

PPG Newsletter

Working with the surgery staff to improve the services for everyone

May 2020



alrewas.ppg@nhs.net

We hope that you are keeping safe and well. We would like to thank everyone who is helping neighbours and friends - we are hearing so many heart-warming stories about your kindness. What a wonderful community we are!

Members of the PPG are working closely with the Alrewas Village Coronavirus Help Group and are busy matching volunteers (of which there are now 70) to those who have asked for help. So far 55 villagers are being supported in this way. Some of the volunteers help with shopping and collecting prescriptions and others 'check-in and chat', providing a friendly voice at the end of the phone to help relieve the loneliness of self-isolation. We have had some lovely feedback. Many thanks to our volunteers – you are making a real difference.

If you learn of anyone who may need support, please encourage them either to fill in the form on the Alrewas Village Covid-19 Help website (alrewas-covid.weebly.com) or phone the helpline on 0330 1332 106. Once we have their contact details, we will do our best to match them to a volunteer.

Fradley's Community Support Group for Covid-19 is very active too and you can contact them on 01283 293031 for help with shopping and general support.

We have written safety guidance for volunteers and are in contact with village groups, letting them know that we have volunteers who can provide help if their members are in need. We are also liaising with the wonderful Food Bank at the Bank Coffeehouse (also part of the Village Help Group).

Working together with our surgery

These are worrying times for everyone, so as well as taking care of ourselves, we do also need to make sure that we look after our surgery staff. Responding to the rapidly evolving guidelines has added significantly to their workload. They are doing everything they can to help us and to keep us all as safe as possible and we thank them very, very much for this.

Project News

Health Roadshow John Taylor High School: This went ahead in February and was a great success. Thanks very much to all who were involved.

Pop-In at the Bank Coffeehouse: We look forward to when we can next get together.

Emergency First Aid training sessions: These have been postponed. We'll let you know when we have new dates.

Alrewas Surgery Update

All General Practices have had to modify the way they work during the present Coronavirus epidemic. Most consultations are now done by phone. These are working really well. We are also able to download photos into your notes and this is proving really useful for assessing certain problems. Some consultations are being done by video.

The Surgery website (www.alrewasurgery.co.uk) is a good place for general information and for links to resources to help you keep up to date and cope during this very odd time. On the News Page you'll see 'On Line Consultations'. This is a way to check a long list of conditions. You'll be asked questions and given links to advice. If the algorithm considers it's best to speak with a doctor or nurse it sends us a letter and we'll get in touch within 2 days. A great alternative way to self-care safely.

Remember, we are still open and routine immunisations, some screening, all suspected cancer and disease monitoring is continuing. Phone the surgery on 01283 790316 if you have queries. If we need to see you, for certain conditions, we may ask you to park in the staff car park. We will let you know if this applies to you.

Some surgery staff will be working remotely. This is a great way to continue the work of the surgery and keep risks as low as possible.

People normally coming in for 'annual checks': We are looking through your notes and assessing who can be safely be left for a few months and who needs to be seen. We will let you know.

We are delighted that Dr Tim Ireson has agreed to stay with us for another year. He'll be doing 4 sessions over 2 days. Dr Gallyot will be back with us on Mondays in July. Dr Davies, our GP registrar, will be with us until August this year.

If you would like to contact the Patient Participation Group please email alrewas.ppg@nhs.net