

Whitemoor Newsletter



Contact details: 01773 880099
www.whitemoormedicalcentre-belper.co.uk

Dr Kinsella: the end of an era!

We know that all our patients will be extremely sorry to hear that news that Dr “Paddy” Kinsella will be leaving the practice at the end of March when she takes her well-earned retirement. She has been a fixture in Belper and Derbyshire primary care for longer than she cares to remember; nonetheless we have forced her to share some of those memories with us!

“I was brought up in Derby where my father was a consultant oncologist at the DRI and always thought of Belper as a place we went through en route to Matlock Bath to swim in the bath hotel pool. It was only when I came to Green Lane surgery, first as a trainee, then as a partner in 1984, that I discovered the real Belper: Its interesting history at the centre of the industrial revolution, and its kind and friendly people.

The practice, Dr.S Liver, Bell, and Donaldson were unusual at that time as they took on a woman partner (me), and employed practice nurses. General Practice was very much a reactive service, responding to illnesses, rather than preventing them. We did all our own on call, often going out in the middle of the night to patients, and most days, after morning surgery, I went to the maternity unit at Babington to check over the new Mums and babies, a very happy and positive part of our work.

In 1986 I was fortunate enough to be able to go out to northern India for six months to work with Tibetan refugees. The main medical problems they had were TB, dysentery and childhood illnesses such as measles and meningococcal meningitis, due to lack of vaccinations. This made me realise the importance of prevention. In the UK, there were no formal systems in the health service for any prevention, except for the initial baby jabs, so with the help of the nurses, I set up what was to be a smear clinic but developed into Well Woman clinics. This was a mammoth task. But the hard work paid off. It was so popular that the men demanded a Well Man clinic!

Belper has grown hugely in the time that I have worked here. 12 years ago, the practice moved premises as we had outgrown the surgery on Green Lane which had been developed from the stables for Green Hall, one of the Strutt houses which was situated on what is now the car park! We are now in a modern, light and bright building with much better facilities on Whitemoor Lane. 30+ years ago, most patients came from Belper and worked locally for Deb, Jaeger, Glow worm, Thorntons, Litchfields or Brettles, and it seemed that everybody knew everybody. Now many people move into the area for only a few years, and then move on, so it is more difficult to get to know patients.

This last year of course has been very different for everyone. We have all had to change our way of working to minimise the spread of COVID-19. All our staff have been extremely courageous, continuing to come into work all through the pandemic/no matter the number of cases, seeing patients, staffing the red hub, and now doing thousands of COVID-19 vaccinations at Babington to enable us all to get to out and about safely again.

Although, like many, the travels abroad I had planned for my retirement will have to be put aside for now, this challenging time has given me a much greater appreciation of being well, as well as of the beautiful countryside surrounding this small town I call my home. There are so many things that I will miss about Whitemoor Medical Centre... but I am excited for the new challenges and adventures that retirement brings”.

Patient Feedback: Help shape your practice!

Most of the feedback we receive from patients is really positive but we know there are some things we could get better at. Help us do this by joining our independent Patient Participation Group (PPG). They meet once every couple of months and GPs and practice managers are always present to discuss and try and resolve general service issues for patients.

New members are always welcome – so just ask at reception for more details!

Covid Vaccination Programme

The Covid Vaccination programme in Derbyshire started in December 2020 and in Belper it got under way in January 2021.

The 4 practices in and around Belper (Whitemoor, Riversdale, Appletree and Arthur) joined forces to set up what is known as a “Local Vaccination Centre” based at Babington Hospital. This was set up from scratch in just over a week and we would like to thank our colleagues at Babington for their fantastic hard work in making this possible.

The 4 practices have a combined patient list of 45,000 patients and as at 4th March we have vaccinated a staggering 12,629 patients. We started with all patients over 80 years old, those in care homes and frontline healthcare workers. We are now finishing off vaccinating all patients over 60 plus all patients over 16 with very serious health conditions that put them especially at risk.

We are keen to vaccinate as many people as possible as quickly as possible and one of the limiting factors has been vaccine supply. Unfortunately we have no control over when and how much vaccine will be sent to us and on average have been getting between 400 and 2000 doses per week. This makes planning on anything but a week to week basis almost impossible.

People are understandably keen to get their vaccination as soon as possible and this has led to a massive increase in the number of phone calls as people try to find out when they are likely to get their jab. Whilst we understand peoples concern the consequence of this increased call volume is that it makes it very much harder for patients who need urgent clinical attention to get through to the surgery.

Therefore we would ask patients to help their fellow patients by only calling us about Covid vaccinations issues where it absolutely essential. Detailed information about the Covid vaccination roll out is available from the NHS website.

Please be patient, the queue for vaccines is moving fast and everybody who wants a jab will get one when it is their turn.

Thank you for your continued help and understanding.

Covid Jab: 2nd doses

We began vaccinating people in Belper on the 7th January 2021. The first cohorts were patients in care homes, over 80 year olds and frontline healthcare workers.

2nd Jabs are scheduled to be given 12 weeks after the first one. This means that we are due to start these in the week commencing the 22nd March 2021.

As we have to wait for confirmation of vaccine delivery invites can only be issued a few days beforehand.

Please do not ring us to chase your 2nd Jab, it is on its way and you will get an invite!

PPG News

Virtual PPG meetings are currently taking place using a combination of Microsoft Teams and telephone Conference Call and we have resumed our schedule of a meeting every 2-months.

At the moment our national vaccination supply seems secure and vaccinations of those in the 40-49 age groups are due to begin in April.

The vaccination rollout at the Babington Hospital is going well and all those who have been to Babington seem impressed with the facilities and organization.

As the Secretary of State has suggested we should be able to manage coronavirus infections like influenza infections, using modified vaccines, from this autumn onwards.

The PPG would like to join the practice in wishing Dr Kinsella a very happy retirement. It won't be long before her travels abroad can begin.

If you have any comments or suggestions for the newsletter please let us know.