



FRIENDS OF ORCHARD SURGERY NEWSLETTER – APRIL 2011

Dear Friends

It seems that at last spring has arrived – with that in mind we are planning our next **Plant Sale and Coffee Morning** to be held on **Saturday May 28th** from 10 am to 12 noon at the Unitarian Church Hall, Worthing Road. Any plants you may have would be appreciated for the stall and also items for the other stalls. We will have books, bric-a-brac, gifts and a raffle and donations would be most welcome. Please phone 01403 254471 to arrange collection. Please tell your friends and come along and support this event.

Our latest purchases of equipment for the benefit of you, the patients, are an automated blood pressure machine and a weighing machine located in our Reception Area. The blood pressure machine is very easy to use and the Surgery welcomes any Orchard Surgery patients who would like to monitor their own blood pressure to come in and try it out. You may wish to arrive a few minutes earlier for an appointment, take your BP and hand the reading slip to the doctor or nurse, or just pop in when near the Surgery and hand the reading to one of our receptionists who can update your record.

At our Cheese and Wine evening in October, Doctor Hills and one of the trainee doctors gave a short talk on the training of GPs at our surgery, which was very well received. We hope to have a talk from one of our doctors at our next annual meeting. If there is any particular subject that you would be interested in hearing about, please advise us.

The Christmas Bazaar in November resulted in a profit of £330 and grateful thanks to all those who either donated gifts or supported the event.

The Treasurer thanks all members who sent their subscriptions in promptly. A number of members have yet to do so and a letter will be enclosed with this newsletter.

You may be interested to know that with regard to Practice Based Commissioning, the Consortium which consists of several GP practices – Orchard, Riverside, Park, Village (Southwater), Courtyard, Rudgwick and Holbrook - is up and running with representatives from all practices, apart from Rudgwick. More information will be available in due course and we will keep our members informed. With these major changes that are taking place within the NHS, it is even more vital for Patient Participation Groups to be pro-active in monitoring our NHS services and your membership is one way in which we can continue to provide support to enable patients to have as good an experience as possible when using the services of the NHS.

One of the more recent services that our Surgery offers is on-line repeat prescriptions. For those of you who have access to the internet, the website is www.orchardsurgery.com. Once you have logged on, you will see a list entitled 'Surgery information'. Click on 'Repeat Prescriptions Scheme' and follow the instructions. This will save you a journey to the surgery to hand in your prescription and has already attracted a number of patients who have benefited from this service.

If you would like to receive newsletters and additional updates from the Friends by email, please let the Surgery know your email address.

We look forward to seeing you at the **Plant Sale and Coffee Morning on May 28th**!