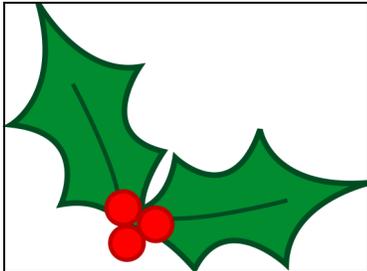


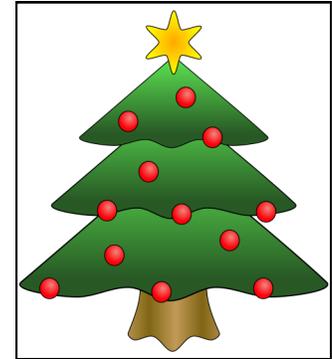
GREYSTOKE GAZETTE

ISSUE 102

DEC 2020



A very Merry Christmas to all our patients from all the staff at Greystoke surgery!



Annual Flu Update

At the start of the year none of us could have predicted the difficult months ahead. Practices organise their influenza vaccinations many, many, months in advance. In actual fact, we have just ordered the vaccines for next year! Therefore when we ordered the 2020 vaccines, no-one had heard of Coronavirus. This led to a number of challenges this year in trying to provide Covid-safe flu clinics for over 3,500 patients. In addition, some of the vaccines we had reserved for our 18-64 eligible patients were requisitioned by NHS England at short notice, forcing us to change our plans. I am pleased to say that new stock has just arrived and we will be contacting all eligible 18-64 year olds to book in.



The good news is we have had a very successful vaccination campaign and have been ranked first in Northumberland for vaccination of our over 65+ population. Our patients have given us some lovely feedback which has been a great morale boost for our staff who have worked very hard on this project and given up their weekends: "Superb organisation", "impressed with the efficiency of it all", "very well organised and put my mum at ease". If you are over 65 and have not had your vaccination yet, please do contact us to book in.

The latest change that has come at very short notice is the vaccination of 50-64 year olds that do not have an underlying health condition. We have approximately 1600 patients in this group. We have been able to order some vaccines and hope to order more next week, when we are allowed. We are planning a clinic for these patients on 12th December and will be contacting those eligible. Uptake has been higher across the country this year due to anxiety about Coronavirus and there are limited stocks available, but please be assured that we are trying our very best to protect our patients.

Trainees at Greystoke

Greystoke Surgery has historically been a training practice for many years and currently we have three trainees at the practice whose faces (and voices) might be new to you all.

Dr Rachel Drew is supervised by Dr Thompson. She is in the final stages of her GP training and has just started maternity leave. We wish her all the very best for the birth and her maternity leave.

Dr Matt Keir is supervised by Dr Shaw. He is almost halfway through his GP training and is with us until August 2021. He is undertaking an educational integrated training post which involves his work being split between Greystoke and the Paediatric Rheumatology department at the RVI. Dr Keir's wife is about to give birth at the time of printing so we wish both he and his wife all the very best.

Dr Laura Murphy is supervised by Dr Kurian. She has just started her GP training and is with us until February 2021. She has just started getting to grips with the busy demands of a GP!

Covid 19 information

With the hope of the vaccine on the horizon, there is the added hope that the end of the Covid 19 pandemic is in sight. We are awaiting the full details of the vaccination programme and patients



will be informed of the process regarding this as soon as details are available. Please do not contact reception for details of this.

The surgery has never been busier - with the ongoing challenge to meet patient demand despite the ongoing pandemic in the run up to Christmas.

We are disappointed to report of a number of incidents where staff (admin, nursing and clinical staff) have been spoken to in a demeaning and derogatory manner, which is completely unacceptable. We would like to remind our patients that the surgery does operate a zero tolerance policy and this will be implemented should staff members not be respected. Please do be polite, courteous and respectful to staff at all times who are all trying to do their best in extremely challenging circumstances.

Please think of alternative services which may be able to assist you for your medical needs: -

Your local pharmacy - For any minor ailments

Talking Matters Northumberland - mental health problems. Self referral number: 0300 303 0700

JMAPS - musculoskeletal problems. Self referral number: 03301 244 652

With best wishes from the Greystoke Team

