Patient Newsletter Winter 2021

'To improve the health, well-being and lives of those we care for



A message from Dr Rawlins Murthy (Managing Partner)

We are finally reaching the end of what has been a very challenging and unprecedented year. When we welcomed in 2020 back in January no one could have foreseen the events and turbulent times we were to face. Thank goodness there is now hope for the future with vaccinations.

I am proud that we managed to weather the challenge of lockdowns and social distancing to maintain our vital work at Probus Surgery and Probus Surgical Centre. I am so grateful to all our wonderful staff, patients and volunteers who have helped us keep the work going — thank you so much for your support!

So as we look forward to the end of this tumultuous year, I would like to finish by wishing you a very happy, healthy and safe Christmas. Let us hope that 2022 will bring relief, joy and lots more triumphs in our plight to ensure the safety of all our patients and staff.

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The Probus Surgery doors are open from 08.00am - 6.30 pm Monday to Friday (except Bank Holidays). The Surgery telephone lines (01726 882745) are open to receive calls from 08.30 am until 6.00 pm Monday to Friday (except Bank Holidays). For general enquiries email us at enquiries.probussurgery@nhs.net



Check our Facebook page for regular updates www.facebook.com/ probussurgerycornwall website: www.probussurgery.co.uk

We've been working hard to ensure we can carry on seeing patients who need our care safely. Here are some figures from this summer to show you the caring service we have provided and will endeavor to continue ...

Data collected from August to October 2021:

Registered patients = 9,203

Incoming calls answered = 6,455

Telephone consultations = 1,625

Face to face appointments = 8,588

Sick notes = 144

Home visits = 22

Prescriptions raised = 22, 457

Items dispensed = 47,540

Why are GPs needing to work differently?

GPs, their teams, and patients have faced an extremely challenging time during the COVID-19 pandemic. Despite lockdown measures lifting the pandemic is still not over. Face-to-face contact has been limited across all NHS services to protect you and keep you safe from the risk of infection.

We want to be honest with you. General practice will continue to struggle to meet the growing needs of patients. This isn't the way we want it to be, but practices are open, and we are here for you when you need us.

Why are things different?

- To keep you and everyone else safe are being triaged. This helps give yo appointment you need:
- To be seen in person
- Helo from your local ph

you need to be seen



Why am I seeing someone who is not my GP?

harmacists, physioth hysician assistants, mental he

Why do receptionists ask such personal questions?

Where else can I get help?

common symptoms or contac www.111.nhs.uk or dial 111 to



Your GP surgery needs your support, so it can be there to support you. We can't meet this challenge alone. General practice desperately needs help from the Government.

Visit www.bma.org.uk/supportyoursurgery to find out more

Practice News Page 2

Probus Surgery is now a Veteran Accredited GP Surgery



On Remembrance Day Debbie Barnicoat and Spencer Casey (our Practice Manager and Business Strategic Manager) welcomed Andy Craze and Marc Walsh from Veterans Active Plus. Andy and Marc joined the surgery on their two minutes silence to remember those who served.

Active Plus was established in 2011, is a Community Interest Company that uses the skills, experience and expertise of injured and retired military veterans to deliver unique programmes that build confidence, improve motivation, generate a sense of belonging and self worth; helping people to unlock and fulfil their potential.

Probus Surgery will be working with Active Plus and our new Social Prescriber to support our Veterans.



For more information please visit: www.activeplus.org.uk/veterans/
Or search @ActivePlusVIP on Facebook.

The app "Veterans Gateway App" is available to download on smartphones.

A message from Business & Strategic Manager Spencer Casey

Another difficult year has passed. A year where many people have faced hardship and suffered loss. We as a organisation have also found it tough but we have tried to continue to improve our service and meet the needs of our patients. We have been proud to have played a huge role in the COVID vaccination programme which we have done in addition to our normal services. The Surgical Centre have played a huge part in helping the difficulties that RCHT have had and are now doing more operations than ever before in order to ensure that patients are getting the operations they require. There has also been a lot of news reports around patient access and face to face appointments. The NHS and the Government have demanded that practices are seeing a certain percentage of patients face to face and that our figures by April 2022 exceed pre-pandemic figures where possible. We are proud at our practice to say that we currently deliver 73% of our appointments face to face, in comparison with the 30%



or below figure that was reported in the Daily Mirror as the current national average. We have seen 42,288 patients face to face in the past 12 months which exceeds our pre-pandemic figures. However, we want to do more and will be striving to improve the accessibility for you our patients to the practice and surgical centre.

