

*PPG*  
*News*

*Westhoughton &  
Blackrod*

*Unsworth Group*

*CHRISTMAS*  
*&*  
*NEW YEAR*  
*2022*



**We wish a  
Merry Christmas  
And a  
Happy New Year  
To all.**



## *Happy Christmas!*

On behalf of the PPG Core and the whole PPG membership, I would like to wish you a very Happy Christmas and a safe and healthy New Year.

This has been a year of change, with Covid fading (although it has certainly not disappeared) and life slowly returning to normal.

During the last year, the PPG Core has been working with the Practice and has suggested over fifty improvement ideas, some of which have been implemented, some of which are impossible and some of which are still being implemented or considered.

We have also submitted almost fifty questions from patients to the Practice, most of which have been answered and we have started a series of quarterly meetings when local groups can meet the PPG and the Practice.

We plan to continue to be the Practice's critical friend during 2023.

In this short newsletter you will find some useful contact numbers just in case you need them during the holiday period.

Once again, the PPG wishes you all a very Happy Christmas and a safe and healthy 2023.

Chris Mckellen  
Unsworth Group PPG Chair

## *From the Partners and Staff of the Practice...*

This year has been a year of change for Unsworth Group Practice.

We began the year welcoming our new Business and Governance Manager Stephanie Moore, and our practice Facebook page was launched.

As we near the end of the year our 3 new clinical rooms are nearly completed, the renovation of the reception area is well underway, and we now also have a practice Instagram page.

It has been a challenging year for both patients and staff and demand is still exceptionally high. We have been recruiting new clinical staff, some have recently started at the practice with more to follow in February next year.

Recruitment is ongoing, however, there is a national shortage of GP's and clinicians as a whole.

We would like to thank all our patients for their support and understanding and wish you all a very Merry Christmas and Prosperous New Year.

The Partners and Staff,  
Unsworth Group Practice.

## *“The year has just flu by”*

The vaccination season, suddenly seemed to be upon us, and back in September work was well underway to organise and administer the clinics...

In times gone by, many of us will remember coming along on Saturday morning for our annual flu jab, to keep us as healthy as possible through the winter flu season...

Then the world got turned upside down as a new word entered our vocabulary, that word or phrase was Covid-19.

Now the practice are having to administer both jabs, and this year the booster vaccination was either Pfizer or Moderna, both of which must be kept at very low temperatures and once “thawed” have to be used within a few hours!

Fortunately, here at our practice, we have some very skilled people who can sort all this complicated system out!

In the last few months, the practice has given out 6983 Covid boosters and 7201 flu vaccinations. Many (like me) had both at the same time, one in each arm...

Included in this figure are the vaccinations that were given to people both in West-houghton and Blackrod that are vulnerable and housebound. Driver volunteers helped by taking nurses to these people so as to be able to vaccinate as many people as possible in each session.

Volunteers were also involved with all the clinics helping on the car parks, in the queues, directing people inside the surgery, without these volunteers, the numbers that were vaccinated could not have been achieved.

A huge thank you and well done to our band of volunteers, who just give up their time, to help for no reward at all.... You are all just brilliant!



## Christmas Opening Times 2022

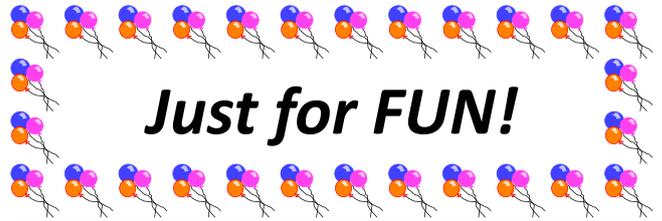
Monday 19th December 8am–6.30pm  
Tuesday 20th December 8am–6.30pm  
Wednesday 21st December 8am–6.30pm  
Thursday 22nd December 8am–6.30pm  
Friday 23rd December 8am–6.30pm  
Saturday 24th December CLOSED  
Sunday 25th December CLOSED  
Monday 26th December CLOSED  
Tuesday 27th December CLOSED  
Wednesday 28th December 8am–6.30pm  
Thursday 29th December 8am–6.30pm  
Friday 30th December 8am–6.30pm  
Saturday 31st December CLOSED  
Sunday 1st January CLOSED  
Monday 2nd January CLOSED  
Tuesday 3rd January 8am–6.30pm

If you require access to a healthcare professional, while the surgery is closed please call **0161 763 8940**.

Alternatively, in an emergency, major injury or bleeding, sudden onset or loss of consciousness, breathing difficulty, chest pain, facial or limb weakness and difficulty in speech call **999**.

**Out-of-hours services are generally busy so please think carefully before asking to see a doctor and only do so if you genuinely cannot wait until the surgery re-opens.**

The Partners and all the staff would like to wish all our patients a very Merry Christmas and Happy new Year



# Just for FUN!



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## Useful Telephone Numbers

24/7 Carers helpline. 01204363056. Samaritans.116123. Silverline. 08004708090.

Shout 24/7. Text SHOUT 85258. Refuge. 08082000247. Relate. 03001001234.

National Debt Line. 08088084000. Bolton Homelessness. 01204335900.

[PLEASE, Keep safe this Christmas.](#)