**News from Bottisham Medical Practice Patients’ Participation Group**

**Update from Bottisham Medical Practice:**

UK Health Surveillance Agency respiratory virus swabbing project. We have signed up to this project whereby any patient with viral or infective symptoms will be offered a nasal and throat swab. This is posted away and results are sent to the patient. The aim of the project is to see what are the prominent viruses circulating to help assist in planning for future viral treatments and vaccines.

**IMPORTANT: Patient access to medical records through the NHS app.**

The NHS wants to give people better ways to see their personal health information online. We know that people want to be able to access their health records. It can help you see test results faster. It also lets you read and review notes from your appointments in your own time.

From 31 October 2023 you will be able to see all the information within your health record automatically. For most people, access will be automatic, and you won’t need to do anything.

It’s important to remember that these documents may, at times, contain information that could be upsetting, especially if they contain news of a serious condition. Some patients may prefer not to have access to their records. Some entries may cause distress surrounding recent or past medical events.

Great care is also needed in case private details might cause harm at home, should people in a difficult or pressured relationship be forced to show their medical record to an abusive partner. Anyone in such a position should make this clear to us at the practice, so we can take steps to keep you safe. This might mean removing access through the NHS app for the time being, or through a careful process where we hide sensitive things.

If you do not wish to have access please let us know. Either contact your GP or email via

[admin.bottishammedicalpractice@nhs.net](mailto:admin.bottishammedicalpractice@nhs.net)

**Keep up to date on our latest information**

<https://www.bottishammedicalpractice.nhs.uk>

**Survey on Access to Primary Health Care:** Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is launching a survey on 1st November 2023 to gather people’s experiences of accessing Primary Care services, such as GP services.

This survey, which will remain open until 17th December 2023 is being conducted independently by Healthwatch Cambridgeshire and Peterborough with the support of NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.

NHS Cambridgeshire & Peterborough understand how important local access to health services are, such as your GP Practice, and are keen to hear your experiences, feedback and thoughts on ways in which you currently access local GP services and how these could be improved.

This valuable insight will be used to help NHS & Cambridgeshire & Peterborough to shape how our local services are developed for the future to ensure they continue to meet local needs.

[https://www.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk/form/primary-care-access-survey](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.healthwatchcambridgeshire.co.uk%2Fform%2Fprimary-care-access-survey&data=05%7C01%7C%7Cce8e0a1bc0154ca1172a08dbe0a95eaf%7C84df9e7fe9f640afb435aaaaaaaaaaaa%7C1%7C0%7C638350790261984949%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=DpEBhL9JKNPpESa%2BCNtyPrp2QRqIudmB8kOcYXQfJvk%3D&reserved=0)

**Christmas and New Year:** Please remember to order your medications in good time to allow for the bank holidays over this period, also to ensure you have enough to last you over this time.

**NAAFI Break:** Next one 6th December at Anglesey Abbey Redwoods Restaurant 10am. See message from Gary below.

**The Patient Participation Group:** As usual we are looking for new members to join the committee, all patients of this Practice are eligible. Please contact our chairman as below to find out more information and how you can be involved.

**Change of Meeting:** We have postponed the next meeting from December. This will now be at 6.30pm 25 January 2024 in the Surgery waiting room. If you wish to join our meeting, please email our chairman [s.j.gilson@btinternet.com](mailto:s.j.gilson@btinternet.com).. Or speak to reception.

We wish you all a Happy Christmas and good health for 2024.

*Bottisham Medical Practice Patients Participation Group*

**Message from Gary: The NAAFI Break** coffee morning for Veterans and their families is almost one year old and it would not have succeeded were it not for those that come along on the first Wednesday of each month for a brew and a laugh. I would like to take this opportunity to express my huge gratitude to all who have supported me and my fellow comrades enabling us to feel connected within our community.  Special thanks go to the Bottisham Medical Practice for allowing us to promote this in the Village magazines, to the Social Prescriber Chloe who has provided support, along with Steve and Jenny from the Patients Group. None of the above would have happened if it wasn't for Anglesey Abbey who allowed us to meet there so we veterans had a welcoming safe place to meet, all the staff have been kind and helpful and make us feel very welcome.  So, a massive thank you to everyone and I wish you all a very merry Christmas and look forward to a successful 2024. Gary.