

HONITON SURGERY NEWSLETTER

Autumn 2007

Honiton Surgery Extension – Progress Report

We received planning permission for the design displayed in the surgery lobby. Unfortunately the tenders received for the project were in excess of our budget. Consequently, we are looking at two options – a simplified version of the original design or a redesign using more traditional building techniques. We will retain the original total floor area whichever version is adopted. Obviously this has led to a delay in the project starting and it is unlikely much will happen on site for 2-3 months at least.

We are working closely with staff at Honiton Hospital and there may be a transfer of some of our activities, such as a phlebotomy service (blood sample taking) to the hospital before any building activity occurs. This is in anticipation of having to move some of our services to the hospital during the actual building project. We will keep you informed as soon as things become clearer.

Flu Vaccinations

Flu clinics have now been set up and commence at the beginning of October. There are sessions being offered during the week and every Saturday during October. Flu vaccinations are provided free on the NHS each year for people suffering from certain medical conditions or all of those over 65 years old. The groups of people eligible are those aged over 6 months with:-

Chronic Breathing Problems (for example asthma where steroid inhalers are needed)

Chronic Heart Disease (for example previous heart attack)

Chronic Liver or Kidney Disease

Diabetes where medications are needed

Reduced Immunity (for example if you have had your spleen removed or take steroid medication)

HIV Infection

If you do not fall within one of the NHS target groups for free flu vaccination but would like to receive one anyway, we have arranged for this to be available privately from the Coleridge Medical Centre at Ottery St Mary at a charge of £20. You can arrange this by contacting the surgery directly on 01404 814447.

Please note that NHS regulations prevent us from offering this service here in Honiton for our registered patients.

Please make your own appointments at reception, you don't need to wait to be called in.

Medical Students

Every year the surgery accepts medical students from the Peninsula Medical School in Exeter for teaching placements. This year we are taking six 2nd year students, one 3rd year student and two 5th year students. The 2nd year students will be here on various days between October 2007 and June 2008. The 3rd year students will be at the surgery from Tuesday to Friday on weekly attachments between September 2007 and June 2008. The fifth year students will be here for 5/6 week blocks between October - November 2007 and December 2007 – February 2008. The 2nd and 3rd year students will be sitting in with the doctors and nurses clinics during their time at the surgery and posters will be displayed in reception informing you of when and who they will be sitting in with. The students are here to gain clinical experience which is an essential part of their learning. However, if you would like a private consultation with the doctor or nurse please notify reception. Please also feel free to ask the student to leave the room at any point during your consultation.

Patient Volunteers

The 2nd year medical students are required to carry out supervised examinations of patients. This is an essential part of their training. If you would like to volunteer to help us with this we would be very grateful. Please contact Trudi Craig at the surgery for further information.

Suggestions Box

If you have any comments or suggestions about how we can improve the service that we provide please feel free to put your comments in the suggestions box in the waiting room. Alternatively if you would feel more comfortable discussing your comments or suggestions with one of the members of the Honiton Surgery Patient Group please call:-

Mrs Val Royle – 01404 44463
Mrs Meg Pipe – 01404 850855
Mr Alf Boom – 01404 548745

They will be pleased to hear from you.

