



ST AUSTELL HEALTHCARE

FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER

News at St Austell Healthcare

Welcome to the very first copy of News at St Austell Healthcare – the first edition of a regular Newsletter that will be sent out to our patients, letting you know what is happening at your GP practice. Enjoy the read – and please remember that you can forward on this Newsletter to your friends and family by clicking on the ‘Click’ in the Pass it on section on the left hand side column.

Flu Jabs – It’s not too late!

The generally warmer weather this winter has meant that some patients have delayed having the jab. The excellent news is that it is still not too late to get your vaccination for this winter. Just contact us on 01726 75555 or speak to one of our receptionists in person and we will sort the vaccination for you. It may well be that you will be entitled to a free flu jab-this is available to over 65s, those with long term conditions such as asthma and diabetes, or if you are pregnant. This winter 1,230 ‘at risk’ patients under 65 and 4,302 patients aged over 65 have already benefitted from this scheme.

New Partner at St Austell Healthcare

News at St Austell Healthcare is delighted to reveal that Dr Will Moore has been appointed a partner at the Practice. Born and bred in Helston, Dr Moore attended school in Truro before undertaking his medical training in London at Royal London and St Bartholomews. Dr Moore is already familiar to many patients, having joined the Practice as a GP last year. Dr Moore has described Cornwall as ‘the best place to live in the world’. It is great to learn that Dr Moore has chosen to pursue his professional career at St Austell in his home county. He commences his new position with the best wishes from everyone-especially his patients!

Appointments: A New Service

You can book an appointment with us online, over the telephone or in person at one of our surgery sites. Once your appointment has been made however, if you provide us with your mobile number, we can now contact you by text to remind you of your appointment date and time. It may well be that there are occasions when you have to cancel an appointment. If that happens, our new text service means that you can now also send us a message cancelling your appointment. We can then release that appointment slot to another patient. For more details contact us direct at one of our surgery sites or call us on 01726 75555.

Extended Blood Test Service

Following consideration of patients' feedback, at the beginning of January we introduced changes to our blood test and Warfarin monitoring (INR) service. These changes bring about an extended and more convenient service, whereby most of our surgery sites are now able to undertake the procedures. For full details, including times and venues just click on to the News page of our website. Our clinicians at the Carlyon Road Health Hub still provide 'on the day' urgent blood tests at the request of a doctor, as well as booked appointments and INRclinics.

The Young Persons' Sexual Health Drop-In Clinic

The issue of unwanted pregnancies and STIs remains a problem both nationally and locally. We opened our specialist Young Persons' Contraception and Sexual Health Clinic at the Carlyon Road Health Hub in September. This takes place every Monday afternoon between 3.30 and 5pm at the Hub. This service is free, confidential and is open to young people in St Austell even if they are not registered with this practice. We are keen to advertise this service more widely and will be liaising with schools, St Austell College and youth groups locally over the next few weeks. To help get the message about, we are also using this poster which will shortly be appearing around the town.

Your Health: More than just visiting your GP

Supporting your health does not stop the moment that you step out of your doctor's surgery. We work closely with outside support groups such as Connect. As an example of help available away from the health centre, Connect runs a Conversations Group, supporting those who have communication difficulty following a stroke or brain injury. They meet every Tuesday morning at the Britannia Inn on St Austell Road in Par, 10.30 to 12 noon where the parking is free. For more details on the Conversations Group and other services provided by Connect, please contact Hayley Burgoyne at hayleyburgoyne@ukconnect.org or on 07971 768805.