

Keith Health Centre Summer Newsletter

August 2018

Fond Farewells.....

Goodbye to Lorna!



At the end of July we said a fond farewell to Dr Janie Thomason, one of the longest serving GPs at Keith Health Centre, who has retired from the practice, celebrating over 33 years of dedicated service to the health centre, Turner Memorial Hospital and the community of Keith.

Dr Thomason has seen many changes throughout her time at Keith, and her commitment to improving services

for our patients has truly been second to none.

Her work in the field of Diabetic Care has been outstanding, and she was at the forefront of the introduction of the vitally important retinal screening service, leading the way for the rest of the country.

Dr Thomason will be sorely missed by her fellow Partners, by all staff and patients at the health centre and the hospital.

On behalf of all those already mentioned and also our Patient Participation Group, we would like to wish her a long and very happy retirement, with time to enjoy more time with her family and follow her many leisure pursuits.



In addition to the departure of Dr Thomason, the end of July also saw the practice saying a warm farewell to Lorna Collins, a very experienced member of the administration team.

Lorna will be very sorely missed, and takes with her a wealth of experience. As well as being an extremely able administrator, she was also a huge support to all of her colleagues at Keith Health Centre.

And New Beginnings!

The practice is delighted to welcome Mrs Gillian Walker to the team. Gillian has accepted the post of Advanced Nurse Practitioner (ANP) at the health centre and started with us on 1st August. ANPs are experienced specialist nurses who have under-

taken advanced training which enables them to examine, diagnose and treat a variety of minor illnesses and conditions. After an induction/training period Gillian will be working closely with the GPs to provide care for patients with acute and chronic

conditions. ANPs are not a replacement for the General Practitioner. They have access to GPs if required, and you may be directed to see another clinician if not appropriate. We wish Gillian all the very best in her new role.

Patient Participation Group - Keith Show

Once again our hard working Patient Participation Group (PPG) will be hosting a stand at the ever popular Keith Show, promoting the Health Centre and services around Health.

This year the groups attending will be Alzheimers and the Scottish Health Council. Materials from Quarriers will also be promoted. The PPG has also offered to support the "Elgin Mums" in their campaign around the maternity services at Dr Gray's,

and they will collect signatures for their petition at the show.

The GPs and staff at Keith Health Centre are, as always, extremely grateful to the PPG for their ongoing commitment to supporting the practice. To enable this work to continue, they are currently looking for new members, and anyone interested should speak to the Chair, Leon Stelmach at the show, or contact him on **Mobile: 07785 940104.**

Early Morning Clinics

We would like to advise patients that the late surgeries on Wednesday evenings will cease at the end of August. We realise that it is extremely difficult for working people to schedule appointments with GP or nurse out-with working hours, particularly when more and more people have long commutes to work. However, with a national shortage of GPs, it has become much harder to recruit replacements when a GP leaves or retires. This problem is much greater in the more rural areas.

In order for Keith Health Centre to maintain a normal day time service with fewer GPs, it has been decided to withdraw the evening surgeries, at least for the present time, and replace it

with an early morning clinic on **Wednesday mornings** from the beginning of September. A mixture of telephone and face to face consultations will be available. These appointments are reserved for working people, and will hopefully allow you to attend before setting off for work, or set up a phone consultation before starting work.

We will monitor this as time goes on.



Flu Clinic Saturday 3rd November

A date for your diary

While we enjoy the beautiful summer weather, it may seem rather odd to be thinking about the winter, and the nasty flu virus. However, plans are already underway to ensure that those at risk are offered the flu vaccination again this year.

Keep a look out for further information, especially for those over 65 years and those who are in an "at risk" group.



COMMENTS

AND SUGGESTIONS

If you have any suggestions for our next newsletter, please hand them in to reception, or send them in to *Lynn Ross, Practice Manager*. We look forward to hearing your news/ views

