

In December it was reported that a new NHS England form - **The NHS Friends & Family Test** - will be available to patients both at surgeries and online asking one simple question – **“How likely are you to recommend our service to friends and family if they needed similar care or treatment?”** The form also allows suggestions for any improvements you think the surgery should consider. This method of gathering information has replaced previous years’ annual patient surveys and a sample of results will be submitted to NHS England on a monthly basis commencing end of February. You may not have visited the surgery during the past few weeks, but should be made aware of this new method of gathering feedback. If, however, you have been to the surgery recently and did not complete the form whilst there, you can now do so on the practice website www.wansfordsurgery.co.uk The format is very explicit and completion will only take a couple of minutes. You can add your name or submit the form anonymously.

Our January meeting was very poorly attended but we were pleased to welcome both Dr Nally and Mrs Kirstie Lawes, who following a period as acting practice manager has now been appointed to this post.

Assisted by the generosity of Elton Garden Centre, 200 spring bulbs have been purchased at discount and planted around the car park entrances and connecting pathway. Although previously agreed, Dr Nally confirmed that the purchase of a DVT monitoring machine was not now justified due to changes in guidelines on frequency of testing. Instead approximately one year’s supply of consumables for the D-Dimer Kit will be purchased at considerably less expense – this monitors blood for clotting and, after being prescribed clot bursting drugs for a few days, patients can then have an ultra-sound test – a procedure carried out at the surgery. It was also agreed to purchase a mobile ECG machine for use by the two frontline healthcare assistants, who triage patients on a daily basis – costing approximately £1500.

The meeting discussed at length a new government proposal to provide funding for extended services – the ‘Prime Minister’s Challenge Fund’ – within the Peterborough and Borderline area there would be four ‘hubs’ providing daily 8am-8pm cover staffed by local GPs. Patients contacting 111 or ‘out of hours’ service could be directed to the ‘hub’ for advice from a doctor – hopefully in many cases thus avoiding attendance at A&E.

38 patients enjoyed the Social Group’s post-Xmas lunch in January – monthly coffee mornings recommence on Friday 20th February 10.0am at Kings Cliffe Sports Hall.