

# THE SANDRINGHAM PRACTICE

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## NEWSLETTER - AUGUST 2011

Did you know that we have been in this new building called The Sandringham Centre for five years. It is amazing how time flies. I am sitting at my desk dictating this Newsletter, listening to the constant whirr of the fan trying to cool the room and wondering why I chose a room on the hot side of the building. Never mind, we have been told that the decorators will be along before too long with a new lick of paint and I am sure that will compensate for any sick building syndrome symptoms we may have at the moment!

Anyway, what's been happening?

### STAFF CHANGES

In the June Newsletter I wrote that Dr Love has retired from the partnership. I am still getting many enquiries as to whether he has left us completely. The answer to that is no. He is still doing 3 surgeries a week for us and I can assure you that he is as bright as a button when he comes along on a Thursday morning and is thoroughly enjoying his semi-retirement. His name is no longer on the notice board, only because he is no longer one of the partners at the practice. Of course, he has worked here since 1977 and has been Senior Partner since 1990 when Malcolm Taylor left. Dr Sykes is now top of the name board which means he has the responsibilities of being the Senior Partner, but we are very lucky to have Richard Langthorp as Practice Manager, and Vicki Warren as his assistant who do the vast majority of the day to day running and the future planning of the practice. The practice has come a long way since the days of the portakabin on Armthorpe Road, and the branch surgeries that some of you will remember from the 1960's.

### GP REGISTRARS

As I said in the June issue, Dr Davinder Singh has completed his GP Registrar training and indeed has now left the practice. He is going to work in a practice in Rotherham but we are lucky that he is able to provide us with some locum work during the month of August. This is good news as unfortunately we have not been allocated a new GP Registrar this time which in turn will put a little more strain on our workload. There is some light at the end of the tunnel as we are in discussion with a bright, young, fully qualified GP to come and work with us from October onwards - more will be revealed later.

### PATIENT CALL SYSTEM

I am sure that those of you who have attended surgery will have noted our new call system, this has been installed at vast expense to the practice (well, something like that) because the previous system kept on causing our clinical computer systems to break down. The new system hopefully is clearer, and when called you will hear a soft two-tone sound and the screen will show your name and the room to go to in black on a yellow background. Many people have already commented that it is much better than the old system. As time goes by we will be able to provide more health information on the screens which hopefully will make interesting reading.

There is another reason for this new patient call system. We are in the process over the next few months of changing our clinical recording systems - basically an updated version of our current system and this will be called EMIS Web, again there will be more about that later.

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## **FLU SEASON (JABADABADO)**

It is never far away, even though it is August. We have already pencilled in two Saturday sessions, provisionally for October 8<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Last year, especially after Christmas there was an increase in flu and this caused problems for those who had not taken up their vaccination. The groups that we aim at are as follows:-

All patients aged 65 years and over, all pregnant women at any stage of their pregnancy. Certain chronic disease groups are susceptible to flu and so flu vaccination is offered to patients of any age above the age of 6 months who have chronic respiratory disease, such as COPD and asthma, chronic heart disease, chronic kidney disease, liver disease and neurological disease such as strokes, multiple sclerosis etc. All diabetics should have a flu vaccination, patients who are immunosuppressed (these patients should be well aware considering the type of medication they are taking), and all people living in long-stay residential care homes.

People who are in receipt of a Carer's Allowance or who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person are also entitled to flu vaccines. The vaccine this year is a one-off injection and I would certainly urge people to take advantage of it. No doubt our clinics will be opened up for appointments from mid-September onwards.

## **LABORATORY AND X-RAY RESULTS**

This is just a reminder that although we do get results back quite early on many occasions we always ask that you allow us a full week before enquiring about your blood results or x-ray results. This is because some of the blood results do actually take that length of time, and certainly if you go for an x-ray the Radiology Department will tell you to give it at least one week before making enquiries from your doctor. If inbetween time we find anything alarming or needing urgent attention we will let patients know. Please bear with us on this because sometimes the Receptionists may well tell you if you ring early that your results are normal, but they will not know that another test result is still awaited. So do give it one week, i.e. 7 days before you ring for your results.

## **WEDNESDAY EVENING OPENING**

This is just to remind you that we no longer have surgeries open on a Saturday morning but that we have 3 clinicians working between 6pm and 7.30pm on a Wednesday evening. We would really like those appointments taken up by people who have difficulty getting in during the daytime, i.e. those who have fulltime work commitments.

## **GENERAL INFO**

Once again, it's the travel season. I am aware of yet another situation where a patient has fallen foul of not telling their insurance company of an illness and so when they have fallen ill overseas they have had to pay the full cost of their treatment. Please make sure you tell your insurance companies when you book your holidays of your current and long-standing illnesses. You never know when it's going to come back to haunt you.

And finally, as a Rotarian I had a wonderful weekend a couple of weeks ago when we had the Dragon Boat races on Lakeside and the car show at the Deaf College. We were very lucky with the weather and we have been fortunate in making substantial amounts of money for local charities. For those of you who went to those events, thank you for support and we hope you enjoyed the day.

That's it for now.