



“Breast screening for the eligible patients was due to commence in April, however due to Covid-19 this was temporarily paused. However, we are pleased to confirm screening will commence from 27.07.20 on the Mobile unit located in Corby, Northamptonshire. You will receive an invitation in due course.”

Cardio nurse

Lorraine Archer is now our substantive Cardiology Specialist Nurse at the practice. Lorraine has extensive experience in Cardiology which will allow her to set up some Cardiology clinics here at the practice in due course. She will be seeing patients who may have symptoms related to their heart. She will be able to carry out certain investigations at the practice as well as comprehensive reviews depending on your symptoms. Lorraine is able to refer into specialist hospital services for ongoing care and treatment if required. She also manages our Research activities at the practice and this role will be valuable in combination

Staff update

We are saying goodbye to two of our doctors in July – Dr Odedra and Dr Hamilton. They wish to pass on the following messages:

Dr Odedra:

“I have enjoyed my time at Wansford and Kings Cliffe practice. I joined the surgery as a trainee and have developed my skills as a fully qualified GP here. I will miss the practice but I look forward to my future career with fond memories. Over the summer months I will be providing locum services to practices, whilst the coronavirus pandemic is ongoing, before moving into a partnership role”

Dr Hamilton:

“I spent some time during my GP training at Wansford and King Cliffe practice so I was excited to return after having my first child. I have loved my time here and I am now moving on to explore other areas of primary care and teaching and training. Thank you to everyone- you have made my time at Wansford a pleasant and memorable experience”

As we say goodbye to them we are very pleased to announce that Dr Helen Eastwood will be joining us as a salaried doctor.

Most of you will know that Dr Eastwood has spent the last couple of years at the practice as a GP trainee. She graduated in medicine from Barts and the London in 2010 after doing a previous degree in biomedical sciences at Newcastle university. She has spent time training in London, the East Midlands and Peterborough. Prior to her GP training, Dr Eastwood spent time training in acute and emergency medicine. Thus she comes with a great medical knowledge and experience. She lives locally with her husband and two children and is excited to be joining us permanently.

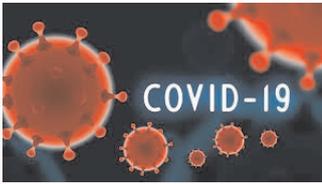
We also have Dr Chris Schramm who has been working with us since earlier this year in a locum capacity.

He lived in Northampton in 1975 (Skiddaw Walk!) but otherwise was born and bred in Australia and did his undergraduate medical degree in Tasmania. After graduating, he moved to Cambridge with his wife who is now a Professor in Literature and Law. He is an experienced GP who trained on the Cambridge GP Training programme and worked in Great Shelford for 20years. Along the way he has done Medical Student Teaching, GP Training, Appraising, Commissioning and recently developed an interest in Research. Within surgery hours he particularly enjoys Minor Surgery, Musculoskeletal Medicine and Cardiology. Having directed the Research Team at Shelford he is now working with the well established Research Unit at Wansford Surgery and also working with the NIHR to promote research activity across East Anglia.



New Appointment System

We are currently trialling a new system of appointment booking. Primarily approximately 80% of patient contact will be via telephone or video consultations. These slots will be bookable on the day. We will also offer a selection of pre-bookable face-to-face appointments. We have calculated that this system will enable us to offer more consultations than before, with patients being dealt with 'on the day', making it a more efficient system



Covid-19

Firstly, we would like to thank all our patients for being accommodating and accepting of all the changes we have had to rapidly implement.

At the end of March we moved very swiftly to a total triage model, cancelling a lot of face-to-face appointments and replacing them with telephone consultations as well as video consultations.

Our nursing team has also adapted well and although we have continued to see patients face-to-face, a lot of the long term condition reviews have been conducted over the telephone and patients have even had video consultations and education on how to manage their dressings. We are now being asked by NHS England and the Government to increase activity at the Practice; invitations for cervical screening are returning to normal recall, and we're being encouraged to do as much as we can in the way of routine work now to avoid a big backlog when we hit flu season.

We therefore are encouraging patients to attend the practice for their routine blood tests if they receive an invitation.

We can reassure you that we're cleaning all surfaces and equipment throughout the day, wearing appropriate PPE and taking all precautions so that we can protect both patients and staff.

We understand that some patients will be reluctant to come to the practice but the number of patients being seen remains quite low. At present (and weather permitting) we're not allowing patients to wait in the waiting room as the number outside is manageable.

We are however (from Monday 22 June) asking patients to wear a face covering when they attend the Practice. The outer doors are open and we can communicate via an intercom in the foyer.

We have installed Perspex screening at our reception desk as well, as a further level of protection between our staff and patients.

If you have any queries or concerns, do please contact the Practice.

Engage Consult

This is an on-line consultation system (we have been using this for some time) called Engage Consult. The link to this is available on our website www.wansford-surgery.co.uk. There is also an NHS APP available. This can be linked to your on-line access. For more information check out on YouTube.

Services that will cease:

The doctors have made the decision to cease ear syringing with immediate effect. Syringing is the most potentially traumatic way to clear earwax from the ears and not always effective. There are several alternatives available.

Patients can purchase an "over the pharmacy counter" DIY kit called Otex Express Combi, approximately £8.00 which includes oil and a low pressure squirter.

Microsuction is the best approach as it is least traumatic - it is currently available privately via selected branches of Boots or Specsavers for around £60. Peterborough Hospital has historically done this and likely, post lockdown, will start doing it again. You would require a GP referral for this.

For patients who have required earwax removal in the past, the very best thing is to put some oil (any vegetable, at room temperature) in each of your ears once a month. This prevents the earwax hardening into a large lump. We suggest you do this lying on your side and stay there for 5 minutes after putting in one to two drops. Do the other ear the following day.

Cryotherapy will no longer be offered as a service, this service will stop at the end of this year. It is less precise than surgical shave excision which means that multiple applications are often required; additionally it involves regular topping up of the cannister, which in turn needs to be stored.

