

PUTNEYMEAD GROUP MEDICAL PRACTICE NEWSLETTER

Summer 2012, Issue Number 1

WELCOME to the first Putneymead Group Medical Practice newsletter. It has now been a year since we moved to our new premises, and we would like to take the opportunity to thank you, our patients, for being so supportive and encouraging since the move. We are aware it has been a massive feat, moving 3 surgeries into one, and has not always gone as smoothly as we would have liked. Thank you for your patience, your invaluable feedback, your suggestions, and your loyalty. We hope to build on the experience of this first year, and along with your comments and ideas, go forward to continuously improve our service to our patients.

Patient Participation Group

If you have views or feelings about the surgery, we would be delighted to welcome you to join our active and dynamic patient participation group. This is an essential way for us to find out what our patients want and need, and how we can address your concerns. If you are interested, either ask at reception, or email the group on the address below, or clinic on the link displayed on our website. Email PutneymeadPatientForum@nhs.net

FOR NEXT MEETING PLEASE SEE WEBSITE



BOWEL CANCER SCREENING FOR PATIENTS AGED 60—74

Patients in the age group will be automatically sent a screening kit to help detect the possibility of bowel cancer. This is an important and effective way of identifying patients who may be at risk, and we would encourage our patients to participate.

PRACTICE STAFF NEWS

We are a very large practice, with numerous receptionists, administrators, nurses, health care assistants and doctors. For a list of all our clinical and management staff please see our website, which details staff working days and their areas of interest.

We are delighted to announce Dr Naughton Morgan has given birth to a healthy baby boy, and is currently on maternity leave. Last month we welcomed back Dr Wallace who has returned from maternity leave. Dr Neal will be going on maternity leave at the end of August and we wish her the best of luck. Many congratulations to Dr Stevens who got married in July.

Race for life—Congratulations to Dr Hallums, Dr Dawson, and Administrator Lynda Bennet who took part in the Race for Life for Cancer Research at Richmond Old Deer Park in July. Should you wish to make a donation, please visit their Just Giving Page by following the link on our website.

Repeat Prescriptions – a reminder Please be aware that we cannot take requests for repeat prescriptions over the telephone. You can request scripts on line or in writing, and it can take up to 48 hours to generate your script.

FLU!

From the 25th September we will be immunising the 'at risk' groups for flu.



This is vitally important for our patients who are vulnerable to flu. We are aiming to make the clinics accessible to all, so will be having a variety of appointment times, including evenings and Saturdays.

Please ask at reception for more details.



Dr Naughton Morgan's new baby,



Putneymead staff enjoy the cycling



Race for Life

Olympics in Putney

The excitement of the London 2012 Olympics has spread to Putney, with the spotlight on us during the Cycling race, and also the visit of the Olympic Torch. At Putneymead, staff enjoyed fantastic views of the cycling event, from our balcony. Putneymead Patient, Jeffrey Gordon, ran with the Olympic torch in Putney, pictured as below.



Olympic Cycling in Putney



Olympic Torch bearer Jeffrey Gordon with his wife.

NEW! Musculoskeletal Clinic at Putneymead

From September, we are happy to welcome back Dr Courtney Kipps who will be running a dedicated regular musculoskeletal clinic at the practice for Putneymead NHS patients. Below is some information about Dr Kipps and the service he provides:

"I am a Consultant in sport and exercise medicine at the Institute of Sport, Exercise and Health at UCL and at the Putney Clinic. I am medical director of the London Triathlon and assistant medical director at the London Marathon. I'm also club doctor at Harlequins Rugby Club. I'll be doing a sports injury clinic for the Olympic and Paralympics Games looking after athletes of various disciplines. There is overwhelming evidence that regular exercise increases life expectancy and reduces rates of chronic disease. This service for Putneymead patients will be a great opportunity to help maintain a fit, active and healthy local population. Working with the physiotherapists and osteopaths already in the building, we will create the only inhouse musculoskeletal and sports injuries service for Putney residents and one of the first in London".

The Dr Brian Aarons Cup

Four years ago our colleague and beloved Putney GP, Dr Brian Aarons travelled to Beijing as Medical Officer for the GB Paralympics Football Squad—the pinnacle of a career in medicine, sport and charity. Tragically within weeks of his return Dr Aarons was diagnosed with cancer and died in the summer of 2010, at just 57 years of age. He was honoured by the Football Association and his personal legacy continues through The Brian Aarons Cup played out in the FA National Blind Futsal League. Brian's wife, Annie, for years a nurse at Disraeli Road Surgery, will be involved in the Prize giving at the London Paralympics Football. His son Daniel continues Brian's charity work (The Brian Aarons Trust - celebrating sport in the face of medical disability) and his daughter Rachel is following his footsteps into a career in General Practice.

Counselling

We have a dedicated counselling service offering short term support to patients registered at Putneymead. Our in-house counselling service is staffed by 4 employed counsellors, and also students in placement. Our patients also have access to the Wandsworth Psychological Therapies and wellbeing service – please ask your GP for details if you feel this is something that may benefit you.



Teaching and Training

We are proud of continuing the tradition of teaching and training at Putneymead. For a long time we have welcomed medical students to learn about general practice, which is a vital part of their course. We also have a GP Registrar based at the practice, - this is a doctor who is already qualified and has a lot of experience in hospital medicine, and is training to become a GP. Dr Hassas is our practice education lead and also a GP trainer, which means he supervises the GP registrar. We are delighted that both Dr Naughton Morgan and Dr Andrews have also qualified to become GP trainers, with both of them passing their training course with Merit. Interacting with patients is a vital part of training a doctor, and we are very grateful to our patients who make this possible.

MEASLES OUTBREAK—There have been 33 confirmed cases of Measles diagnosed in Wandsworth since May. **None of the affected had received the MMR vaccine.** Measles can lead to serious complications. If your child has not received the vaccine, or your are unsure, please speak to one of practice nurses.