

# Friends of Okehampton Medical Centre **Newsletter**

## **DISPENSARY**

You will have all received a letter from us asking for your support to lobby the Government to help us keep the dispensary open. We understand there has been a huge response. We would like to thank everyone who has written letters and signed the petition. Our Practice Manager Alison Shelton and a patient will be going to Downing Street on Monday 15<sup>th</sup>. December to present the petition and hopefully lobby the Minister Dawn Primorolo. Alison has done, and continues to do, a huge amount of work both locally and nationally to support the movement and keep dispensing services in GP's surgeries and we are very grateful to her for all her hard work. We should hear in the next few months whether we have been successful.

## **FLU VACCINATION PROGRAMME**

All the flu clinics in the medical centre and village halls are now finished but there is still some vaccine remaining. If you are over 65 or suffer with a long-term condition such as asthma, lung or heart disease you can still get the vaccine by booking with the Practice Nurse. If you are not sure if you are eligible for free vaccine please discuss this with your doctor or nurse.

## **HELLOS AND GOOD-BYES**

Firstly we would like to say good-bye good luck and thank you to our long serving medical secretaries Jenny and Joan. They will both be missed. In their place we are very happy to welcome Gill and Charo who seem to be settling in well into a difficult job. On the front desk there has been movement as well. We were sorry to say good-bye to Carolyn but pleased to welcome Lucy and a welcome back to Gemma.

## **NEW DOCTOR**

We are delighted to welcome Dr. Jill Knowles to replace Dr. Alison Warren as Associate Doctor. Jill will be running urgent appointments on Thursday and Friday mornings and working in the Community Hospital in the afternoon.

## **DR. GUNDRY'S JOB SHARE**

After very many years Dr. David Gundry has decided to reduce his time commitment to the surgery and will be working part time. The good news is that Dr. Ali Warren has agreed to stay on to take on a job share with him and will be covering his patients the rest of the time. We already had experience of such an arrangement with Dr. Padfield and Dr. Fagg, which was very successful and popular with the patients. We are optimistic that this new arrangement will meet with most people's approval.

## **SATURDAY MORNING SURGERIES**

We have started to offer booked Saturday morning doctor's appointments. These are designed to meet the needs of those people who genuinely find it difficult to attend during the week. They are not for out of hours emergencies, which will be dealt with in the normal way through Devon Doctors (tel:- 08456710270). If you feel that it would be helpful to attend on a Saturday please contact reception in advance to book an appointment. It will not be possible to book on the day.

## **MISSED APPOINTMENTS**

This continues to be a big problem. In the last quarter there were 104 missed appointments with nurses and 193 with doctors. This amounts to 26 hours of nurse and 32 hours of doctor time. If you can't get to an appointment PLEASE let us know as soon as possible so the appointment can be offered to someone else.

WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY AND HEALTHY NEW YEAR.

## **Friends of the Medical Centre**

We are still a small group and are growing slowly and would welcome anyone who has an interest in the working of the Surgery and feel they could contribute any new ideas. We would especially like to have some younger members. Meetings are very informal and take place at the Surgery at 7.30pm on the last Thursday of the month. If you are interested please give Alison a ring on 01837 52233