

JUNE 2014 NEWSLETTER

Oxygen and smoking

An alert has been issued about patients who continue to smoke (and then go 'bang') when attached to an oxygen supply. To my knowledge, no patient registered at this practice on oxygen smokes – but their relatives might. Please do not allow any naked flame anywhere near an oxygen supply. This applies also to electronic cigarettes which can also combust if used near oxygen.

Seeking new doctor

We are still advertising and hope to appoint a new doctor to the practice, but full-time general practice is becoming very unpopular with doctors coming through, not helped by repeated 'GP bashing' in the media. Rainford is a lovely place to work and we hope to attract a suitable candidate. In the meantime, we will be using locum services where necessary to cover annual leave, course attendances and sick leave. We are doing all we can to get a third doctor.

Screening

Bowel cancer screening is still going on for those aged 60-70. The practice is currently also undergoing breast cancer screening (this happens every three years). As a general rule, the earlier cancer is detected, the better the outcome. Please take advantage of these opportunities if offered. If you have any concerns or questions, please speak to either a doctor or nurse.

Electronic Prescription Service

Still not awfully sure about what this is – but it is apparently better than the current system. I believe it is only suitable for those who are stable on regular medication. I understand that you request your prescriptions in the usual way and, instead of signing pieces of paper which you then collect and take to the pharmacist of your choice, we authorise the script electronically and it appears as a request on the computer of the pharmacist of your choice. It does mean you have to stick to the same pharmacist. We have our first meeting with the pharmacists on 4th June and then 'go live' on 18th June. I hope all will become clear and would advise that if interested, you speak to Mark or Andy in the village, or to your usual pharmacist.

Retirement

Ann retired at the end of May after working here on reception for ten years. We are very grateful for all her hard work and wish her well. We welcome Julie in her place and hope she will enjoy the challenges of working in a busy practice.

Chronic Disease Registers

If you are asthmatic, diabetic or have COPD and your birthday is in June, please think about booking in with Carmel in the near future for your annual check. If you have epilepsy, heart disease or dementia and your birthday is in June please book in with either Rosie or Eithne for an annual review. Both Eithne and Carmel are recovering from recent surgery and this might affect appointment availability in the short term. For minor illnesses, please consider using Care at the Chemist or the Walk-in-Centre. See website and 'Choose Well' link.