

Brannam Medical Centre

March 2009 Newsletter



Welcome to our latest newsletter

Staff Changes – We have had a few changes on the staff front:

Dr Mel Deacon has finished her registrar posting with us and is now a fully fledged GP. She will be staying at the surgery to cover doctor's holidays, sabbatical and sickness.



Dr Ben Waterfall has joined us for 6 months as our new locum doctor, whilst Dr Bond is on maternity leave. We welcome Ben to our team.

Tracey Nicholls has returned to the District Nursing team, here at Brannams, we are very happy to have her back at the surgery.

We say a sorry goodbye to Helen Flanagan the Health Visitor, who has returned to the midwifery team. A replacement health visitor will be appointed soon, as will a new administration member for the health visiting team.

We would like to send our congratulations to Dr Louise Bond who gave birth to a beautiful baby girl on Wednesday 21st January.



We also send our congratulations to Dr Tim Chesworth and his wife who gave birth to a lovely baby boy on Monday 16th February.

Thank you

We would like to say a huge thank you to patients who have donated money to the surgery. Rest assured this will be put to very good use.

Parking

We would like to remind all patients that the car park is available only for the period that you are in the surgery. Please do not block the car park access as this is the entrance for ambulances. There is a public car park next door, if the surgery car park is full.



Please also note that patients are requested not to park in the staff car parking area.

Improvements to Patient Services

The surgery has purchased several pieces of equipment to help improve patient services.

These are just a few:

- Pulse oximeters – these measure the amount of Oxygen in the bloodstream.
- A new comfy chair and stool for the blood clinic / treatment room.
- A new multi-media screen is being installed in the waiting area to give patients up to date information about their health and services in the surgery.
- A new electronic door has been installed at the rear of the building allowing easier access from the car park for patients.

Electronic Door

Please note that to enter and exit the building through the rear entrance ALL patients will need to press the wheelchair button to automatically open the two sets of doors.



Clinic Information

Stop Smoking Clinics – Lynn our Health Care Assistant runs a stop smoking clinic on Mondays from 1-2pm, by appointment only. If you can't make this day we have contacts for other people that can help you quit smoking.



In house INR – we can now test your INR in the surgery and give you your warfarin dosage straight away, instead of going to the hospital.

Family Planning – We run a family planning clinic on Wednesdays from 12:30 – 1:45pm. This is with Dr Reynolds and one of our nurses.

Did You Know?

Last year we offered 68,052 appointments. Out of this, 5.5% of patients did not attend.



If you can not attend an appointment please call to let us know, however late you might think it is, we may still be able to offer the appointment to someone else.

Prescriptions

Repeat prescriptions can be requested once you are on regular medication. **Please allow 72 hrs if collecting from the chemist, or 48 hrs if collecting the prescription from reception.**

You can order your prescriptions in the surgery, at your chemist, online, via email at GM.E.nde-pct.PrescriptionBrannam@nhs.net or in the post.



Sexual Health

The surgery now has self-test Chlamydia kits for patients aged under 25 years.

1 in 10 sexually active young people who are tested have Chlamydia. It is the most common bacterial sexually transmitted infection (STI) and can affect both men and women. You may not know you have it because most people do not have any symptoms. If left untreated it can cause infertility.



It's easy to find out if you've got Chlamydia, by doing a simple test, and is easily treated with a simple course of antibiotics.

The FREE kits and FREE condoms are available at the sister's reception.

Patient Survey Results

We would like to thank all patients who took the time to fill in one of the patient survey questionnaires. The results have come in and there has been a very positive response. We are currently making improvements to the surgery from the responses to the questionnaires.

Up & Coming Work around the Surgery

We would like to give patients advanced notice that work will shortly commence to re-point the kiln at the rear of the surgery. The back entrance to the surgery will be closed off during this time.

We would also like to give advanced notice that one of the larger trees outside the front of the building will shortly be removed and another replaced. This could cause some disruption to the surgery entrance access.



Marathon News

Dr Stewart is running in the Flora London Marathon on Sunday 26th April 2009, he will be running in support of

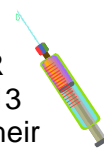


Oxfam is a vibrant global movement of dedicated people fighting poverty. Oxfam save lives, swiftly delivering aid, support and protection and help people prepare for future crises.

If you would like to support Dr Stewart's efforts to run in this marathon and to aid the Oxfam appeal, please pop into the surgery.

MMR Catch-up

The surgery is currently running a MMR catch-up programme for anyone aged 13 months to 18 years who have missed their MMR vaccination or booster. Invitations will be sent out to these patients in due course.



Measles is one of the most infectious diseases known. Measles can be serious, causing a high fever and rash. About one in every 15 children with measles will develop more serious complications. Measles can kill.

The safest and most effective way to prevent measles is to ensure your child is fully vaccinated with the MMR vaccine. For more information please pick up a leaflet at the surgery.

Visit our website

To see what else is happening at the surgery or to subscribe to receive our newsletters via email, just visit our website at: www.brannammedicalcentre.com



The screenshot shows the Brannam Medical Centre website homepage. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for HOME, CONTACT, and TEXT ONLY, along with a phone number: Call 01271 329004. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'ABOUT US' with links to 'MEET OUR TEAM', 'SERVICES WE OFFER', 'ONLINE FACILITIES', 'USEFUL INFORMATION', and 'HOW TO ...'; 'RESOURCES' with links to 'How To Contact Us', 'How To Find Us', 'Full Site Map', 'Frequently Asked Questions', and 'View Site As Text Only'; 'QUICK LINKS' with links to 'Appointments', 'Telephone', 'Latest News Story', 'Emergencies', 'Test Results', and 'Home Visits'; 'Repeat Prescriptions' with a link to 'read more'; 'Register With Brannam' with a link to 'read more'; and 'Appointments Online' with a link to 'read more'. There is also a search bar and a 'GO' button. At the bottom, there is a footer with the text: 'Welcome to Brannam Medical Centre. We are one of the largest surgeries in North Devon based in modern purpose-built premises near the centre of'.