



## *WRSB Newsletter*

WOLVERHAMPTON RHEUMATOLOGY SUPPORT GROUP

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CARING IS SHARING

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### **OBITUARY**

It is with sadness that I tell you all that June Clarke passed away in November 2020. Our thoughts are with her son Paul at this sad time.

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### **COFFEE MORNINGS**

Once again, I am sorry to report that we do not have any plans, as yet, for our coffee mornings to resume. I am quite fed up writing this, just as I am sure you are all fed up reading it.

I will continue to send out monthly Newsletters until the situation improves and we are back to normal.

I hope we can all remember what 'normal' is.

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### **CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**

After the January Newsletter you will all be aware Wolverhampton moved into Tier 4. Then on the 04 January 2021 the Prime Minister announced a National Lockdown, and still some flout the regulations. Some of us will have had the vaccination by now, so hopefully things will start to improve.

The situation will be reviewed at regular intervals, the PM has already said it will be a slow process, lockdown will end gradually, maybe going down through the various tiers according to your region.

However please be aware that the lockdown regulations still apply to you even if you have been vaccinated.

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### **BREXIT**

Whether you wanted to or not, the UK has left the European Union. There are too many changes to go into so I have listed a few things that may be of interest, when we eventually get back to some form of normality of course.

**Driving licences;** You will not need a permit to drive in the EU. If you are taking your own car, you will need a green card from your insurer, and to display a GB sticker on your car.

**The Blue Badge;** will continue to be recognised in EU countries.

Blue Badge holders may be eligible for Toll payments relief, check it out, see if you qualify for a Mobility Exemption which has an annual fee of £7.

**Travel;** Your passport remains a valid document, as long as it has a minimum of 6 months left on it. Be aware if you renewed your passport early and extra months were added, these will not count towards your 6 months.

**European Health Insurance Card (EHIC)** – will continue until the date stamped on it, you will then be able to apply for the new card. The government propose a Global Health Insurance Card (GHIC) you are still encouraged to take out adequate Travel Insurance for the duration of your trip.

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### **Vitamin D**

The Government are making Vitamin D available to the vulnerable group. Some of you may have been told by your GP that only certain conditions qualify for it to be prescribed and that you may be responsible to purchase it over the counter. However, the Government have announced the vulnerable group can apply for 4 months supply free. You need to apply on the NHS website [www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk) or via [Gov.uk](http://Gov.uk). You will be asked for your full name and address, **National Health Number** and date of birth. Need help? Give me a call.

### **Stay Safe Everyone**

Jan Simpson  
Chairperson / Editor

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