



NEWS FOR JUNE & JULY 2011

UK—Banking Policy—Personal Cheques

Please be advised that the UK Cheque Guarantee Card Scheme closes on the 30 June 2011, and as from 1 July 2011 the Galletly Practice will no longer accept PERSONAL cheques for any payment. This is the first stage of the phased total withdrawal of cheques from the UK Banking System. Payment for our services from 1 July 2011 onwards will only be accepted in either cash or via our Merchant Card Services (PIN Card Machine).

Race for Life—by Diane Westbrook

Every year I run the Race for Life in order to raise money for Cancer Research – a charity very close to my heart having suffered cancer myself three years ago and am now in remission. If it wasn't for people like yourselves sponsoring runners and other events, there would be no money in the pot to use for research into cures/treatment for cancer and so many of us wouldn't be here today if it wasn't for this charity. This is my way of saying thank you to those who have saved my life. This year my daughter Amy came up from London to run it with me and together we turned up on Sunday at Burghley House along with thousands of other ladies in a sea of pink. The weather was perfect, cool and dry (actually quite cold before we started!!) and the atmosphere was amazing and very emotional. Reading everyone's tee-shirts it was so obvious that cancer touches so many people and families you had to hold back the tears. Amy and I jogged round the course, power marching up the hills where jogging just wasn't going to get us to the top, and when we came round to the home straight, we upped a gear and ran hand in hand over the finish line to the applause and cheers from on-lookers. We collected our medals and gratefully accepted bottles of water!! Another race done for another year and again an amazing experience.



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Appointments/

Cancellations:

01778 562202

Repeat Prescriptions:

01778 562203

Emergency Care Centre

0845 045 0281

NHS Direct 24 hour

Helpline:

0845 46 47

The new 111 service

FROM DR IAN PACE

Having started as the youngest Doctor when I joined the practice in July 1993 I am now one of the oldest! Time seems to have flown by, helped, no doubt, by the constant change and churn in the NHS. Back then our GP contract was held by Family Practice Committees which consisted of a handful of people who serviced about a quarter of the General Practitioners in Lincolnshire. These were merged into local area health authorities, then into larger county health authorities before being broken down into Primary Care Groups which were then merged into Primary Care Trusts which then merged into larger Trusts and then, you guessed it, a County Health Authority with a huge number of staff. Now we are back to “Consortiums” which cover the same population size as the original Primary Care Groups. No wonder we feel like the wheel is being re-invented all the time.

Our original contract had not changed much since the inception of the NHS but a new GP contract was negotiated in 2004 which changed how we worked. The original contract was organised so we only looked after people who were already sick, with a few add on services for immunisation, contraception and maternity care. So diabetes, hypertension and other chronic diseases were not covered or paid for and resources for managing these conditions were scarce. The new contract places an emphasis on prevention and enabled us to invest time and effort into disease prevention. We were able to stop providing out of hours cover (which was a massive burden on top of our daytime work) but which has now enabled us to spend considerably more time doing our day job. Most of us work 10 -11 hours a day and Bourne Galletly Practice scores highly on measures of good quality care.

We are always trying to adapt to the rapid changes in the NHS while managing a growing list size and burgeoning red tape. Many conditions which used to be managed in hospital and by Consultants is now managed by GPs in the community. General Practice is far from being a staid, static type of job, which is how it was perceived in the 1980’s. There is no doubt that the care we provide is considerably more dynamic and complex than it was 18 years ago when I first arrived and as things are going I suspect we will see even greater change over the next 10 years.

PPG— PATIENTS’ PARTICIPATION GROUP

On the 11 May members of the Patients' Group and eight patients went to the Retreat at Edenham for the day. We arrived to a welcome coffee and biscuits and spent the morning in craft work led by Jane which proved very successful; we then went on to a three course lunch in a very comfy dining room! During the afternoon there was a poetry session, a picture quiz, a game of Beetle and a word game. The day was rounded off with tea and cake before leaving for home with happy memories of a relaxing occasion. The experience was so enjoyed by all who attended that we hope to do a similar trip sometime in the future.



Text Reminder Service Reminder—

we are still collecting patients’ mobile telephone numbers so patients can benefit from our Text Reminder Service and not miss an appointment!



Sharps Bin

Please be advised we are unable to dispose of Sharps Bins at the Surgery (ie yellow boxes for disposal of used needles). Patients must ring Environmental Services, telephone 01476 406080 and arrange collection.