We have a new phone system being implemented this month that will increase the number of phone lines from 7 to 51. We will also bring in methods over the coming year to continually improve the patient experience and make it easier for you as a patient to receive the healthcare help you need and in a timely manner. We will also be restarting a face to face PPG (Patient Participation Group) so that we are able to listen to your feedback and implement changes and improvements you feel are required. We also hope to hear some more of the praise that many of you having given us for the things we do well. In tough times you have no idea how much we appreciate it and it makes a real difference to the whole team, so thank-you. I would just like to finally assure you that you the patient is what matters to us. We will really be focussing on the patient journey in the next 12 months and I hope you will all see how much we care and how much we want to help you when you need it.

On behalf of the Partners, Management Team and our wonderful staff at Probus Surgery, Probus Surgical Centre and Cornwall Medical Group, Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

A message from Dr Kayleigh Smithson

"I would like to wish all patients a merry Christmas and happy New Year!" Dr Smithson will be participating in her annual Christmas Day charity swim in the sea.

Wishing a happy and healthy retirement to our **Practice Manager Debbie Barnicoat**



On December 23rd we will sadly be saying goodbye to Debbie our wonderful Practice Manager. Debbie has been Practice Manager for 11 Years and with the practice for 22 years. She has been an integral part of the GP Practice and it will be a very sad day when she parts from the Probus family.

We wish her a very happy retirement.

Welcome to our new Practice Manager Emma Marjeram



We also welcome our new Practice Manager Emma Marjeram. Emma joins us with a wealth of Primary Care experience and will be a huge asset to the team as we move forward. We wish her all the best in her new role. Its been a difficult year losing both Debbie Barnicoat form the GP Surgery and Debbie Way our Senior

Surgical Manager from the Surgical Centre through retirement. Both were instrumental in the business but we feel we are in a really positive place with Emma as Practice Manager and Kim Prowse as our Surgical Manager. The future looks very positive with these fantastic managers running the business.

Free Delivery Service

Regular repeat medication drops are made to the following locations on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays: Tregony (Post Office), Roseland Parc, Summercourt Surgery (Memorial Hall), Grampound Road (Shop), Ladock (Shop), Sticker (Londis) and Tresillian (Shop - Mary's Pasties), Probus Garage and Grampound Village Store. In addition, a delivery service is available for patients who are housebound and further information is available from the dispensary regarding this service.

Welcome to Laura our new Head Nurse

We would like to welcome Laura Catchpole to our team. Laura comes with a wealth of experience and will be a huge asset to the team. Laura is one of the kindest and most empathetic people I have ever met and I am sure she will be loved by our patients and staff alike. We wish her all the best in her new role.

Dispensary

NHS

You can order repeat prescriptions via the NHS App or other online services provided by your pharmacy or surgery.



Dispensary can now send out a text message to patients once their medication is ready to collect or be delivered to their chosen drop off points.

In order to use this service please make sure your contact details are up to date and that you have given your permission for us to contact you.

Community pharmacy minor ailment scheme



Some pharmacies run a minor ailment scheme that deals with specific common health problems. Please ask pharmacy staff for more information.

Cystitis (women aged 16 to 65) Value Impetigo (a skin condition)

Insect bites

Mild skin conditions

Prescription charges will apply. If you're exempt from prescription charges, you won't pay for the medicine.

Dispensary telephone line is open from 8.30am until 11am, and between 3pm and 6pm

(except Bank Holidays) to answer any gueries or concerns you have regarding your medication.

01726 882745 and select Option 1

Requests for repeat medication cannot be taken over the telephone.

Please note that you must allow a minimum of 5 full working days (not including weekends or Bank Holidays) to process repeat prescriptions.

