

Old Bridge Surgery

In Looe, Pelynt and Polperro



Practice Newsletter - January 2017

Happy New Year and welcome to our first newsletter for a while. We aim to publish a newsletter from time to time throughout the year, to keep our patients informed of news and changes in the practice and we hope you find it interesting and helpful.

Doctor changes

Our headline news, sadly, is that **Dr Staff** will be leaving the practice at the end of January. This is what he says:

“

It is with greatest regret that I would like to inform you of my departure from the surgery in 2017.

I have greatly enjoyed my 11 years at Old Bridge Surgery. It has been a privilege to have contributed in some small way to the health and well-being of our lovely town which is so dear to me. I have been made to feel very welcome since my return to Looe and look forward to continuing to be your friend and neighbour and contributing where I can to our community. I would like to apologise to all those patients of mine that I haven't been able to inform personally. It is very reassuring to me that I am being replaced by a new full time Partner so I expect there to be a seamless transition for the patients on my list, for which I am very grateful.

I would like to stress that the reasons behind this change are entirely related to my own personal and family circumstances and in no way reflects negatively on the surgery or my wonderful colleagues and patients there. I am proud at what we have achieved in my time at the surgery and am confident that it will go from to strength in the years to come.

I wish you all the very best.

”

Dr Dale Staff

This is sad news and we will all miss Dr Staff greatly and recognise that he has contributed a great deal to the practice. However, as he notes, we have been successful in recruiting a new Partner to join the practice at the start of February. **Dr Patrick Southam** joins us as an experienced GP having worked as a Partner for a number of years in Watford. He is looking forward to moving to a more rural location and has already bought a house in the area. We are looking forward to having him join the team and are confident he will soon be making a valuable contribution to the practice. Dr Staff's registered patients will be automatically transferred to Dr Southam and we hope you will enjoy getting to know him in due course.

As many of you will know **Dr Mogford** is currently on maternity leave. She had her second son in October and returns to the practice at the beginning of April. **Dr Dan Brizzle** has now joined us on a temporary basis to help manage her workload until March. We are pleased to welcome him to the team and to be able to offer some continuity of care during this period.

Dr Roy will shortly reduce his sessions to work part-time. He remains a Partner and is committed to the practice and his patients but needs to reduce the length of his working week. We will need to review his list of registered patients in due course in order that his workload is manageable.

Welcome to our Nurse Practitioners

During the autumn our clinical team was strengthened by the addition of two Advanced Nurse Practitioners. **Fiona Cooper** returned to the practice after a period working in nurse education at Plymouth University and **Ruth Hughes** has joined us in this role. Fiona explains a little about this role:

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Nurses are increasingly extending and expanding their scope of practice working at an advanced level to enhance service delivery and improve health outcomes.

The International Council of Nurses defines the Advanced Practitioner Role as a ‘registered nurse who has acquired the expert knowledge base, complex decision making skills and clinical competencies for expanded practice’.

Both Fiona and Ruth operate as advanced generalists, providing complete episodes of care for patients who present with a wide variety of health needs, although both have areas of specialism in managing patients with long term conditions. ”

Development at Pelynt

We’re pleased to report that we have had approval from NHS England for a grant towards the refurbishment of our branch surgery at Pelynt. This will enable us to create a second GP consulting room on the site alongside the existing GP and nurse rooms as well as the dispensary.

The work will take place during February and March and will cause some disruption though we have planned for the dispensary to remain open throughout the building work. However, we will unfortunately be unable to run any clinics at Pelynt during March; we will make extra capacity available at Looe and Polperro during this time. We apologise for the inconvenience this will cause but hope you will agree it will be worthwhile in the long run. Further details will be published as detailed plans are finalised.

Flu vaccination

If you missed our flu vaccination clinics during the autumn, we still have a limited supply of vaccine left so, if you are eligible for a free NHS flu vaccine, please call Reception to book an appointment. Remember, it’s not too late – there may yet be a flu outbreak in the remaining months of winter.

Review of our appointment pattern

We are aware that patients can sometimes feel frustrated when trying to book an appointment so we have embarked on a review of the way we organise this. We are undertaking part of the 'Productive General Practice' scheme to look specifically at issues around planning, scheduling and booking our appointments. This is a well-established scheme used nationally by GP practices under the guidance of the 'NHS Improving Quality' programme. The aim of the project is to make it easier for patients to book the appointments they need, particularly with their usual GP so that we can provide continuity of care but also to meet our patients’ reasonable needs for urgent care. We also need to use our resources well, ensuring patients see the right clinician at the right time and of course, we hope to make the workload our clinical staff face more manageable too!

As the project progresses, and particularly when specific changes are planned, we’ll publish more information about this development.

Keep in touch

If you haven’t already, why not register your mobile phone number or email address with the practice so we can keep in touch or send text reminders of your appointments? Please remember to let us know if you have moved or changed your phone number or email address too.