

SALV UPDATE SEPTEMBER 2024

Graham Tyrrell Wing

This continues to be a mix of hope and frustration. On the positive side the enthusiasm for the project is as strong as ever, on the negative side lack of support from the NHS and uncertainty over the future of rural practice makes planning so much more difficult.

Dealings with the Integrated Care Board, which channels NHS funding for projects, has indicated that there is unlikely to be any capital funding for the project, and there is also unlikely to be any NHS funding for the use of a building funded privately, or towards the ongoing running costs.

As most of you will know Dr Emma Watts campaigns passionately locally and nationally for the preservation of rural practice, but there is always the fear simmering in the background that there is a wish in some quarters to consolidate rural practices into bigger centralised practices - where this would leave Shere (which is not a large practice) is uncertain. It follows that asking the local community for a large investment might struggle in the current climate. So while we still are exploring various avenues to fund the full project - our focus is moving in parallel to see if there is a temporary solution which we can go ahead with more quickly while we wait to see how the future priorities of the NHS generally unfold. Hopefully by the Autumn Meeting we will be able report on any new ideas.

Mobile Physiotherapy Unit

I am attaching a full document in which Dr Marcus McEwen explains the devastating potential closure of this service which was started over 75 years ago.

This charity has a contract to provide the extensive physio service we have at the surgery. If it closes as seems likely patients will need to go to Mount Alvernia or the Royal Surrey for physio. There is no indication that there will be any additional funding, so waiting lists will grow - you currently need to wait 4-5 months for physio at the Royal Surrey. It seems utterly crazy that a service which is so needed and which currently works efficiently should be taken down particularly in the light of the Surrey Heartlands stated

ambition alongside statements from the the government to provide services in the local community.

The Times reports today that The Prime Minister will today, following the results of the Darzi report, announce a major review of the Health service. *'The ten year plan to be revealed in the spring will involve '3 big shifts' : greater use of technology, **shifting care from hospitals to communities** and moving from sickness to prevention'*. If these plans are accurate this makes a short term inefficient move in the wrong direction all the more shortsighted.

The Surrey Heartlands Integrated Care Board seems set on a panicky set of cost cutting measures, and this seems to have been an easy target. The feeling is that the consequences human and financial haven't been properly thought through. Although our MP Jeremy Hunt is behind the surgery, and lobbying on our behalf we have few cards we can play. We believe the Surrey Heartlands would not want strong adverse publicity arising from the closure, so if you feel minded to, please you could voice your concerns in an email to syheartlandsicb.complaints@nhs.net

SALV Website

On a cheerier note our new web site is up and running www.salv.org.uk - do take time to look at it - it is here that we plan to publish any current useful detail. There is a link directly to this site from the Shere Surgery website. We are indebted to Rob Kelly who masterminded the whole exercise.

SALV News

Trustees

We are delighted that Mike Keeble has been appointed as a trustee - Mike's experience and extensive knowledge together with his local awareness and compassion will make him a hugely valued member of the team

Marketing and public awareness

We are always disappointed to find out that so many people are simply unaware of what SALV is and what it does. Jo Kelly has taken on the role of leading a subcommittee to look after marketing and public awareness, and it is an exciting development which will be led by a driven and enthusiastic trustee.

Autumn meeting

Don't miss this on **6th November in Shere Village Hall at 8.00 pm** - It is a 'Meet the team' opportunity to listen to the doctors and what they are up to and for you to ask any questions on surgery life. Do invite friends and neighbours to come along.

Vaccination News

There are 3 vaccinations in the limelight at the moment - RSV, Flu and Covid

Please get your vaccinations from the surgery rather than elsewhere - no-one wants vaccines which they have ordered for us to be unused

RSV

The RSV vaccination is for:

RSV is a common cause of respiratory tract infections. It usually causes a mild self-limiting respiratory infection in adults and children, but it can be severe in infants and older adults who are at increased risk of acute lower respiratory tract infection (LRTI; sometimes termed lower respiratory tract disease, LRTD), including bronchiolitis in infants. RSV bronchiolitis in the pre-immunisation era was an important cause of emergency department attendances and amongst the leading causes of infant hospital admissions, with an average annual admission rate of 35.1 per 1000 infants under one year old.

All Adults

All adults turning 75 after 31st August 2024 can be invited for vaccination and will remain eligible for an NHS RSV vaccination until reaching 80 years. NHS England recommend invitation occurs as soon as patients are eligible, that is, when they turn 75. Adults between 75 and 79 are eligible for the adult catch up programme

which is initially running until 31st August 2025. This means some 80-year-olds will, exceptionally, be eligible until that date [if they turn 80 between 31st August 2024 and 31st August 2025], otherwise, adults can be included and invited until they become 80.

Pregnant Women

NHS England has commissioned a separate routine programme for pregnant women, who are eligible after 28/40 gestation until delivery (unlicensed after 36/40)

GP practices are commissioned to provide on request or opportunistic vaccinations of pregnant women, for which the usual IoS fee can be claimed [the vaccine is the same for both groups] but not the routine RSV vaccination programme.

Co-administration

NHS England's advice is the RSV vaccination should not be routinely scheduled for older adults at the same time or on the same day as Influenza or Covid Vaccine.

Covid

The Covid vaccinations. We have no date currently when they will be delivered to the Practice.

Flu

The Flu Vaccination clinics will be on the system late next week to enable Patients to start booking in for week commencing 16th Sept. We are hoping to have first clinic on Saturday 5th October.

Kind regards

Adrian O'Loughlin
SALV Chairman