial Pressure Index machine used for checking circulation to determine if patients need referring to a vascular surgeon and a feno machine used to aid in the diagnosis of asthma. We have also paid for improved seating in the waiting room and measures to improve the quality of the environment in both surgeries. All of these go towards improving patient care.

Note
The AGM will be held on Tuesday March 9 at Combe Down Surgery starting at 6.30

Kind regards

Janet

Janet Read
Secretary the Friends of Combe Down Surgery

PS If you able to help us save our resources by receiving your newsletter by email please contact me on janetread137@gmail.com or 07890 995356