Practice move to Birdcroft Road, WGC AL8 6EH

We moved into our new premises on Monday 20 May 2019 and are settling into our new site.

Parking

Parking maps are available on our website and at reception. The 2 hour parking bays on Parkway outside St Bonaventure’s Church are popular with patients—these bays run from Birdcroft end of Parkway up to Parkfields.

Birdcroft Road itself is resident permit holders only. Only patients with blue badges can park on Birdcroft Road at the moment. We are working with Welwyn Hatfield Council to secure some parking opposite the practice on Birdcroft Road but this needs to go to consultation. For the time being please be aware of parking wardens on Birdcroft Rd—they operate here on a regular basis.

Telephone system

We now only have 1 telephone queue instead of 3. Prior to moving you would have waited for your call to be answered in a separate queue for either Guessens Rd, Knightsfield or Haldens. Now all our staff answer 1 queue. You may be at a higher number in the queue but should be answered at a faster rate as more team members are managing the 1 queue. We advise you not to call on Monday mornings unless your call is urgent as this is the busiest time in any one week.

Retirement of Dr Rimmer

Dr Rimmer will be retiring from the practice on 30 September 2019. Dr Rimmer is our senior partner and he has been with the practice for over 22 years. We will of course, be very sorry to see Dr Rimmer leave. Dr Rimmer will be greatly missed by staff and patients. We wish him well for a long and very happy retirement!!
Improving the understanding you have of cancer and taking action to improve your health or help others to do the same is the big aim behind the Cancel Out Cancer campaign. We are holding an event on Weds 25 September at 7pm at the practice with a guest speaker. Please let us know if you would be interested in coming along by emailing gcppractice.manager@nhs.net or let our reception team know.

I’m helping cancel out cancer

parkrun—Sat 28 September at Panshanger Park

The practice has signed up to be a “Parkrun Practice” and we are sponsoring the run on Saturday 28 September 2019. The event is SATURDAY AT 9AM AT PANSHANGER PARK, SG14 2WN — and is a free, 5k event for all ages from 4.

Do come along and join us—you can run, walk or spectate. Or perhaps volunteer and encourage others around the course?

Taking part is easy: register once on the parkrun website, print off your personal barcode and head down to Panshanger Park. Or sign up to volunteer on the website www.parkrun.org.uk/panshanger/

Flu campaign 2019/20

If we have written to you then you are eligible for a free vaccination. Please do come in and have your flu vaccination with us at the practice – in a safe, clinical environment. The flu vaccine is the best protection we have against an unpredictable virus that can cause unpleasant illness in children and severe illness and death among at-risk groups, including older people, pregnant women and those with an underlying medical health condition.

Studies have shown that the flu jab will help prevent you getting the flu. It won’t stop all flu viruses and the level of protection may vary, so it’s not a 100% guarantee that you’ll be flu-free, but if you do get flu after vaccination it’s likely to be milder and shorter-lived than it would otherwise have been.

For patients under 65 and considered at risk we are giving the quadrivalent vaccine— this vaccine will be available nationally from late October. Please do wait until our stock has arrived – there is plenty of time to be safely vaccinated at the practice – and we have ordered vaccinations in advance for you.

For patients 65 yrs and older we are giving the adjuvanted trivalent (aTIV) again this year. This vaccine recommended by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisations (JCVI) for this age group. Deliveries of aTIV to practices will arrive at the practice in September and the first 2 flu clinics will be for this group only.