

**NEWBURY STREET PRACTICE
Patient Group**

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2010

PROFILE OF DR ANDREW PARTNER

Dr Partner joined the Practice on 1st of October 2009. Dr Partner comes from the Royal Air Force where he has spent some years since qualifying. He has a particular interest in ophthalmology which he is keen to develop over time.

MESSAGE IN A BOTTLE

"LIONS Emergency Data Link" or "Message in a Bottle" scheme.

Canisters are available at the Independent Advice Centre, Wantage. Other sources are your health centre, Doctor's surgery and chemists.

You get a (free) plastic canister in which you put your personal details, doctor's name, medication details, repeat prescription (if you have one) and who to contact in an emergency. You place the canister in the fridge, stick a label (supplied) on the fridge door and another next to the handle on the inside of the front door so that emergency services can find the information in the case of emergency.

This scheme is possibly of more interest to the elderly or incapacitated, but the scheme is intended to cover anyone regardless of their age.

TILE COLLAGE – Please return tiles

Please help us to brighten up your waiting room. There is still time to colour in a tile for the Practice tile collage.

The theme is 'HEALTHY LIVING'

Tiles can be collected from Reception and an example is on display. It can be done in any format you like, oils, paints, crayons etc.

We are still waiting for a lot of tiles to be returned, so please don't forget you have them and get them back to us. Please put your name and age on the back of the tile.

Don't forget to return completed tiles to Reception by end of April 2010

There will be a prize for the best tile.

SWINE FLU TALK AT AGM – BY DR RHODRI DAVIES

When the Newbury Street Practice patient group, known as LINK, held its AGM in November 2009, the main theme was a talk by Dr Rhodri Davies about the pandemic (swine) flu.



Dr Davies explained the history of vaccination and described the different types of flu virus (plus a light-hearted reference to the well-known “man flu” for which tea and lots of sympathy were recommended!).

Dr Davies emphasised that it is really important for children and people in vulnerable groups to have the vaccine - you can't catch swine flu from the vaccine because it's dead, but getting vaccinated could save lives.

At the end of his talk Dr Rhodri Davies summarised the key messages as:

- catch it, kill it, bin it;
- get vaccinated if invited;
- telephone for help if you need it rather than attend the surgery as you can be seen in specially arranged clinics or at home if needs be.

The AGM also heard a report on the year from LINK Chairman Leicester Gill and Secretary Sandra Helm, and an update from Jean Nunn-Price on new services being planned by the Vale GP Consortium, which includes the three Wantage and Grove practices.

VALE CONSORTIUM SERVICES

Examples of new services are:

- arrhythmia – this service has been introduced in the Vale and enables local GPs to test heart rhythms by the use of a simple monitoring device;
- an extension of the popular “Solemates” Age Concern footcare service to Wantage and Grove started in January by having a specially trained nailcutter.
- DVT diagnostics - a simple test carried out within the practice offers quick diagnosis and reduces referrals to secondary care;
- enhanced optician glaucoma testing before referral to GP and onto secondary care;

- older people's services – looking to the future needs of the older population, working with Age Concern to help identify need and prevent isolation.

AGE CONCERN

Resource boxes are being left in places easily accessible to older people in the community, such as groups for older people, local libraries, sheltered accommodation and so much more. Anywhere where older people want and/or need it! These boxes contain an array of useful booklets on a whole range of subjects relevant to older people. A sheet called 'Information Resource Box' will be attached to the box with an inventory of the contents and contact numbers for Age Concern Oxfordshire, the Community Development Officer for the area and the local links. Local information will also be available.

LINK – Patient Liaison Group

We still need new members to join the committee, so if you are interested please contact the Secretary Sandra Helm on 07798 555513, or on Link@Wantage.com for information about future LINK Patient Group meetings.

Committee members are:

Leicester Gill (Chairman)
Sandra Helm (Secretary)
Dave Fox
Jean Nunn-Price
Lesley Weston