You can order up to 10 days in advance.

If you do not collect your prescription within 4 weeks it will be removed from the shelf.

As of the 1st April 2021 prescription charges are £9.35 per item.

A message from Dr Guy Lin Clinical Director

The past year has been very busy in our surgical unit. With waiting lists at record high, we are pleased to have been in a privilege position to do our part in reducing some of the long waiters in different specialities especially cataract and hernia surgery. We continue to work collaboratively with our system partners, the Royal Cornwall Hospital and the Kernow Clinical Commissioning Group. There has been some challenging times too, in ensuring we have a strong workforce, working equipment and supplies of various surgical items. Our staff have been wonderful and I am proud of the excellent service we offer to our registered patients and beyond. I would like to thank everyone for their continued support.



Cornwall Medical Group



CORNWALL MEDICAL GROUP

Bespoke Surgery & Aesthetics

We are excited to announce the launch of Cornwall Medical Group on 1st December 2021, at Probus Surgical Centre.

Cornwall Medical Group is an organic progression of our hugely successful Probus Surgical Centre, renowned as the counties leading NHS and private surgical centre providing specialist day case procedures in a primary healthcare setting since 1995.

"Bringing the experts together in Cornwall"

After seeing exponential growth in 2021 for private treatments, we are excited to announce we are expanding our services to include medi-aesthetics and cosmetic surgery procedures.

As well as offering innovative Ophthalmic procedures, Hernia repairs and Male Sterilisation techniques privately at Probus, our Aesthetic treatments will include Botulinum Toxin for wrinkles and fine lines, and Hyaluronic Acid Dermal Fillers, and skin-boosters among other cosmetic procedures.

For more information please contact enquiries@cornwallmedicalgroup.com or visit www.cornwallmedicalgroup.com

Wrinkle Relaxing Treatments at Probus in December

On Wednesday December 8th at Probus Surgical Centre, Cornwall Medical Group will be hosting an evening of Botulinim Toxin treatments with Dr Badie George MB Bch

How does it work?

Anti-wrinkle injections are used to create a more youthful appearance by causing a temporary freezing of the treated facial muscles, lasting 3-5 months.. AT CMG we only use the top brands of Botulinum A toxin on the market, (e.g. BOTOX®, Dysport and Xeomin) to ensure the upmost safety and longevity of your treatment.

Based on your individual characteristics and what you would like to achieve areas which may be treated are:

frown lines (forehead), between the eyes (brow furrows), the crow's feet or laughter lines (outer eyes), "bunny lines" (on the side of the nose), in the chin, neck lines (platysmal bands), smokers lines, gummy smile.

For more information please contact enquiries@cornwallmedicalgroup.com or call/WhatsApp 07740164518 to book your appointment.

(Introductory prices available * appointments start at 6pm Wednesday 8th December)

Vaccinations and Boosters Page 5

COVID-19

When you become eligible for your covid-19 vaccination booster you should be notified by text message.

If five months have passed since your last vaccination and you believe you are eligible for your booster, you can check online at https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/

or call the surgery on **01726 882745** to find out and book an appointment.

Booster clinics are now available to book through Probus Surgery at the Merlin Centre and The Clays Practice in Roche.





If you've had COVID-19 you may still be experiencing some ongoing physical and psychological symptoms that you're struggling to recover from. Your COVID recovery provides advice to support your health and wellbeing as you recover.

https://www.yourcovidrecovery.nhs.uk/





The jab keeps your

teen's life on track

Encourage your 16-17 year old to book their jab today

For more information go to nhs.uk/CovidVaccine

HM Government

If you are eligible...

can book your COVID-19 vaccine

booster dose online

The NHS will let you know when you

NHS

NHS

Book or manage a booster dose

Flu

Probus Surgery have plenty of Flu vaccines available and appointments for your **FLU** vaccine. We are having our 2nd Flu

vaccination clinic on SATURDAY 27th NOVEMBER from 8:30-1:30. Please call to book into the clinic.

