

BSPA ARTICLE FOR THE BUCKDEN ROUNDABOUT – FEBRUARY 2009

May I begin by thanking everyone who came to our coffee morning in December, it was well attended and a very enjoyable event. The Committee really appreciates your support for what was purely intended to be social event, but we also managed to raise £70 which was a welcome but unexpected bonus.

Thank you also to everyone who donated prizes and bought raffle tickets at the Surgery before Christmas, you helped raise a magnificent £652.20 to support the work of the local Magpas organization.

Dr Bundy returned on 6th January and will work on Wednesdays and Fridays. Dr Steffes, who has been covering Dr Bundy's maternity leave, has been appointed to work on Mondays and Tuesdays on a permanent contract which is also very welcome news. Dr Sarah Henderson, a Consultant Dermatologist, has joined Dr Fagnoli to expand that aspect of the Surgery's work.

You may know that the Surgery carries out an annual Patient Survey and this will take place late in January. Over a five day period, patients attending the Surgery will be invited to fill out a questionnaire which will enable the doctors to assess patient satisfaction and establish where any necessary improvements could be made. Your opinions can influence the decisions the doctors make, so your cooperation is invaluable. There will also be a Government funded survey and those patients randomly selected will receive a survey form through the post, again, please do respond.

The PCT has restructured its Chiropody services and unfortunately for us the Buckden service has been withdrawn and in future patients will have to attend either the Oak Tree Centre in Huntingdon or the Dumbelton Medical Centre in St Neots. We are assured that they will provide a better service with more Clinicians for longer hours and will, where necessary, provide transport. However, they have also reduced services available on the NHS and some patients may, in future, have to pay for treatment that was previously free. So please check when you phone for an appointment.

Patients planning holidays in exotic places are reminded to organize any necessary jabs at the same time as they book the holiday – this will ensure that the appropriate vaccines etc. are available in time to give the whatever protection is required, thus avoiding any last minute crises! Vaccines may well not be in stock and some can take time to obtain.

Success! You may remember I wrote previously about a Government proposal to radically change the way we would get our prescriptions - this could have meant stopping Surgeries dispensing medicines. The outcry was such that they have withdrawn the proposal having listened to the public reaction [I am delighted but still in shock at this totally unexpected result!]

This month, Dr Irwin and his wife will be climbing Mount Kilimanjaro, the highest mountain in Africa, in aid of Leukemia Research. This is in memory of a good friend, Liz Burton, who died recently after a long battle with the disease. If you would like to donate money to this cause you can do so at the Surgery or Online at www.Justgiving.com/davidcharlotteirwin

There has been so much local news this month that wider PCT issues will have to be covered later, but the planned St Neots Darzi Clinic, you will be fascinated to learn, has been renamed the St Neots Equitable Access Clinic! Meanwhile the presumably less important decisions [?] promised for the end of last December on site location and the name of the successful Company to win the contract to run it, remains shrouded in mystery. More on this and Hinchbrook Hospital developments next month.

Sue Paul