

# *Newsletter*



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## **“What a year that was! Time to take a break...”**

Well, yes, what a year... It’s amazing to think that only one year ago, as we write this message, we were all hoping that at last a vaccine would be available to help us all, in what must be one of the worst pandemics in living memory... For us here, your members of the Unsworth Group Patient Participation Group, (PPG) we have certainly had a busy year... Way back in 2019, before anyone had even heard of Covid, we got to work to help our surgery through its CQC inspection. By doing whatever we could to make sure that when the inspection came around, we got the best result we could. Then in March 2020, the “lockdown” happened. Everyone was doing their utmost to make sure that we got through it as best we could.... Fast forward to January 2021, and we started to prepare for the mass vaccination of the patients of Peter House, Blackrod and Stablefold.

A large marquee was erected between the surgery and pharmacy to allow those who had just been vaccinated, with the Pfizer vaccine, to wait for 15 minutes before leaving the site. Then, the whole planning stage had to be completed, who to come along first, how many vaccinator stations could be done, what about staffing outside, and, making sure everyone was well before they were vaccinated... A small army of volunteers came forward to help, as well as getting the staff and others to come and be part of this huge undertaking... So it was, that on a cold, snowy, Saturday the first people came forward to be protected by having the vaccine.

Local businesses brought supplies like food and drinks.... We still remember the lady who brought us warm Brownies.... (She had kept them warm by using the seat heaters in her car!)

Everyone was grateful for what we as a community were trying to do, get as many people vaccinated as quickly as possible... We at the PPG had volunteers out on the car park, inside the building, doing whatever we could to help, to date, there have been over 30,000





vaccinations a fantastic effort... First doses, Second doses, 12 weeks later and now booster doses and Flu vaccinations. As this is being written, at the beginning of December 2021, we are now looking to combat the new Omicron variant, with booster vaccinations now being offered to younger age groups, as well as those who are older and more vulnerable. So, our guess is the clinics will go on well into 2022.

Meanwhile behind the scenes, your PPG was working to try and get information out to our community of patients. We launched our very first newsletter, establishing a link between the surgery and its patients, we followed this up with a second edition, giving more information about the people who work both in the clinical roles and administration... When you have the largest GP practice in Bolton with over 20,500 patients, communication becomes very important...

So, as 2021 draws to a close, we want to wish everyone in our community sincere season's greetings, and the very best of health for the coming year.... If you would like to know more about "your" PPG then why not email us at [UnsworthPPG@gmail.com](mailto:UnsworthPPG@gmail.com) we are always looking for people to come along and join us in our quest to make our surgery one that we all want to be proud of..

With best wishes

Chris McKellen	Barry Sloan
Susan Wood	Hugh Dodds
Sandra Whittle	Pete Duffy
John Strawbridge	Christine Strawbridge
Pauline Lee	

