

SPINNEY SURGERY NEWSLETTER - Spring 2011

For patients registered with the Spinney

SPINNEY PATIENTS ASSOCIATION

Patient Education Evening

Tuesday 12th May, 7.30 pm – 9.00 pm

St Ives Methodist Church, The Waits

(note venue change)

Free parking after 6pm at the Waits and North Road Car Park

ARTHRITIS

Dr. Mark Lillicrap – Consultant Rheumatologist

Donna Abercrombie – Specialist Rheumatology Nurse

All patients are welcome to join us for an information evening

Come and find out more about all types of arthritis. Come and ask questions....

Refreshments

This issue is packed with news, we apologise for the cramped style of some of the articles

Staff Changes at the Spinney

We would like to let our patients know that Dr Andy Borman and Dr Amit Sethi have been offered partnerships in other practices and will be leaving in May. Whilst we know they will be greatly missed by staff and patients alike, we offer them our sincere congratulations and wish them all the best for the future.

Dr Borman will be going to Kimbolton and Dr Sethi to Bishops Stortford.

They have both contributed enormously to the Spinney during their time here and it has been a great pleasure working with them. Dr Borman, who completed his GP training here, will have been with us for almost 4 years and Dr Sethi for 3 years. We are sure you would like to join us in wishing them every success in their future careers.

We are in the process of appointing new Doctors to join us and have no doubt they too will soon become an integral part of the Spinney Team.

Message from Dr. Debbie Gilbert:

For those of you who don't already know I am expecting my second baby on 19th May. I plan to finish work from the end of March. I am sure many patients met Dr Louise Francis when I was on maternity leave before and I am pleased to say that she is coming back to cover my maternity leave from April. I am planning to take a year off but will leave you in good hands. I will ensure the news is passed onto you once the new addition to our family arrives.

Corienne Brown joined us from Yaxley Practice in December, to join our administration team. Corienne will be working closely with Lynne Mounteney undertaking medical records summaries.


in Practice

The Practice is working with the University of Cambridge to test a new stop smoking programme

We are looking for current smokers, aged 18 – 75, who

- want to quit

- would be willing to set a quit date within 2 weeks of joining the study
- are not currently part of any other smoking cessation programme
- are not currently using nicotine replacement therapy, Zyban or Champix
- own a mobile phone and are familiar with sending and receiving text messages

If you would like more information about the study, please contact the surgery and leave your details for one of our health care assistants, or e mail

ManagingPartner@spinney-surgery.org.uk

DNA (otherwise known as “did not attend”!)

In response to one of our earlier editions, one of our patients felt so strongly about the “did not attend” figures he offered to write an article for the newsletter.

Elderly people such as me recall the relief the NHS brought - a free doctor's appointment and free medical care was a tremendous boon and in many cases literally a lifesaver. Even though we were indirectly paying for treatment we were very grateful. Today free services are likely to be taken for granted, and that **2300 (yes two thousand three hundred)** people failed to keep appointments at our surgery from January to December 2010 - indicates a growing abuse of the system. Of course there are many legitimate reasons for an appointment to be missed, but there is little excuse for an appointment missed without subsequent explanation being offered. Dentists charge for missed appointments; doctors should do the same. We, the patients, suffer from the disruption such casual abuse causes. The surgery is unable to do more than

'discuss it further' with repeat offenders. We, perhaps, can lobby for a more vigorous approach, both in our surgery and our hospitals, where the problem is also increasing.

I'd be grateful if anyone feels able to offer a comment on the problem. I could then approach the system with a collection of views.

John Griffin

jsgriffin@tesco.net

Ivy cottage, South Street,
Woodhurst, PE28 3BW

SURGERY HALF DAY CLOSING DATES
2011

Surgeries in the area will be closed from 1pm on the following dates:-

Tuesday 24th May

Thursday 7th July

Thursday 29th September

Tuesday 15th November

If urgent medical attention is required on these half days please call the surgery and your call will be diverted or call UCC direct on 0330 1239131

Blood Tests

At our recent team event we were discussing how to improve things for our hard working phlebotomy team Helen, Halyna and Janet. The Doctors are going to work hard to make sure that the blood tests they are requesting are written down clearly in your notes. If you think you may need a blood test and you haven't seen a Doctor or a nurse then you shouldn't book a blood test. You can either write to your Doctor asking if the blood test is possible or book a telephone consultation or talk about it when you are next in the surgery. Some blood tests have been recommended by the National Institute of Clinical excellence as being no longer necessary, for

example cholesterol levels every year for some people but other tests like kidney tests are very important.

