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THE SANDRINGHAM PRACTICE

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NEWSLETTER FOR PATIENTS APRIL 2008

Hello again everyone, it is good to see the evenings getting lighter, the tree blossom adding its luxuriant colours to the landscape even if it was 2° this morning when I came to work. I am sure we all feel better for longer daylight hours and I note that on the repeat prescriptions there are plenty of people ordering early because they are going away on their holidays, so it is a good time of year.

NEW REGISTRAR

We now have Anna Kirkman with us, she started in early February, is married and as often is the case these days commutes across from Sheffield to us each day, as one of her mentors I can assure you she is an excellent doctor and is a valued addition to our team.

Anna Gillham our previous registrar has left us on maternity leave and indeed we were delighted by the news that Anna gave birth to Henry at Easter time and both are doing very well. As a training practice we take great pride in helping young doctors become GPs several of whom are established GPs in Doncaster now as well as other ex-registrars working as GPs in other parts of the country.

DR DAVID GIBSON

We have also welcomed Dr David Gibson who many of you will already have met, he is a fully qualified GP of many years duration who is working with us on average three sessions a week. So far his help has been invaluable and long may that continue.

PRACTICE WEBSITE

Although we have mentioned this before we would like to promote the practice website www.thesandringhampractice.co.uk which provides up to date information about the practice and through which you are able to organise repeat prescriptions. The website is in its early days and is to be developed further and if you have any suggestions regarding its content or format please feel free to let us know.

COMMUNICATION

1. Quite a lot of our work is now done by telephone but unfortunately we often find that the phone numbers we have for you are out of date, please ensure that if you change your phone numbers that you let us know and we would also be very grateful if you could let us know your mobile phone numbers. We are hoping to use a texting service for reminders of certain types of appointments such as those for minor operations so that we can cut down the missed appointment rates which unfortunately have been steadily rising in recent times, so we need your numbers.
2. We would like to advise you all that all telephone conversation calls with the practice are all now recorded. This works both ways, it ensures that we have a record of clinical information that may have been given you on a telephone consultation and it also allows us to have a factual record of telephone conversations with our patients. Hopefully this will reduce the number of abusive phone calls that unfortunately have been increasing of late. As I have said before in previous newsletters we will not tolerate abuse especially to our receptionists who have a very difficult job to do in balancing the appointment system with the increasing number of patients that we have at the practice.

TRAVEL PLANS

Although travelling is a year round adventure it is at this time of year that people are making plans to seek the summer sun etc. If your destination requires travel immunisations then please contact our nurses at least six weeks before travel. You will be required to fill in a travel questionnaire before you see the nurse and the receptionists will remind you of this when you make an appointment for travel vaccines.

There are a couple of websites which are useful for travel advice, one is www.nathnac.org.uk and another is www.masta-travel-health.com and fortunately our local European destinations such as Spain do not require vaccinations specifically.

Remember: the world seems to an increasingly smaller place but the bugs seem to be getting more active. Be prepared and then hopefully you will be able to enjoy your holiday.

Cheers for now.

DR K B SYKES