

SOMERCOTES MEDICAL CENTRE

NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2014

Retirements: We have recently said “goodbye” to two long standing and valued members of our nursing team. Sister Liz Parkes and Nurse Jane Taylor. Both have served the patients of SMC with dedication and will be sorely missed by the SMC team. We wish them a healthy and fun filled retirement.

Due to Liz and Jane’s retirement we welcome Sister Nicola Aldred to our team. Sister Aldred has many years’ experience as a practice nurse having previously worked at Whitmoor Medical Centre in Belper and has keen interest in diabetes and asthma. We hope Nicola will enjoy working with us and be a member of our team for many years to come.



We also say welcome to our new Practice Manager, Marion Leister. Marion has twenty years of practice management experience and is always available to hear the views and comments of our patients regarding all things Somercotes Medical Centre.



Patient Participation Group (PPG): Did you know we have a PPG? Our PPG meets at the surgery several times throughout the year to represent the views of our patients on the things that matter to you. Everyone is welcome to join and if you would like more information then please either speak to a receptionist or to Mrs Wendy North, our PPG Chair on 01773 603792 or 07791 409510. Details of the date of our next meeting can be found on the PPG notice board in the corridor or on our website.

Your Views Matter: Trying to capture the views of our patients is very important to us, and we are always looking at new ways to achieve this, therefore we are going to try a “Question of the Month”. If you have a question we could pose to our patients please complete the slip below and leave it at reception (once you’ve read the newsletter of course) and will select those to be posed with the help of the PPG.

Patient Question.....
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Practice Gallery: We are looking to host a small community gallery in the public areas of the surgery in order to showcase some of the talented artwork produced by members of our community. We are gathering paintings, drawings, crafts and photographs from a number of local schools and art groups to display. We’ve had photographs contributed by Somercotes Local Historical Society which will also be put on display and provide a fascinating insight into our communities’ history. We are looking to open our gallery on Saturday 25th October 2014, and plan to have a variety of pictures on display throughout the year. You welcome to come and enjoy the artwork and should you would wish to contribute a piece of your own, we would be delighted to hear from you, so please leave your details with the ladies in reception and we will be in contact.



Bronze Dignity Award - We are very proud to say we are one of only two practices in Derbyshire to have been awarded the Bronze dignity Award by Derbyshire County Council - Silver next!

Vaccination News

***** FLU CLINICS*****

Saturday 4th & 25th October

Influenza - It's that time of year again! The beginning of October marks the start of the Annual Flu Season and as usual we are now offering the injection to all of our eligible patients. Anyone aged 65 and over, or clinically at risk patients such as those with Diabetes, Asthma and Heart Disease can have this vaccination. It is also less well known that pregnant women, carers, and anyone with a low immune system are also eligible for this vaccination. All children aged two, three or four years old are also eligible for a Flu vaccination this year. If you think you or your child may be eligible but are unsure just ask at reception. If you are eligible make sure you book your appointment and don't miss out on this simple and quick injection which can protect you from flu all year round.

Shingles - Are you aware that the surgery provides a free vaccination against Shingles? For those 70, 78 or 79 on the 1st September 2014 we provide a vaccination against Shingles which can be administered in a routine appointment with the nurse. In order to

be eligible for this vaccination you must have been born between the following dates:

02/09/1943 - 01/09/1944

02/09/1935 - 01/09/1936

02/09/1934 - 01/09/1935

If your date of birth falls into one of these dates then you are eligible for the Shingles vaccination now and can book in to have it administered by one of our nurses. Further information on this vaccine is available on noticeboards and leaflets around the surgery.

Pneumococcal - We would like to remind our patients that anyone aged 65 and over is entitled to a free vaccination to help protect them against Pneumonia. You can get this vaccination at any time of year from one of our nurses in a routine appointment.

Online Facilities - Do you know you can order repeat medication and book and cancel appointments on line simply by registering at reception. You will need photo id to register, and will then be provided with login and password to our Patient Access system. For more information, please speak to a receptionist.

Text Message & Emails - If we have your mobile telephone number we will send you text reminders of your appointments. We are now also contacting patients by this method informing them about other services, such as flu clinics. Therefore it is very important that we have your correct contact details.

Race for Life: As a surgery we like to engage in activities outside of the surgery which still benefits our patients. This year several members of the SMC team ran in the Race for Life raising £1040 for Cancer Research. We would like to say a huge thank you for all of your very generous donations. They have certainly made all the effort worthwhile.



Patients Comments - If you have any comments about the services we provide good or bad then we would love to hear from you. Please feel free to use the space below and pop it in the prescription box on your way out.

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