MJOG TEXT REMINDER SYSTEM

We are going to trial a piece of software called MJOG which can be used to text message patients, reminding them about appointments, or sending information about some services. There will, of course, be the opportunity to opt out of this service.

The Spinney is a **Practice**

The Primary Care Research Network (PCRN), is funded by the Department of Health and belongs to the family of research networks within the National Institute of Health Research.

We are working with your practice to:

- Give patients more chance to participate in research
- Help and support your practice staff to develop their research skills and improve the practice's capacity to take part in research.

Practices like The Spinney have decided to engage with the PCRN to give their patients the opportunity to take part in various types of research studies. They have undergone specialist training to help them in the various processes involved and they have become accredited with the Royal College of GPs to be a practice which is RESEARCH READY.

You may be approached by the doctors, nurses and other health professionals to see if you are interested in taking part in a specific

research study. Sometimes the best way to do this is to send you a letter in the post explaining what the study involves and providing you with an information sheet to read. Please read these and consider if it is something you would like to help with. You are under no obligation to take part and saying no will not affect the care you receive.

Next time you are approached or you receive a letter – have a think and see if this is for you.

Thank you
Janet Piggott. PCRN Co-ordinator for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

Medication from our dispensary

We are required to check patient's prescription exemption status when collecting medication. It would help our Dispensary Team if you can bring in your evidence of exemption or pre payment for prescription charges.

Also if you are collecting Warfarin tablets from us, please bring your Yellow Book and if you are collecting Lithium tablets from us, please bring in your Purple Book. Thank you.

Hunts Care Partners

You will be aware that the plan for the NHS is to devolve the commissioning of services to GP's. Groups of practices have been coming together across the country to take on this work. Hunts Care Partners (HCP) is a GP Commissioning Consortia which has been formed by thirteen practices in Huntingdonshire. These practices are: Alconbury and Brampton, Almond Road, St Neots, Cedar House, St Neots, Church Street, Somerham, Cromwell Place, St Ives, Buckden and Little Paxton, Northcote House, St. Ives, Parkhall, Somersham, St Neots Health Centre, Moat House Surgery, Warboys, Orchard Surgery, St Ives, Spinney Surgery, St. Ives, and Wellside Surgery, Sawtry. Together these practices provide care for over 86,000 patients.

The Leadership Team of HCP consists of three GP's, 2 practice managers, 1 practice nurse and a lay representative. It's vital that patients views are heard and that's why the role of Lay Representative is so crucial. At the time of writing this edition, advertisements for this role are in all practices and local press, however by the time you read this we hope to have appointed someone. Their role is to read and consider consultation documents and provide comments where appropriate from a patient/public perspective. To provide the patient/public perspective in consortia deliberations, taking particular account of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged. To contribute constructively to initiatives and developments which may include research and reporting on matters for discussion. To accept shared accountability to NHS Cambridgeshire and the public for the decisions of the consortia. To represent the consortia in any other forum agreed with the leadership team and to feedback views on participation and involvement in the work of the consortia to develop and refine the organisation.

If you have any comments or views you wish to put to Hunts Care Partners, please e mail debbie.wheatley@nhs.net

Race For Life

We have got a team together to do the Race for Life in Cambridge this summer. This is a 5K run (or walk...) to raise money for Cancer Research UK. The ace Spinney team comprises myself, Dr Rosemary Lane, Jean Mercer, Lorraine Stork (our secretarial team), Gill Avery (nurse) and Jackie Smith (admin and reception). I am in training – I overdid it last week –some of you may have noticed my limp!

The link to our webpage for donations should anyone wish to contribute is <http://www.raceforlifesporsome.org/clarehenderson0709>.

Dr Clare Henderson

Telephone Numbers

It's extremely important that if we need to contact you that we have a current telephone number. Please complete the slip below and let us have your mobile/land line number. We can then update your records.

Name.....

Date of birth.....

Mobile Number.....

Landline Number.....