

# SPRING NEWSLETTER

## LAMBOURN SURGERY

### Baby Clinics

From the end of January, Lambourn surgery has been unable to offer baby clinics. The health visiting team has been restructured, and this has left them without the resources to run a baby clinic in the building. In its place you can now take your baby to the memorial hall in Lambourn to be weighed.

The session is run by the childrens service and runs on Wednesday mornings from 9.30 till 11.00. It is for children between the ages of 0 and 3. There is an opportunity to chat and have a coffee. There is also a member of the health visiting team there each week between 10 and 11 am. Either Jenny Coppard, staff nurse or the health visitor will attend the clinic.

They can weigh your baby and also help with any concerns you may have about your child.

Please remember to bring your child's red book if you would like your baby weighed.

If you are unable to attend that clinic, there are clinics run at the childrens centre in Hungerford. You can contact the health visitor on 01488 687812 during normal working hours.

Childhood immunisations are still done in the surgery, and are given by the practice nurse. If you have any concerns about immunising your child please speak to a practice nurse, your GP or the health visitor and they will be happy to help.



### STAFF NEWS

Penny Rankin, our current health visitor is leaving us at the end of April, and our previous health visitor, Gaynor Ross will return. Welcome back Gaynor.

### Text messaging and telephone numbers

We are now able to send text messages to remind you about appointments. You will need to sign a consent form to allow us to send messages. Please let reception have your mobile number if we don't have it already, and pick up a consent

form. We have a large number of out of date telephone numbers on our records. Please do not forget to let the surgery know if your number changes, or if you move house. We also cannot contact you if you ask BT to bar "caller withheld" num-

bers from your home telephone. If you choose to do this, please provide us with an alternative contact number.

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#### Special points of interest:

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- Text messaging appointment reminder service
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- Changes to the surgery team
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- GP Commissioning- The new world!

## The Patient Amenities fund



We are very fortunate to have an amenities fund at the surgery. It is a registered charity, and is used to buy items for patients which are not normally available on the NHS. It also helps to pay for some equipment which enables the Doctors or surgery staff to do their jobs more effectively or efficiently. Recently we were able to refurbish the disabled and patient toilets, add an automatic door inside the building, put a handrail along the

length of the downstairs corridor and widen some of the internal doorways to aid wheelchair and ambulance trolley access. This winter, we also resurfaced the slope and the path into the car park to give a better grip during icy conditions. One of the most important functions is our ability to support our community nurses with end of life care for patients, providing supplies and equipment to make this difficult time a little

more bearable.

A future project is to provide a handrail on the sloping path down to the surgery

The charity receives most of its funds through donations kindly made by our patients and from bequests. We currently have 3 trustees, Dr Powell, Louise Murray-Clarke, and 1 patient representative. We are in the process of looking for another patient trustee.

## Chlamydia screening

**Dr Richard Eastwood joined in February and will be with us until August. Dr Ladd will leave at the beginning of July to start her career as a fully qualified GP.**

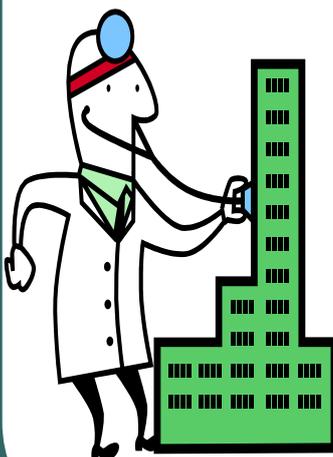
We are now offering Chlamydia screening to all young adults between the ages of 16 and 24. The process is very simple. There is no need to see a GP. Kits are available in the foyer, in the patient toilets and from reception. There are different kits for men and women and the bags are colour coded. They involve a urine sample or a vaginal swab which you can do yourself. All

packs include a prepaid envelope for posting. The results will be returned to you at your chosen address.

If you would like to seek advice or would like further information on the kit you can of course make an appointment to see your GP. There is also a page on facebook kept up to date by the screening service.



## GP Commissioning



As you will have read in the press or heard on the news, GPs are being given responsibility for where NHS money is spent. In Newbury locality the GPs have formed a committee called the Newbury and District commissioning consortia.

We meet with the other 10 practices to discuss

the services available to us and how to get the best out of them for the practice and the patients.

We are a comparatively small consortia which has advantages and disadvantages. Because of the rural nature of the area we felt our priorities would be different to those in Reading, so we decided to stand alone.

In Lambourn our priority is to ensure that our patients can expect the same, or better level of care that they have always experienced. Our ideal would be to reduce or eradicate the issues faced when dealing with county boundary issues, which can adversely affect patient choice, when deciding on their care.