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NEWSLETTER FOR PATIENTS **SEPTEMBER 2009**

Hi folks

Where did the summer go, it certainly sped by time-wise here at the practice and of course the weather for the third year in a row was somewhat disappointing but as I dictate this Newsletter now it is a glorious Leger week, the best I can remember for some time and I was born and bred in Doncaster 58 years ago. Funnily enough I have only ever attended one Leger meeting at the racecourse but then it's like living at the seaside, it's very rarely that you go down to the beach. I do feel that the racecourse is a fabulous facility however as we have our educational meetings for the Primary Care Teams throughout Doncaster held there. We last did a Newsletter in May and a lot has happened in the practice since then.

DR LOVE

He is off again but fortunately only for a couple of days and to the joyous celebration of his son's wedding down in Bath, he has been back with us in the practice for a few weeks now generally with a smile on his face and he is very grateful for everyone's good wishes whilst he was off ill. It is good to have him back.

MEDICAL STAFF CHANGES

We are very pleased to welcome as an ADDITION to the doctors here in the practice, Dr Abdullahi Mazai, he has joined us initially to provide seven sessions of work a week with a view to working more sessions a week eventually. He is married with three children, he worked at one of the Rossington practices before joining us with excellent references. We all hope he has a long and healthy time with us here and I hope you the patients enjoy consulting with him.

WELCOME

Our recent GP Registrar Dr Saeed has now left us to move on to another post as part of her GP training rotation. We welcome Dr Simone Otoibhi for her six months with us. Again she is part of the Doncaster GP training scheme and is gaining further experience with us although she has worked in general practice in Conisbrough. At present we also have two student doctors, Faye Johnson and Lucia Rothera seeing how general practice works and keeping us on our toes as educators.

We also welcome to the fold Jane Keightley as one of our secretaries who is settling in very well. She has done some front desk reception work so you may well have met her and we also welcome on board Toni Richardson who has been with us for about a month working in reception and again you may well have met her manning what we call the "front desk". I am sure they will both add to the excellence of our staff although do bear with them while they learn the ropes. Jane tells me that she is a fitness fanatic and enjoys running charity races as well as walking to work thus saving on car-parking space! She is also a school governor which of course is an important role in our community. Toni is a food guru, is an active mum and tells me she comes to work for some peace and quiet from motherhood! She also walks to work.

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CAR PARK

The car park is getting busier and busier especially at peak times in the morning. When the new building was erected three years ago the planning idea was that as many people as possible would walk or cycle to the centre, indeed we have several members of staff who do just that. The clinical area upstairs run by the NHS Doncaster PCT is getting busier too and patients as well as staff come to that area from all over Doncaster. All I am trying to say is if you can avoid using your car in getting here all well and good and hats off to you for that. Otherwise, sorry if all the parking spaces are full. We would prefer it if you would not park on the grass or on the bedding plants.

FLU VACCINATIONS

The ordinary flu vaccination season will be starting in October which is when we get our first supplies. As yet we have not fully identified the dates on which vaccinations will be taking place but as usual ordinary flu vaccinations will be given to 65 years and older plus those with chronic diseases such as heart, lung, kidney, diabetes and neurological disorders. They will be the standard Saturday morning sessions and I believe bookings for these will take place from Tuesday 22nd September. We will of course advertise the clinics at reception and on our practice website www.thesandringhampractice.co.uk.

SWINE FLU

At present, touching wood and everything else, there is no swine flu activity in our parish. At it's height several weeks ago when swab testing was done only 5% of those who were thought to have swine flu actually grew that germ. The problem with swine flu is it does mimic all sorts of other virus infections. There has been talk of swine flu vaccinations. As yet we have no firm details but will obviously inform you as soon as we know anything concrete regarding the vaccination process. Again information would then be at reception or on our website.

COMMUNICATIONS

Apart from the Newsletter and the website one other way that we communicate is via the repeat prescription items. You will note that on the right side of the paper there is at present a message talking about allowing two working days before collection of your prescription. Occasionally we put details of other clinical issues such as flu jab times and so always pay attention to what is on that side of the prescription sheet.

Finally I am now in my 11th year as Rovers Club doctor, the season ahead is promising, one of our players played his first full international for Wales the other night and yours truly hopes that you get as much joy out of your hobbies as I do from my other job at the Rovers.

Autumn and winter are coming, infections become more common in these seasons and don't forget the advice of using tissues, washing hands, maintaining strict personal hygiene, it does work!

All the best for now.

Best wishes

DR K B SYKES