

Deddington Health Centre Newsletter

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Summer 2008

New GP at the surgery

Your Next Appointment

Date:.....

Time:.....

With:.....

We would like to introduce Dr Hannah Ward who started work at the surgery at the beginning of March 2008. She works 2 days a week on Thursdays and Fridays. She is on a scheme called the Retainer Scheme, which is a scheme that encourages mothers of young children, who are also GPs, to keep up their doctor skills and at the same time look after their young family. This is why she works on fewer days than the other GPs. She has been working as a GP in Oxford before coming to join us. Meanwhile Dr Abi Dyer has left us for maternity leave (no news yet!). While she is away Dr Stephanie Symes, who has been with us for a year doing GP training and is now qualified, is staying on to cover the maternity leave. From early August a new trainee GP will be starting with us for one year – Dr Kate Smith.

New Weight Management Clinic at the Health Centre

It has probably not escaped your notice that there has been a lot in the newspapers and on TV about obesity recently. Many of you will have filled in the questionnaire that we have been giving out at reception for the last 2 months, which asks about, amongst other things, your height and weight, so that we can work out your Body Mass Index (BMI). The reason we handed out this questionnaire is not only because we want to know about you as an individual patient so that we can monitor your health, but also because Oxfordshire Public Health Department and the government want to get a better idea of the size of the general population. Up till now the information across the country has been very patchy, so all surgeries have been asked to gather the same information so that a better idea can be gained of whether we are all indeed getting larger.

If you feel that your weight is an issue, that it is affecting your health, and that you are ready to try and lose weight with a bit of help, then make an appointment with Sr Mary Casey, one of our Practice Nurses. Mary tries to see patients wanting to lose weight on a Friday afternoon -though she may be available on a Tuesdays or Thursdays too. The sort of things that that you can expect are:-
Weight monitoring; Advice and encouragement; Vouchers for Slimming Clubs; Exercise Referral to a gym.

AUTOMATIC PRESCRIPTIONS

For medication that is ordered regularly on a four weekly basis, this can now be set up by our Dispensary on automatic re-ordering. This helps by cutting out one of the steps in the routine ordering process. If you pay for your prescriptions, a method for pre-paying for your medication will be discussed. Interested? Then have a word with one of our Dispensers when you next attend the surgery and they will explain exactly how the system works.

POLITICS AND GENERAL PRACTICE

If you have been along to the surgery recently it will not have escaped your notice that we always seem to be collecting signatures for one thing or another. Firstly it was the NHS 60th Birthday card, and just recently we have been getting people to complete a ballot paper about the new Darzi Centre (or polyclinic), which is planned to come to Banbury in 2009. It is called a Darzi Centre after Lord Darzi, who is a Labour minister and also a hospital surgeon, who has been given the job of reviewing the NHS and coming up with a plan for the future for the NHS under Labour. One of the plans is for the setting up of a polyclinic in every Primary Care Trust in the country. For Oxfordshire, Banbury is the chosen site, where the increased population over the past few years has put pressure on present GP services which have not received corresponding finance to expand to meet this new need. In theory the new centre would take the strain off those practices. But there is a fear that the way this new Health Centre will be set up will actually destabilise patient services in Banbury, rather provide a solution. Large sums of money have been allocated to this new Health Centre, (which will be run by a private company, not by the NHS). This is not new money that is being added to the NHS pot, but money that has to be “found” from within the current pot. So in order for the new health centre to exist somewhere else has to lose out. The purpose of the recent ballot was to canvas the views of people local to this area are, and then if the popular view is not in favour of the Darzi Centre, to pass the ballot papers on to the Primary Care Trust to make the point that this change is not locally led, which is how it is being portrayed by the government.

MORE WEDDINGS

Now that Dr & Mrs McLaughlin are back from their honeymoon, the countdown is on to more surgery nuptials. In August, Sarah, one of our receptionists, is getting married, followed in September by our Practice Manager, Sue Johnson. We wish them all the best for their future happiness.



DISTRICT NURSES

In the last couple of months we have said “Goodbye” to our 2 male District Nurses, one of whom, John Henderson, has worked as District Nurse for this surgery for many years and will be well known to a number of you. Our District Nurse team is now quite short staffed, but they have been having a recruitment drive and hope that they will be up to full strength shortly. We wish both John and Phil Best Wishes in their new jobs.

EARLY AND LATE DOCTORS APPOINTMENTS

We have introduced some pre-bookable appointments suitable for those patients who are not so easily able to come to the surgery during routine working hours. The early appointments start at 8am, and late appointments run from 5:30 until 6pm. Please ask, when you are booking an appointment, if you require one of these. You need to be aware that our Dispensary does not open until 08:30pm, so if the GP gives you a prescription, you would need to take the script away with you and get it filled elsewhere unless you were happy to wait until 08:30am when dispensary opens, or preferred to return to the surgery at a later time to pick up the medication.

TALKING TO THE DOCTORS ON THE PHONE

Don't forget, if you want to talk to one of the doctors on the phone, then you need to ring up the surgery before 11am on a weekday and ask the receptionist to put you through to the doctor's mailbox to leave a message. The doctor will then ring you back at the end of morning surgery, so make sure you leave the phone number of where you will be. Not every doctor is available every day. The receptionist will let you know whether the doctor you want to talk to is available that day.