

# Old Bridge Surgery

In Looe, Pelynt and Polperro



## Practice Newsletter - Autumn 2017

### Welcome to our Autumn Newsletter.

We hope you find this interesting and informative. If there are topics you would like to see covered in future issues, please let us know.

### Availability of Appointments

As some of our patients will know, one of our GPs has been absent for some months and, whilst we have booked some locum doctors to support us, we do appreciate that this has had an impact on our ability to offer the appointments that our patients might need. We are hoping to recruit a new permanent GP to join the team but have had little success in doing so as there are nationwide issues around GP recruitment and this is now making an impression locally.

We know it is sometimes difficult to book a convenient appointment and are not satisfied with the current situation and please accept our sincere apologies to patients for whom this is frustrating. We ask for your understanding in dealing with our staff while they try to help you. Please be assured, we aim always to offer a phone call with our duty doctor if appointments are not available.

### Don't get caught out!

With the memories of summer ebbing away, it's time to turn our attention to getting ready for winter!

For some patients, catching flu can cause serious or life threatening complications, even if they feel well before hand. That's why every autumn, as part of a yearly national campaign, eligible patients are offered a free seasonal flu vaccination as they have a greater risk of serious complications should they catch flu.

Many patients are eligible for a FREE flu vaccination this year, including patients who are:

- ☑ Aged 65 & over
- ☑ Aged 6 months to 64 in a clinical risk group
- ☑ Pregnant
- ☑ Nursery age children age 2 and 3 years old
- ☑ Primary school children in reception and years 1 and 2
- ☑ Carers

To make an appointment, simply ask one of our friendly reception team to book you in at one of our flu clinics, safe in the knowledge that before we vaccinate you, we'll review your medical records to ensure that it is safe to vaccinate you. What's more patients eligible for pneumonia and/or shingles vaccinations will be offered these at the same time.

With coughs and sneezes spreading diseases, protect yourself and others around you, by booking your vaccination as soon as possible. See you soon!

## Dr Southam

Dr Southam joined the practice in February and many of you will have met him already. Here, he answers a few questions for those who might want to know him a little better.

### What made you choose medicine as a career?

I always liked biology at school and excelled in it and felt medicine would be the best way to take this interest forward. My decision was more of an academic choice rather than a vocational one which is a little unusual for a medic. Anyway it worked out for me and was the right decision.

### Tell me a bit about your career to date?

I graduated in 1998 and then spent 5 years working in various hospital posts around Sussex, Berkshire and London before even thinking about general practice as I initially wanted to work in A+E. From 2003 I then decided to become a GP and did some other hospital posts for a couple of years to give me some experience in paediatrics, gynaecology and psychiatry around my hometown of Watford. For the last 10 years I've been a partner at a GP surgery in Watford.

### What do you most like about being a GP?

I like the consistency of working closely with the same team that general practice tends to have. I like being a partner so that I have some input into how a practice is run and the opportunity to bring some of my own ideas into a practice going forward. In addition, I like the mixture of different clinical specialities which stops me getting bored.

### What are your hopes for the future of the NHS?

I really hope the NHS in general can survive to provide free at the point of access healthcare and avoid mandatory charging or an insurance based system of healthcare. I'm becoming increasingly worried that this will not be possible given the increasing funding gap between demands and provisions in both health and social care.

## Looe Lions are fundraising for us

The Lions Club of Looe are holding a champagne dinner to raise funds for the practice to purchase a new ECG machine to help reduce the waiting times for these valuable tests. Our current machine is also getting older and we don't want to be without should it fail. The dinner is on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November at the Hannafore Point Hotel – for tickets or further information call (01503) 220482 and we THANK YOU for your support.

## Have you visited our new website?

We are delighted to announce the launch of our new website. Clean and uncluttered in design, the website has been developed with our patients in mind. Visit [www.oldbridgesurgery.co.uk](http://www.oldbridgesurgery.co.uk) to explore:

- Opening times across Looe, Polperro and Pelynt surgeries
- Meet the team, introducing our GPs, Nurses, Healthcare Assistants and the extended team, to help you consider who you should see
- Appointments, general information about the types of appointments we offer and to book appointment online
- The Waiting Room detailing how to register and access our online services, including ordering repeat prescriptions
- Help for Patients, with information on how to look after yourself and much, MUCH, more!