



The Doctors Notes

The Cranborne Practice Community Newsletter Spring 2024



Dr Bruce Woollard retires

At the end of March, **Dr Bruce Woollard** (pictured above with Practice Operations Manager Annie Morris) retires from The Cranborne Practice after nearly 30 years of delivering care to patients in the area. After gaining a medical degree from Imperial College, London in 1988 and subsequent post graduate qualifications Women's Health, he joined the practice in 1995, eventually taking on the mantle of "Senior Partner" after Dr Davidson's departure at the end of 2021.

If his past activities are anything to go by, Dr Woollard will be spending his retirement fully active including supporting good causes. Previous challenges have included completing a 1,000 mile cycling challenge for Dorset & Somerset Air Ambulance and having a go at Sky Diving!

A warm welcome . . .

. . . to several new team members who have joined us since our last issue.

Deena Geal, RGN Nurse Prescriber, has joined the team as Practice Nursing Team Manager and offers specialist advice on managing long-term and chronic conditions. **Jackie Lawson** now works alongside the Practice as a specialist mental health practitioner. We also welcome **Frances Oxford** to The Cranborne Practice Reception team.

Your Surgery of choice

As of the end of February 2024, The Cranborne Practice currently has over **12,600 registered patients**, an increase of 3.8% over the past 12 months.

Data from NHS England shows that over the six-month period ending January 2024, the Practice carried out **63,430 appointments**. Of these:

- **69.9% of these were held in person (face to face)** with a healthcare professional
- **27,678** were consultations with a GP
- More than **80% of GP consultations were carried out within 24 hours** of patient contact.

Commenting on these figures, Practice Manager Jo Morris says:

"We are pleased to welcome new patients and our experienced team of healthcare professionals and dedicated admin staff will continue to work to deliver the best possible health and care."

Order What You Need

When placing a repeat prescription request **please only order what you need**.

Each year, approximately 1.6 million medicine items are wasted unnecessarily in Dorset. We are asking patients for help to reduce this.

We want people to have the right medicine and care while reducing the amount of medicine waste.

Find out more here on the Crane Valley Primary Care Network website here >> <https://bit.ly/3PFHb4W>



Spring 2024 COVID Booster programme

Spring COVID-19 booster vaccinations are now being offered to patients who are **aged 75 old or over**, live in a **care home for older adults** or are **aged 12 or over and have a weakened immune system**.

You will be contacted if your NHS record suggests you may be eligible for a seasonal spring COVID-19 vaccine. Appointments are offered at drive-through clinics at the Community Vaccination Centre based next to our Lake Road Surgery in Verwood. These clinics are scheduled for **Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday evenings** commencing the **22nd of April through to early June**.

Patients with a mobile phone registered with their practice will be sent an SMS text message with details of how to book. You will be contacted by phone if you do not have a mobile phone registered with us.

Please wait to be contacted by the NHS if you're eligible. For guidance for people whose immune system means they are at higher risk please visit the Gov.UK website here >>

<https://bit.ly/3xd26Wz>

We look forward to taking care of your vaccinations

By the end of January 2024, overall in Dorset, more than 217,000 people had been vaccinated in the COVID-19 Autumn Booster Vaccination Programme. That is 64% of eligible patients. Of the 5,233 eligible patients registered with our Practice, 71.1 percent took up of the offer and we thank them.

At the same time, more than 265,000 people across Dorset received a Winter Flu vaccination. For patients registered with our Practice, 6,377 took up the offer.

You have a choice in where to receive your seasonal vaccines, but we hope you choose The Cranborne Practice.

We continue to have direct access to your medical records, so your immunisations can be immediately added to your patient record.

We still ensure continuity of care for our patients and carers - we already know you, and you know us!

We can inform you if you are entitled to other vaccinations, such as measles, shingles or pneumonia.

The Cranborne Practice pioneered drive-through clinics, and we continue to provide this service. Our patients have found this service very convenient, quick and efficient.

Some patients have asked about the cost. There is no cost to the patients for this vaccination, however The Cranborne Practice does receive a small payment from the NHS each time we give a vaccination. We reinvest this money into providing local GP services.

For more on this and other vaccination services provided by us visit our dedicated web page>>> www.myvaccination.co.uk.

We look forward to seeing you when your vaccinations are due.



A Path to Improved Well-being

At The Cranborne Practice, we want to do all we can to help you with your well-being needs. **What if together, we could do more for you?**

Working with our colleagues in the Crane Valley Primary Care Network, we offer a groundbreaking initiative designed to enhance local people's overall health and quality of life - Community SWITCH.

Many things that affect our health can't be treated by doctors or medicine alone - like loneliness, isolation, or stress due to financial pressures or poor housing? Social prescribing is a way of connecting people to activities, groups and support that can address these issues, and improve health and well-being more generally.

Our Social Prescribers, **Dawn and Seprina**, work closely with us and are connected to a network of community and well-being support organisations through our Community SWITCH programme. **SWITCH = Supporting Well-being Improving the Community's Health.** Our Social Prescribers offer a range of potential support services in the community to complement the health care being provided by healthcare professionals. Find out more here>>>

<https://communityswitch.org/>

MMR vaccinations

NHS Dorset and Public Health Dorset are reminding parents to get their children vaccinated from measles, mumps and rubella, diseases which can cause serious illness. It's important to catch up on any missed vaccines.

Two doses of the MMR vaccine provide the best protection against measles, mumps and rubella. Please contact us if your or your child has missed either of these 2 doses. For more information visit the NHS website here>>>

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/mmr-vaccine/>



Patient Feedback

We care about what our patients think The Cranborne Practice/Lake Road Surgery as we are committed to providing you the highest standard of care and treatment.

The NHS Friends and Family Test (FFT) gathers patient feedback so we may review our service continually. Throughout 2023, the Practice received 690 FFT responses. From these results, we learned that **96% of these respondents said their recent experience visiting the Practice was Good or Very Good.**

A summary of FFT feedback is regularly published on our FFT web page here>>>

<https://thecranbornepractice.co.uk/feedback>

Additional Consulting Rooms

The conversion of the space previously used by the pharmacy into new consulting rooms is progressing well. The development of these new rooms at Lake Road will enhance our ability to accommodate patient appointments more efficiently, reducing wait times and ensuring you receive timely and personalised attention. Works should be completed by early April 2024.