



DMC news

The newsletter of
Desford Medical
Centre

Spring 2024

Practice News

Christmas Raffle Although it was not possible to hold the usual Christmas Coffee Morning at the Desford Medical Centre, the Christmas raffle still took place and was drawn on Monday 11 December. Once again, friends of the DMC had been very generous in donating prizes and the raffle raised £385 which will go towards new equipment for the surgery.

DMC staff members Sukhy, Kanmani, Ruth and Julie with some of the raffle prizes.



Car Parking. We would like to ask all visitors to DMC to be mindful of the needs of local residents when parking on the adjacent roads. And if you park in the Practice car park, please give priority to disabled patients as it is not always easy for them to move from their car to the surgery.

Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland GP Patient Experience Survey. To help us improve we are taking part in a local survey to assess your recent experiences of using this practice. The survey wants to know about your experiences of contacting the DMC to make an

appointment and the care you received. You can fill in the survey online at: www.bit.ly/LLRGPSurvey or pick up a copy from the practice. The survey closes on 10 March.

The questionnaire is quite straightforward and will not take long to fill in. After an introduction there are four sections: General questions about the DMC services, your experiences of making an appointment, your experience at the appointment and the experience overall. These are followed by some questions about you for equality monitoring purposes.

Hail and Farewell. There have been a few changes recently within the staff at the DMC and the FODs /PPG group. Firstly, we were very sorry to say farewell to Cameron Peach, who has been a popular member of the DMC reception staff. He was known for his cheery and helpful disposition as well as an uncanny ability to put names to voices over the phone! We wish him well in the future. We are pleased to welcome Katherine Patrick who joined the reception staff on Monday 19 February.

Meanwhile, Sue Huty has decided to stand down from the position as Chairwoman of the FoDS / PPG group. We are very grateful to Sue for all she has done during her time in the chair and for the many pieces of equipment that have been bought for the Practice due to her fundraising skills. We are also saying a sad farewell to Rob and Cally Wade and Molly Marcus, who are stepping down from the group after many years' service. We welcome Steve Newby, who joins us as the new Chairman. Steve's background is in the clinical side of the NHS and so he brings with him a wealth of knowledge about this organisation.



Dr Maini and Anju present Sue Huty with a bouquet thanking her for her work as Chair of FoDS / PPG

Measles Vaccine Following to the recent rise in the number of measles cases in Leicester and Leicestershire, we are encouraging people to check whether they, and particularly their children, are up to date with the MMR vaccine. There are some walk-in clinics open to adults or children, who are either unvaccinated or have only had one dose. Measles can spread quickly among those who are unvaccinated and can cause serious complications especially in young children, pregnant women, and those with weakened immune systems. The MMR vaccine is the best way to protect children and families from measles, mumps, and rubella. Children are routinely offered the first dose of the MMR vaccine when aged one year and the second dose aged 3 years 4 months.

However, it is never too late to catch up with the MMR vaccine. Two doses are required, which can be administered four weeks apart. Parents and carers can check their child is up to date with their measles vaccinations by referring to their child's red book, downloading and visiting the NHS App, or by contacting their GP practice. There are several opportunities to get vaccinated against measles in LLR this half term. People can either contact their GP practice, or drop-in to one of our mobile vaccination clinics:

When you need urgent help

If you need help urgently and it isn't life threatening, please use the NHS111 service to be directed to care in the right place for your medical problem. NHS111 can help 24 hours a day, seven days a week. You can either call 111, use NHS111 online or use the NHS App. All three routes will ensure that you are assessed and, if you need to be seen, an appointment can be arranged at a local service, such as an urgent care or urgent treatment centre.

There are eight urgent care services across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland, which you can use without an appointment. However, it is advisable to use NHS111 first, to ensure you are guided to the most appropriate service with a confirmed appointment time or arrival time slot. This will minimise waiting times and, for locations where there are fewer appointments available, it will avoid long waits or signposting to alternative services. The following locations can be used without an appointment.

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| Loughborough Urgent Treatment Centre | Oadby Urgent Treatment Centre |
| Merlyn Vaz Urgent Treatment Centre | Market Harborough Urgent Care Centre |
| Lutterworth Urgent Care Centre | Enderby Urgent Care Centre |
| Melton Mowbray Urgent Care Centre | Oakham Urgent Care Centre |

To find out more about the local urgent care services, please visit bit.ly/LLRUrgentCare