



KIRKBURTON HEALTH CENTRE PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG) NEWSLETTER WINTER 2025

Our Newsletter can be viewed on our website www.kirkburtonhealthcentre.nhs.uk , or by email upon request.

STAFF UPDATE

Dr Hamilton has recently retired from the Practice. Staff and many of our patients were sorry to see her leave and we all wish her every happiness in her new ventures.

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Mandeep Bhattarai as a salaried GP at Kirkburton Health Centre. Dr Bhattarai has worked with us as a GP registrar for the past year. We welcome his appointment to our team.

FOCUS ON: Dr Mandeep Bhattarai, General Practitioner

Dr Bhattarai completed his medical degree in 2016 and worked as a house officer in specialties including paediatric and adult critical care, emergency medicine and oncology, in Nepal, his home country. He relocated to Huddersfield in August 2021 to start GP training with the Pennine GP Scheme. Dr Bhattarai joined the Practice as a registrar in August 2023 and completed his training in November 2024. He has a special clinical interest in palliative care and menopause management and is a GP Tutor for second year trainees. Dr Bhattarai said: "I enjoy the diversity of General Practice, and it is a privilege working with the wonderful supportive team at Kirkburton Health Centre. I am committed to improving patient outcomes and experiences at every level."

BOWEL SCREENING PROGRAMME EXTENDED

People aged 50 and 52 will now receive bowel screening home-testing kits, marking the final phase of NHS England's ambition to offer screening to everyone aged 50-74. The kit, known as the Faecal Immunochemical Test (FIT), checks for blood in a small stool sample, which can be a sign of bowel cancer. Those newly eligible will receive an invitation letter and will be sent their test with full instructions and prepaid packaging. Results are sent back to participants, along with information about further tests, if needed.

Expansion of the National Bowel Screening Programme to all over 50s is the latest step in the NHS to find cancers at an earlier stage, when they are easier to treat.

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/2025/01/nhs-rolls-out-lifesaving-home-testing-for-bowel-cancer-to-over-50s/>

PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP (PPG)

Our PPG is a group of volunteer patients, the Practice Business Manager, and a GP or Nurse representative. We meet three or four times a year to discuss the services provided at Kirkburton Health Centre, how improvements can be made for the benefit of patients and the practice and how we can improve communications and involvement between patients, our practice, and the wider community.

Julie Lambe, Practice Business Manager, said: "Our PPG is a valuable resource, eager and willing to support the practice and give a patient voice in the organisation of care. Patients who would like to join the PPG are very welcome and can join by completing a form which is in our reception waiting area."

For more information about the PPG, please visit

<https://www.kirkburtonhealthcentre.nhs.uk/patient-participation-group>

PATIENT EXPERIENCE

Our Practice actively encourages and welcomes patient feedback through a number of routes, including regular surveys, Friends and Family Test and our Patient Participation Group (PPG). Please find below a recent comment via our Patient Participation Group.

“ I often find that people moan rather than applaud, so I thought I would share two of my experiences relating to our surgery.

Quite a while ago I went to Scotland for a few days and realised, on arrival, that I had forgotten my medication, which I could not do without. I went to the nearest chemist and explained my problem; their response was that if I could ring the surgery to identify myself and then pass the phone to them, they would list the medications and issue them to me. This was done easily and within minutes I had what I needed. I had to pay for them (I am of a certain age to receive free prescriptions!) but that was no problem, against the peace of mind I received. Quick, clean, and clever!

Just before Christmas I had a sudden non-life-threatening medical emergency. I was in the company of a trained medic who treated and got me home, and advised I used the e-consult the following day. I did this, and by 9.30 am I was at the surgery being attended to. During that appointment and since then I have had blood tests, a scan, and an ECG, resulting in a change in my medication, and further monitoring. I certainly can only thank and sing the praises of the staff at our surgery.”

SCAM ALERT !

We have been advised by NHS England that fake SMS messages are being sent to people across the UK, allegedly from the NHS. The message tells the recipient to click a link to update information, or they will be suspended from their surgery.

This is a scam. **If you receive the message, please ignore it, and do not click to follow the link.**