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**SPRING NEWSLETTER 2025.**

It is good to finally have some warmer weather, even if it is only a few days here and there. The staff would like to thank the patients who have kindly donated home-grown flowers to the surgery to brighten up the reception area. Many of you have noticed the arrangement that have been on display in reception in recent months.

Staff News:

Cheryl is retiring from Silton Surgery at the end of May 2025. Cheryl has worked at the surgery for over 30 years. We appreciate all her hard work over the years in the dispensary and wish her all the best for the future. She is going to be missed so much at Silton Surgery.

Also, some of you may of noticed that Karen has also retired in the last couple of months. She would like to thank everyone who gave her gifts, cards and all your kind words. Karen does help out with holiday cover so you may still see her around the surgery.

RSV (Respiratory Syncytial virus) vaccines

The RSV vaccine helps to protect against the respiratory syncytial virus which can lead to pneumonia and bronchiolitis. The vaccine is for:

* Pregnant ladies who are 28 weeks or over.
* Patients aged 75-79.

It is a one off vaccine administered in the arm and protects you for several years. If you eligible for the vaccine then please ask the reception team to book you into a clinic.

Missed appointments.

Do you find it frustrating when you can’t get an appointment?

Over the last few months, we have seen an increasing number of appointments being missed or cancelled at late notice. Sometimes these appointments are for double or even triple slots. Since September 2024, the list below shows how many hours have been missed with the clinicans:

* Nurse appointments – 21 hours and 30 minutes.
* RSV vaccines – 4 appointments.
* Flu vaccination, under 65 – 7 appointments.
* Flu vaccination, over 65 – 15 appointments.
* GP Assistant appointments – 6 hours and 30 minutes.
* Face to Face GP appointments – 17 hours and 25 minutes.
* Telephone appointment with the GP – 1 hour and 10 minutes.

We do understand that sometimes things happen, and appointments can be accidently missed. But we are finding it increasingly difficult to find larger slots for patients to be able to have the time they require in a reasonable time frame. Meaning patients are having to wait longer for their care.

Our Reception Team are very dedicated and hardworking and have a lot of work to cover during their working day. Any tasks carried out by them are filtered down from our Doctors and Nurses, so please remember when speaking to them that they are only carrying out instructions. Without our hardworking team of Receptionists, we could not manage to provide the services we offer.

Fond farewell to a long standing member of the FOSS board.

A long standing member of the FOSS board is stepping down after many years of hard work and dedication to the surgery. We would all like to thank him very much all the staff at Silton Surgery and wish him all the luck for the future.

The FOSS are looking for another dedicated individal to join the team on the FOSS team. If you are interested in joining, then please speak to one of the reception team, where your name will be put forward to the board.

FOSS funding

FOSS have kindly funded the following items to the surgery:

* 3 Wrist BP machines.
* 5 Ear Thermometers.
* A set of Bariatric weighing scales.
* Baby weighing scales.

Hospital request blood forms.

If you come to the surgery for a blood test, and you have provided us with a blood form then the results do not automatically come back to the surgery. The Consultant who has requested the bloods would have the responsibility for communicating the results to you.

Covid Spring booster vaccinations.

We will be carrying out the Covid Spring booster vaccinations at the surgery. These will be taking place at the end of April.

We will be sending out the links to patients that are eligible to book online, but also be contacting patients that do not have this facility.

Patients who are eligible are:

‘COVID-19 is more serious in older people and in people with certain underlying health conditions. For these reasons, people aged 75 years and over, those in care homes, and those aged 6 months and over with a weakened immune system are being offered a spring dose of COVID-19 vaccine.’