

FRIENDS OF GIFFORDS SURGERY



We need your support

DONATE NOW



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Welcome & Update from the Editor

Welcome to the third edition of the Friends of Giffords Surgery newsletter! This issue covers both January and February, as we've been busy planning an exciting year ahead.

We kicked things off in style with our first coordinator event at Broughton Gifford Bowls Club, where we combined some "blue sky thinking" with learning how to bowl! A huge thank you to James Morris for organizing the event and to all the club members for making it such a fantastic evening.

This year, we have a wonderful lineup of free workshops for you to enjoy. While attendance is completely free, we've added a donation option for those who'd like to support our work—entirely optional, of course! Our first two workshops have received fantastic feedback, and we're excited to introduce four new sessions (details below). If you sign up but can't make it, please do cancel so others can take your place.

To keep growing, Friends of Giffords Surgery needs more helping hands! If you have skills or time to offer, we'd love to hear from you. We have key volunteer roles available—check out our recruitment page for details. We're also launching a book lending library and a gardening club at the surgery, so if you'd like to get involved, drop us an email.

Finally, we have been busy applying for grants to help us deliver all our objectives for this year - more detail is on the following pages. We will use the grants to develop a special health and wellbeing website and arrange more workshops—stay tuned for updates!

We hope you enjoy this issue. Thank you for your continued support!

Sarah Williams-Martin BEM
Chair - Friends of Giffords Surgery

Forthcoming Events & Workshops

FREE - 1 HOUR
DEMENTIA WORKSHOP
CLICK HERE TO BOOK OR GET MORE
INFORMATION



14th April 2025
6.30pm

FREE - 1 HOUR
HEALTHY EATING WORKSHOP
CLICK HERE TO BOOK OR GET
MORE INFORMATION



30th April 2025
6.00pm

Friends of
GIFFORDS SURGERY

WORKSHOP
PRIMITIVE REFLEXES
Come to our FREE Workshop
Do you or a loved one experience: -

- Difficulty focusing or learning?
- Anxiety, sensory issues or emotional outbursts?
- Struggles with coordination or balance?
- Lingering effects of trauma?
- Effects of suspected or diagnose ADHD or ASD?

These could be linked to unintegrated primitive reflexes

Whether you're a parent seeking support for your child or an adult ready to reclaim control of your life, our personalised approach meets you where you are on your journey to growth. Join Stephen Peters (Co-founder of BrainXMovement) at Giffords Surgery to find out more.

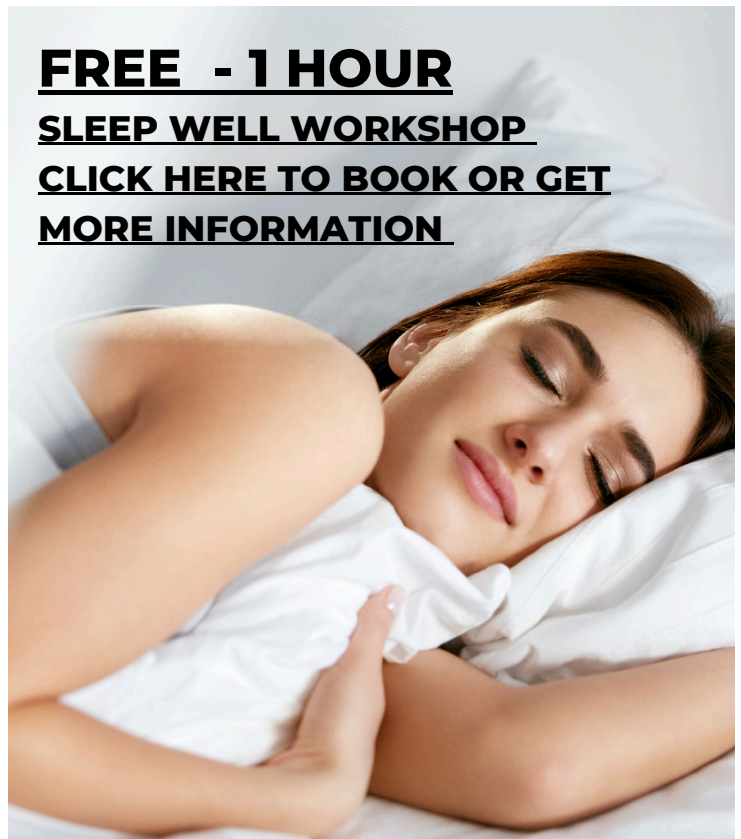
Please scan the QR code below to book or email us if you have any further queries
hello@friendsofgiffords.net

4th June 2025
6.00pm

BOOK HERE



FREE - 1 HOUR
SLEEP WELL WORKSHOP
CLICK HERE TO BOOK OR GET
MORE INFORMATION



14th May 2025
6.00pm

Other News...

Welcome to our New Treasurer

We are delighted to announce that Julie Aland has been appointed as our new Treasurer and will also be joining our Board.

Julie brings a wealth of experience, working in an accounting role for a world-wide hotel chain. Additionally, her background in nursing adds a unique and valuable perspective to our team. This combination of financial expertise and care-oriented insight makes her a fantastic addition and we look forward to the contributions she will make in her new role.

Welcome to the team Julie!



Grants Awarded

We are thrilled to announce that Melksham Without Parish Council, have generously awarded us grants to support the development of our new website and Directory of Services. This funding will be instrumental in creating a more accessible and engaging online presence for our community.

In addition, we are excited to use part of the funding to support upcoming workshops, providing valuable learning opportunities for our community. Huge congratulations to all the other grant recipients - we celebrate your success and the positive impact these grants will have!

