

# The Staploe Medical Centre – News Spring 2014



## Practice News

**Reception Team** - We are very pleased to announce that **Christine Barker** and **Jackie Human** have recently joined the Reception Team.

**Health Care Assistant** – We say goodbye soon to **Doreen Burgess** who is retiring after 14 years with us. She will be replaced by **Helen Wilson** who currently works as HCA in Cambridge.

**Doctors** - **Dr Natalie Fee** has recently joined us as a GP trainee. She will be at Staploe on Thursdays and Fridays for a year, then full time until August 2015. **Dr Vicki Clark**, also a GP trainee, has moved on to her next post. **Dr Kate Lowery** will shortly be going on maternity leave.

**Cleaning** – After a long negotiation we have brought our cleaning back in-house, so that our longstanding and excellent cleaners now work directly for us. The fruit of increased cleaning hours is already evident.

**Car Park** – Following our purchase of 59 Brewhouse Lane, we are in the process of redesigning the car park, which will be of great benefit to all concerned! Construction work is likely to begin in the summer. Longer-term we hope to redevelop the building so that we have will more consulting rooms available.

**Warfarin monitoring** – We have recently secured funding to enable us to manage the monitoring for our patients taking Warfarin. This is a boon for the 220 patients concerned and our Warfarin clinics, run by nurses Julie and Lucy, are already going well, with some very positive feedback.

**Music** – Our recent patient survey shows a clear majority of you in favour of music in the waiting room. We will therefore turn it back on soon.

**Monitoring of long-term conditions** – Over the next year we will be improving the way we help patients manage long-term conditions such as asthma, COPD, diabetes and heart disease. If you receive an invitation to arrange an annual review please do take heed of it and contact the surgery.

**SMS (Text messaging) consent** – Please let us know if you consent to us sending you text messages to confirm appointments, or to ask you to ring the surgery for test results etc. This is an efficient way of us contacting you and much cheaper than mail, allowing normal postal costs to be reinvested into medical services. No information about your conditions or history would be included in any text.

**Health Checks** - If you are invited for an NHS Health Check you'll be asked a set of standard questions and offered a series of routine tests that will help identify your risk of developing heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, type 2 diabetes and certain types of dementia. **Who qualifies for an NHS health check?** - If you're aged between 40 and 74 and have not already been diagnosed with vascular disease or treated for certain risk conditions, such as high blood pressure or cholesterol, you will be invited for your check every five years. **Why do I need an NHS Health Check?** Everyone has a chance of developing heart disease, stroke, kidney disease, type 2 diabetes or certain types of dementia. The NHS Health Check will help you and your GP or health professional to identify your risk earlier. You will be given advice on what action you can take to lower your risk and improve your chances of a healthier life. If you think you qualify and have not had one, please check with Reception.

**Sharing of health records** – This is an important initiative to help the NHS deliver more joined-up care, but it needs your consent. It will allow your health record here to be accessible to another NHS facility when you are receiving care there, and vice versa. If you have not already done so, please complete the form “Your health record and sharing of information”, which is available from the Reception Desk, the GP or the Nursing Team.