So far this season we have completed 1853 vaccinations

The flu vaccine is offered free on the NHS to anyone with a serious long-term health condition including:

- Respiratory conditions, such as asthma (needing steroid inhaler or tablets), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)
- including emphysema and bronchitis.
- Diabetes
- Heart conditions
- Over weight BMI of above 40
- Chronic Kidney disease
- Liver disease
- Neurological conditions
- Learning disabilities
- Weakened immune system

Vaccines are our best protection this winter.

It's easy for us to pass on COVID-19 or flu viruses without knowing. This winter there are two essential vaccines you'll need to protect yourself and your loved ones.

Find out if you're eligible now at nhs.uk/wintervaccinations

Please call 01726 882745 and ask if you are unsure.

September

September saw World Alzheimer's Month.

If a family member or friend is becoming increasingly forgetful, encourage them to see a GP. Someone who is experiencing the symptoms described in the image on the right may be confused, unaware they have any problems, worried, or struggling to accept their condition.

Forgetting their keys is one thing. Not remembering where they live is completely different.

October

What are the signs and symptoms of breast cancer?

October was Breast Cancer awareness month.

Breast cancer can have several symptoms, but the first noticeable symptom is often a lump or area of thickened breast tissue.

Most breast lumps are not cancerous, but it is always best to have it checked by a doctor.

October also saw Stoptober, the NHS campaign to help people stop smoking. "It's never too late to stop smoking. You will notice immediate improvements to your



health when you stop, and you will save money! Search Stoptober for information and support to help you start your quitting journey"

October is **Lupus Awareness Month**

- There are more than FIVE MILLION people around the world living with lupus.
- Lupus is not contagious.
- Lupus symptoms can come and go and change over time, making it very difficult to diagnose.
- There is no cure for lupus but in most cases, it can be managed with treatment and specialist medical care.



Learn more and get involved at www.lupusuk.org.uk Call: 01708 731 251





@LUPUS_UK

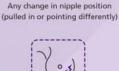
Reg Charity Nos: 1051610, SC039682



Changes in your skin such as puckering, dimpling, colour or a rash



An eczema like rash, crusting, scaly, itching or redness on or around the nipple



Breast pain is not usually a symptom of breast cancer



A change in the size, outline or shape of your breast



A discharge of fluid from either of your nipples



A new lump, thickening or bumpy area in one breast or armpit



Swelling in your armpit, collarbone or breasts



A See a GP if you notice any changes

Lupus is a long-term condition that causes joint pain, skin rashes and tiredness. There's no cure, but symptoms can improve if treatment starts early.

Find out more at

Lupusuk.org.uk

November

The campaign focused on raising awareness of the rights

that unpaid carers have. The pandemic has had a massive impact on the lives of carers, affecting access to services, the ability to juggle work and care and much more. That's why it's more important than ever that carers are aware of what they have the right to. Find out more at www.carersuk.org



Mental Wellbeing Page 7

The winter months and Christmas can be a hard time for many. It's important to remember that there are lots of services available that can provide support and help if you are struggling. Please don't suffer in silence.

Make the first step and ask to speak to a GP today.

Action for Happiness is a movement of people committed to building a happier and more caring society. We want to see a fundamentally different way of life - where people care less about what they can get just for themselves and more about the happiness of others. Members of the movement make a simple pledge: to try to create more happiness in the world around them. We provide ideas and resources to enable people to take action at home, at work or in their community. For more information, have a look on their website: www.actionforhappiness.org/

GREAT DREAM

Ten keys to happier living

GIVING



DIRECTION RESILIENCE



RELATING EXERCISING



EMOTIONS ACCEPTANCE



RYING OUT

AWARENESS



MEANING



Find information and support for your mental health.



Visit the Mental **Health Hub**

www.nhs.uk/mental-health



NHS

There are also services that can offer advice and support to family members and friends who want to support a loved one struggling.

SUICIDE PREVENTION ADVICE



Watch out for signs of distress and changes

Ask "are you having suicidal thoughts?"

It will pass - assure your loved one that, with help, their suicidal feelings will pass with time

Talk to others - encourage your loved one to seek help from a GP or health professional



Outlook South West offers mental health therapy for anyone 16 and older who is worried, stressed, anxious, or has a low mood.