Thank you to everyone for your support!

Stay tuned for updates on our website other grants and workshop plans.



Get in Touch

If there is anything in this newsletter which you would like to discuss further please use the links or email :
hello@friendsofgiffords.net

We need your help!

**THIS IS YOUR GP SURGERY AND WE WANT YOU TO BE A PART OF THIS.
IF YOU HAVE SKILLS AND FEEL YOU COULD ADD VALUE GET IN TOUCH!
WE ALSO NEED MORE AREA CO-ORDINATORS SO IF YOU LIVE IN AREAS
OUTSIDE OF MELKSHAM TOWN PLEASE GET IN TOUCH .
CLICK HERE TO REQUEST MORE DETAILS ON OUR CURRENT VACANCIES.**

Volunteer Co-Ordinator



Area Co-Ordinators



Fundrasing Co-Ordinator



Gardening Club Co-Ordinator



Research Co-Ordinator



Lending Library Co-Ordinator



General Volunteering



We really need volunteers to get involved in our community events, if you would like to help on an ad-hoc basis.

[Please register click here](#)

The practice continues to be very busy treating common winter ailments, which is usual for this time of year. However, we are still able to meet our daily demand. Our on the day service, offered through our eConsult platform is still proving to be highly effective, with the majority of patients feeling satisfied with the service they receive.

eConsult System

A reminder about our eConsult system. A whopping 100% of contacts made through eConsult seeking GP advice or minor illness appointment are consistently dealt with on the same day. Nurse appointments and blood tests are generally available to book up to six weeks in advance. The system is open from 7.30am - 3pm on a Monday and 7.30am - 4pm Tuesday to Friday. We highly recommend using eConsult to contact the surgery as it is the easiest and quickest method. We suggest downloading and using the NHS App or alternatively accessing eConsult via our website www.giffordssurgery.co.uk

Patients can continue to contact the surgery in person or by telephone if they prefer from 8am to 6.30pm Monday to Friday and the Care Navigation Team will complete the eConsult on behalf of the patient. When phoning, the practice has a new call waiting system, so that patients no longer need to wait on the line in a queue, they will receive an automatic call back. All patients are now seen face to face unless the patient prefers a telephone consultation.

New Registrations

Giffords continue to take new patients and out of area patients. We are delighted to be able to now offer new patients an initial health check appointment with a GP on registration.

Feedback

We welcome feedback from patients. If you have any suggestions about the services we provide, we have a suggestions box in reception or you are very welcome to contact our Patient Participation Group (PPG) at:-
bswicb.giffords.ppg@nhs.net (please note we not able to deal with patient queries via this email address).

100%
OF CONTACTS
MADE THROUGH
ECONSULT ARE
SEEN ON THE
SAME DAY

HAVE YOUR SAY

As a patient of the surgery we need your help to decide on where we focus our fundraising efforts. This will help shape the future of your GP surgery. This survey is a quick vote, anonymous survey. We have a list of things the surgery feel could benefit the patients, that are not covered by the NHS. So have your say below.

More Comfortable Environment (Comfortable Chairs)

Providing comfortable seating for patients, especially those who may need to sit for longer periods, such as older adults, people with disabilities, or those waiting for treatments.

Baby and Neurodiversity-Friendly Clinics

Creating a supportive environment for babies and individuals with neurodiversity by purchasing calming tools like bubble machines and sensory lamps. This will make baby immunisations and clinic visits more comfortable for those with sensory sensitivities.

New ECG Machine (For Heart Monitoring)

A machine used to monitor heart activity by measuring electrical impulses in the heart, helping doctors detect conditions like irregular heartbeats and monitor overall heart health.

INR Machine (Diagnostics for Cholesterol, Glucose, and More)

A machine that measures blood clotting levels and other important health markers like cholesterol and glucose, helping to manage conditions like anticoagulation therapy and diabetes.

Spiroconnect Numed Machine (Pulmonary Function Tester)

A PC-based machine used to measure pulmonary function (how well the lungs are working), which is crucial for diagnosing and monitoring conditions like asthma and COPD.

NObreath FeNO Device (For Asthma Diagnosis)

A device used to measure airway inflammation, helping with the diagnosis and management of asthma by checking how inflamed the airways are, which helps doctors determine the best course of treatment.

Any other suggestions for items that would enhance patient comfort and experience. Please email



Kalpesh and Mark at Melksham Pharmacy are continuously working to enhance their services, now offering more support than ever before.

This month, they are introducing two new services:

1. Ear-Wax Micro-Suction – Patients and customers can benefit from a FREE consultation. If treatment is required, micro-suction is available at £25 for one ear and £45 for both ears.
2. Weight Management Service – A structured program to support healthy weight management, starting at £109 for the first four weeks.

Melksham Pharmacy also continues to provide Dosette boxes and home delivery services, which are FREE in most cases. To check if you're eligible, please contact the pharmacy at 01225 703140.

More updates as they continue to expand their services for the community!

WHAT ELSE CAN MELKSHAM PHARMACY HELP YOU WITH?

PHARMACY FIRST SERVICE (TREATMENTS)

EARACHE

IMPETIGO

SHINGLES

INFECTED INSECT BITE

SINUSITIS

SORE THROAT

URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS IN WOMEN

REPEAT PRESCRIPTION ORDERING

REPEAT DISPENSING

VACCINATIONS

CONTRACEPTION SERVICE

Extended opening hours

8am - 8pm Monday to Friday

9am - 1pm on Saturday

While the pharmacy based at the surgery offers a range of services, other local pharmacies can provide similar support. We encourage patients to explore all available options to meet their needs.