

The Staploe Medical Centre - Newsletter February 2016



Practice Update

Staff - Dr Susie Lister is now on maternity leave and **Dr Alun George** will be covering some of her sessions, as he has now increased his sessions at the Staploe Medical Centre. We sadly said goodbye recently to **Jacqui Allen**, Health Care Assistant. However, we are pleased to announce that **Julie Hobson** has joined us as a Health Care Assistant.

Under Pressure!

The increased demands of winter, combined with GP maternity and sick leave and the current GP recruitment crisis are creating a perfect storm of pressure at the surgery. We are working very hard both to stretch what we have and to increase resources, but I regret that it is likely you will experience a longer delay than usual when booking for routine appointments, and a longer wait when booked in for an urgent appointment. This is stressful for you, but also for our staff - receptionists, nurses and GPs: as we do our utmost to meet the demand, please bear with us.

In the meantime, please do let us know if you are unable to keep an appointment. We lose a significant number of slots each month due to patients not attending their appointments, and these are obviously extremely valuable, especially in the current climate.

Premises Update - Pressure at the surgery increases as Soham grows and, with substantial further development planned for the town, the time has come to re-develop the practice on a larger scale. We are negotiating with Cambridgeshire County Council for land behind the surgery and with NHS England and Cambridgeshire CCG for support to develop a new, larger building. Many hurdles lie in our way, but we need to press ahead to secure safe primary care in Soham for the years ahead. If you would like to support us, please get involved in the PPG.

Patient Participation Group/Friends of Staploe - We are looking for people to be involved with this Group and to attend meetings as required. We currently have a virtual group but feel the time to move to one which regularly meets has come. The PPG's contribution to the practice will become ever more important as the funding cuts bite – please consider carefully whether you are able to support your practice in this way. Please contact Gill Alexander, Managerial Assistant at gill.alexander@nhs.net, if you are interested.

Trials Update - DO YOU HAVE Psoriasis, Diabetes, raised Cholesterol, COPD, Asthma problems?

We have a fantastic team performing excellent multinational medical research at the Staploe Medical Centre. We would love to hear from you. Please contact Clare, Sandra or Rima on 01353 727690. Alternatively chat to your clinical team.

Blood Pressure Machine – Please make use of the blood pressure machine in the Waiting Room.

SystemOnline – Apologies for changes to SystemOnline, which are beyond our control. We have, however, raised our concerns with the system designers. Should you wish to make input directly please go to the following website:- <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/pe/patient-online/>

Overflow Car Park – Reminder that we have the old pharmacy (59 Brewhouse Lane) car park set out as an overflow car park.