You can self-refer by calling 01208 871905 or register online at cornwallft.nhs.uk/outlook-south-west



Need urgent help with your mental health?

Patients will now benefit from guaranteed 24/7 access moving easily between services, receiving the right care at the right time





NHS

JUST TALKING CAN HEI P



A wellbeing and resilience action planning tool (WRAP) created by young people in Cornwall is now available in app form on the recently released Your way/Headstart app (available on apple and android).

This means that 10 – 16 year olds can create a plan, refer to it and update it when needed, and have access to the accompanying WRAP toolkit with all sorts of tools and resources to support young people's wellbeing. This is available to download at:

https://www.startnowcornwall.org.uk/wellbeing-action-plan/



Wellbeing Action Plan

SOMETIMES THE PEOPLE AROUND YOU WON'T UNDERSTAND YOUR JOURNEY. THEY DON'T NEED TO, IT'S NOT FOR THEM.





Man Down is a Cornwall based non-profit Community Interest Company. They provide informal peer-support talking groups all over Cornwall for men with mental health concerns.

"Together we can end the stigma and reduce the number of male suicides in Cornwall"

www.mandown-cornwall.co.uk

Man Down meet fortnightly at the following locations:

St Austell, Clint's Barbers— Mondays 7pm (Dec 20th) • St Stephen, Brannel Rooms—Mondays 7pm (Dec 13th)

Truro, 77 Lemon Street—Sundays 7pm (December 19th)

Blue Balls is a cold water swimming community for gentlemen in Cornwall, started by two friends who wanted a group to encourage men to join them and discover the benefits that cold water swimming can have. Cold water emersion has some incredible benefits for mental health and well-being. The group are advocates for anything that provides the mind some release from the busy life most of us have. Sunrise swims, lunchtime swims or after work swims. Blue Balls are there to provide you with somewhere where you can share your photos, experiences and also your stories. For more information on this group please refer to: www.mandown-cornwall.co.uk



CORNWALL

Book An Appointment With LIVI

What is Livi?

Livi is a free NHS online service offering GP appointments from home, work, or on the go. Get medical advice, referrals and prescriptions.

For more detailed information on how to use the LIVI app please refer to the Autumn newsletter 2021.

See a GP by video. In minutes.

- Get medical advice, referrals and prescriptions







Use The Econsult Service

eConsult is an online service for non-urgent queries whereby you can complete an online consultation regarding advice about specific conditions, general symptoms, your child's common health problems, or administrative requests for sick notes, GP letters, and recent test results. Whilst we endeavour to respond within 48 working hours, please note that more urgent cases will take precedence and we will respond to your request as soon as is humanly possible. For urgent queries please do not use this service. e consult

NHS App

The free NHS app is a secure way for people to access NHS services. It lets you share your COVID-19 status, order repeat prescriptions, access 111 online. book appointments at your GP surgery, and access a range of NHS services.



Keeping Your Details Up To Date

If your GP is referring you to see a specialist it is important that we have the correct contact details for you. You can ensure that your contact details are up-to-date by submitting a form via the website, or coming into the surgery to fill out a form. Please note it is also a requirement to have your height, weight and blood pressure so we may also ask you for these details to complete a referral on your behalf.

Patient Participation Group (PPG)

As a member of the virtual Patient Participation Group you may be emailed by the practice asking for your views on issues affecting the service provided by Probus Surgery.

In the near future we will be restarting the live PPG following the disruption caused by Covid-19. If you are interested in becoming part of this group please download the form from our website or complete the form available from reception (probussurgery.co uk)

Thank you and we look forward to hearing from you soon.

Services Information Page 9





If you are at all concerned about your drinking, know that your concerns are valid, and you deserve support. Find out more about the support available here: alcoholchange.org.uk

Covid hates... face coverings

So try to wear one in busy areas or on public transport.

