



STAFF NEWS

It appears to be the season of change for staffing here at BMP, and the first change is a sad one as we said goodbye to Dr. Gillian Kidd, who finished her year with us at the beginning of August. But as we lose one doctor we gain another, with the addition of Dr. Fraser Uytman to the team as a GP Registrar.



Fraser has been working for the last six years in hospital gaining experience in a variety of specialities including medicine, A&E, obstetrics & gynaecology, and his last position was working in psychiatry at the Western.

In 2005 he spent a year in Oz, working in a hospital in Melbourne, treating people who'd been in fights with kangaroos and the like. While over there he developed a love of surfing and bodyboarding which he has continued on return to Scotland, visiting the beaches down the east coast with his wee boy, Hamish, who is a year old. Hamish's hobbies appear to include eating the sand and seaweed while his dad is in the sea.

"I've really loved being at Bruntsfield so far. Staff and patients have all been really welcoming and helpful as I'm finding my feet. I'm glad to be doing general practice as a career as I really enjoy the variety, with new challenges every day, and lots of patient contact." He also highly recommends the baklava in the wee Mediterranean deli round the corner.

The reception team will also be losing a valued long-term member from October, with the retirement of Val Grainger, who has worked at Bruntsfield Medical Practice since 1991. She will be greatly missed, but I'm sure you join us in wishing her well.

On the community team side, Roisin Lawlor has just joined the District Nursing team, and we are happy to report that Bridget King from the Health Visiting team gave birth to a healthy baby boy in June, named Aiden. And finally, to continue on that happy note, September sees the welcome return of Nurse Shona Swain to the practice. She returns to a part-time schedule, and we hope you will all make her feel at home as she finds her feet back at Bruntsfield.

RESPONSE TO PATIENT SURVEY

Following consideration of the most recent patient survey, we thought we should respond to two common comments:

Lack of evening appointments - Did you know that there are a limited number of appointments available with 3 doctors on a Thursday evening? They are primarily to try and support those patients unable to attend during the day, but are open to all.

Need to see a GP urgently - The facility is there for anyone to see a GP urgently the same day, either in an emergency appointment or when none are available, by the Duty Doctor. It is important that this service is used only for genuine emergency situations. It should not be confused with the normal booked and open surgeries. **If the issue can wait until the following day, then it is not considered an emergency!** This service is only available during the normal weekday opening hours 0800 - 1800. During other times NHS 24 provides emergency cover.



Dr. Ian Kerr is off to the Antipodes for most of the next 12 months! He is using a sabbatical to practice medicine in semi-rural Queensland. He will be missed both by staff and loyal patients.

From October to the end of the year his patients can see any of the doctors in the practice, whilst his mail and admin will be handled by Dr. Cash and Dr. Calvert. From January, Dr. Kerr's workload will be dealt with by an experienced locum. We wish Dr. Kerr all the best for his big trip.

THE NEW HPV VACCINE FOR GIRLS

From September 2008 a new immunisation will be available which can protect girls from developing cervical cancer.

Cervical cancer occurs at the entrance to the womb and is caused by a virus called the **Human Papilloma Virus (HPV)**.

Around 1000 women in the UK die from cervical cancer each year.

How does HPV cause cervical cancer?

- There are over 100 types of HPV but only some can cause cervical cancer.
- HPV is spread by intimate skin to skin contact during sexual activity.
- HPV is very common and easily spread.
- Most women will be infected with HPV at some point in their lives without knowing it, as there are usually no symptoms.
- Most of the time the virus does not cause cancer because the body's immune system clears it, but not always. This is why vaccination is so important.

All 13-17 year old girls in Scotland will be invited by their school nurse to have the HPV vaccine over the next 3 years. (A course of 3 injections over 6 months gives the best protection).

Those girls that have left school but who are within the age range 13-17 years will also be offered the vaccine. The details of this process have still to be decided.

Those older than 17 years, even if never sexually active, will not be offered the vaccine as there is less evidence about its effectiveness in this age group.

More information is available at www.hpvscotland.com

RIB TICKLER

Patient: "Doc, you have to help me. Some days I think I'm Mickey Mouse, others I think I'm Donald Duck"

Doctor: "How long have you had these Disney spells?"

DON'T FORGET YOUR FLU VACCINE

We expect flu vaccines to be available in the practice from the end of October and strongly recommend that you make an appointment to have one if you -

- Are aged 65 or over

Or have

- Diabetes
- Lowered immunity due to disease or treatment
- Asthma or chronic respiratory disease that requires regular use of steroids for control
- Heart disease
- Neurological disease (e.g. Stroke/TIA, MS)
- Severe kidney or liver disease or
- Are a carer for someone else who is at risk (If you are registered with us)

Please telephone us from the last week in October and ask for a flu vaccine appointment.

More information can be found at www.infoscotland.com/flu.

NEW PHLEBOTOMY (BLOOD TEST) SERVICE

We are pleased to welcome Mrs. Gillian McKellar to our team as our new HCA (Health Care Assistant). At present, Gillian will be able to see patients who require blood tests only, and will develop her role over the forthcoming year to include other services.

PLEASE NOTE: If you would like anything more than a blood test (e.g. blood pressure check or advice) please book an appointment with a PRACTICE NURSE as the phlebotomy clinics are for BLOOD TESTS ONLY.

Please remember to inform us if you can't keep your appointment (by phone or online)



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