

feel confident to use a defibrillator when a person stops breathing, this will be a good opportunity to see how it is done, gain some knowledge and give yourself a bit more confidence.

- Donations for the purchase of two Otoscopes have been received from David Wilson Homes, the Dickens Gate developers, and from the Community Events Group.
- The Friends assisted with the check-in process for flu vaccinations and took the opportunity to sell the Friends Christmas Draw tickets. As usual this was well supported and very successful with 24 prizes in the draw and the nett profit from this draw will be used to purchase some more cardiac diagnostic equipment for nurses to use.

Staplehurst Safety Event: A table has been booked (to be shared with the Emergency Help Team) to promote interest and awareness in the PPG. The event will be held in the Village Centre (now the Community Centre) at between 10.00am and 16.00pm on Saturday 18th April. While Andrew will be manning the table throughout, any support in promoting the PPG would be welcomed – Note: unlike last year, contributors to the event will be insured through arrangements made by the organisers.

Any Other Business:

- The availability of the Internet-Appointments service has been intermittent. This is because of the transition to the Health and Social Care Network (HSCN – managed by the Care Commissioning Group) the speed of which causes interruptions in the data transfer. It shows a [SERVICE NOT AVAILABLE] message. It is hoped that the shift to Fibre Optic Broadband on 17th April will solve the problem.
- Meanwhile the 'GP App' is working successfully
- The on-line prescription system is very successful and is being used increasingly – it is now used for 70% of all prescriptions. There was some scepticism about this figure reaching 100% by April.
- Puddles (inadequate drainage) are freezing in the car park, which can be a safety hazard. Salt is used when necessary.
- It was asked if the new system is working in which pharmacists have to be 'Level 1' – particularly for babies and the 'under twos', who might need to be seen in a hospital in an hour.
- Elaine explained that because of the continual need to employ locums at high cost, there is no budget remaining for essential improvements – which might otherwise have been paid for with allowances through local building developments. Unfortunately, while this source of funding is available, it can only be used to cover 75% of the cost, the remainder to be for the practice's account – and with the locums exhausting all the practice's available funds, it can't afford the necessary 25%. Therefore the development cannot proceed.
- The meeting was informed that, because of the security constraints on NHS email system, Benenden are unable to open NHS emails. This means that the surgery has no option but to ask Benenden members to deliver their referral letters to Benenden themselves.
- The possibility of a patient-operated diagnostic system in the surgery prompted a suggestion that Skype could be introduced to avoid visits to the surgery for GP appointments.

The meeting closed at about 8.15pm

Date of Next Meeting: The next meeting will be held on Wednesday 22nd April at 7.15pm in the Health Centre.