Most cases of bronchiolitis are not serious, but you should contact your GP or call NHS 111 if:

u're worried about your child

your child has taken less than half their usua ave had a dry nappy for 12 hours or more

our child has a persistent high temperature

your child seems very tired or irritable





Your Health Visiting Service

Pregnancy and their first 5 years is an important time for your child, when the foundations of their future health and wellbeing are laid down.

sealth Visitors provide expert information, assessment and intervention for all families with children under 5 years old. We have an essential mix of skills, and we work in partnership with maternity, GP, primary and secondary care, social care, early years providers and voluntary agencies.

What can you expect?

- New birth visit 6-8 week review
- 2 2^{1/2} year review
- Family wellbeing
- Child health clinics
- Signposting and access to additional support

We want to work in partnership with you to ensure your child gets the best start



Building a bright future

Find out more...

Call 01872 322779

Email hvsnadvice@cornwall.gov.uk Follow us @tffcornwall # 2 @



Please contact your usual dentist. If you don't have one, use NHS 111.





Feeling the burn?

NH5

Mild cases of cystitis often get better by themselves within a few days. Over-the-counter painkillers such as paracetamol can help with any pain Drinking fluids may also help you feel

We are still here.

some Sexual Health services. Please call our team or

O brook 0300 303 0714

sexualhealthcornwall.co.uk



Visit the link in our bio for download page

Make Yourself Heard





Get the right care, in the right place, at the right time If you become unwell or injured, make sure you choose the right NHS service.

Got questions about breastfeeding, or need some support? The national breastfeeding hotline provides confidential breastfeeding information and support, call the helpline on 0300 100 0212. Lines are open 9.30am to 9.30pm everyday.



999



OPC Independent Office for Office



<u>Dadpaduk</u> can help new dads by giving you the knowledge and practical skills that you need. The resource will support you and your partner to give your baby the best possible start in life. https://thedadpad.co.uk/

Community News Page 10



Cornwall Bereavement Network is a combination of bereavement services in Cornwall that have come together in order to make support more accessible for those who have experienced the death of a love one.

Their website has a list of services available to offer support:

www.cornwallbereavementnetwork.org

Alternatively, you can phone on **01208 834620** to speak to someone about where to find the right emotional support.





⊕ Merlin ⊕ 01726 885550

COMMUNITY FOOD LARDER

PROBUS PARISH CHURCH

Opening

Times: Monday

4-5

Wednesday

2:30-3:30

Friday

9-10

Saturday



Our local community larder is FREE and open to EVERYBODY to use in Probus and the surrounding area.

JUST DROP IN

Help us, help you & reduce food waste!

NO ONE GOES HUNGRY PROBUS & SURROUNDING AREA.



Isolating or can't get out? Please email nochildgoeshungryprobus@gmail.com to find out about our delivered food parcels.

Volunteer Cornwall are a charity dedicated to developing the wellbeing



of individuals and communities in Cornwall.

They do this by working with a wide range of organisations to promote and support active citizenship and voluntary action covering emotional, social, environmental and economic needs and opportunities in Cornwall. For more information on how you can get involved or how these services may be of help to you please visit

https://www.volunteercornwall.org.uk Or Tel: +44 (0) 1872 265305





Cornwall Carers Service

Adviceline 01736 756655



www.cornwallcarers.org.uk

Cornwall Carers Service includes three levels of support to carers living in Cornwall. The support includes information, advice and guidance, emotional support, community support, carer specific training, statutory assessment and dedicated services for Young Carers and Young Adult Carers.











Help to keep well and stay warm this winter

Freephone 0800 954 1956 or email advice@cep.org.ukcep.org.uk



Are you worried about rising energy prices?

Cornwall Council offer free and independent advice about fuel bills, home heating and how to stay warm and well.

For more information regarding this service have a look on: www.cornwall.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/public-health/ public-health-campaigns/winter-wellbeing/

If you have any queries, feedback or suggestions regarding any of the information in this newsletter please let us know by emailing enquiries.probussurgery@nhs.net or via the "Friend and Family Test" section on our website.

Alternatively, if you would prefer to speak to someone in person, please phone in and speak to a member of our dedicated team who are here to help in the best way they can.

Our next newsletter will be the Spring 2022 edition