

# GREYSTOKE GAZETTE

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SEPTEMBER—OCTOBER 2018



## Staff News

We send a fond farewell to **Dr Alex Barker** who has moved to a practice in Newcastle for her final 6 months of training. In her place we welcome **Dr Charlotte Ratcliff** who introduces herself below:

Hello. My name is Charlotte and I am really looking forward to working at Greystoke Surgery over the next 12 months. I am in my second year of training as a general practitioner and thoroughly enjoying it. In my spare time, I have 2 very energetic dogs who keep me busy and if I'm not walking them I'm either running or cycling.

## Thank you from all of us

We want to say an enormous thank you to all our patients for your understanding and patience in recent months when we have battled with a phone system, the engineers have been unable to fix, despite numerous attempts and promises and a shortage of appointments due to a doctor being on the sick and locums already booked up for summer holiday cover.

We are relieved to say that the telephone system is going to be completely replaced in September which should finally sort the problem out. This new system will require a separate number for the prescription line and we would welcome any patient feedback about this. The new number will be announced when we have it along with the start date.

The doctor team is now back to full strength so, hopefully, we will not have to go to urgents only as often or as early in the day as we have been doing recently. The beginning of the week remains the busiest so if your problem can wait it may be in your best interests to phone after Monday.

Listed below is the new doctor rota so that you can ring on a day your GP is working. This can sometimes vary for holiday cover:

Dr Elphick	Monday am, Tuesday am or pm, Thursday all day, Friday am
Dr Thompson	Alternate Monday am, Tuesday am, Alternate Tuesday pm, Thursday am, Friday am or pm
Dr Glennie	Monday am, Tuesday or Wednesday all day, Thursday am, Friday am or pm
Dr Kurian	Monday all day, Thursday all day, Friday am
Dr Marshall	Monday am, Tuesday or Wednesday all day, Friday am or pm
Dr Denman	Monday am, Wednesday all day, Friday all day
Dr Shaw	Monday all day, Tuesday am, Wednesday all day
Dr Carrie	Monday pm, Tuesday am, Wednesday am

## AAA Screening programme

Screening for Abdominal Aortic Aneurism takes place when men are in their 65th year. It is a simple scan and men are informed of their results before they leave the scan room. If, for whatever reason, you have missed your scan at 65 and would like to have it done now just phone 0191 445 2554 to be given an appointment. This simple test could save your life?



With many older people in Morpeth experiencing loneliness, Contact the Elderly is urgently appealing for volunteers to help set up a new tea party group in the area.



**CONTACT  
THE ELDERLY**

Volunteer hosts are required to hold two tea parties a year for a small group of older people and their drivers. You'll just need a downstairs loo and an accessible house (a bottomless teapot would be a bonus!)

Drivers are required for a few hours, once a month, to drive one or two older people to and from the tea party, and to enjoy a cuppa and some cake themselves. You'll need a driving license and access to a car.

If you are interested in being a host or driver – or if you are an older person (over 75) who would like to find out more about coming to our fun and friendly tea parties – please get in touch with Valerie Walker, Regional Development Officer, or visit the webpage to find out more. 0191 242 0186, [valerie.walker@contact-the-elderly.org.uk](mailto:valerie.walker@contact-the-elderly.org.uk) [www.contact-the-elderly.co.uk](http://www.contact-the-elderly.co.uk)

## Flu Vaccination Campaign Autumn and Winter 2018/19

This year there have been some very important changes in the way that the flu vaccinations are administered to patients across the country. Research has shown that depending on your age your responsiveness to different type of vaccines varies. This evidence has been reviewed by the National Committee for Review of Vaccinations and they have recommended that we use different vaccinations for patients under the age of 65 and those over the age of 65.

### How will these changes affect me?

In order for us to safely and effectively ensure that each person is given the appropriate vaccine that will give them the maximum protection against the flu virus next winter it has been necessary for us to change the way that we call patients in to our flu vaccination clinics. In addition the changes mean that there will be delays across the country in receiving the vaccinations which will mean we will have to run clinics later in the year than usual.

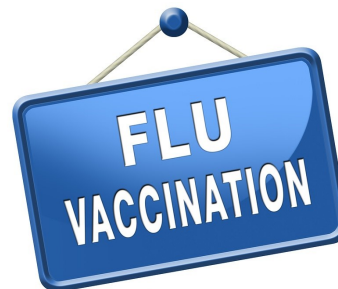
**STAYWELL  
THISWINTER**

We apologize that in some instances this may involve family members attending different clinics but a decision has been made that this is the surest way to make sure that the vaccines are delivered safely and effectively.

Invitation letters will be sent out as more vaccine arrives at the surgery so if friends or family have not had their letter please ask them to be patient. All invitation letters will have been sent by the end of October.

### Can other people give me my flu vaccination?

As before the local pharmacies will be offering flu vaccinations for those who are not able to make it to the routine flu clinics at Greystoke Surgery. If you choose to take this offer up that you ensure that the pharmacist is offering you the appropriate vaccination. Your recommend vaccine is shown in bold type at the top of the front page of this letter.



If you have any questions or queries please feel free to contact the surgery and pass your questions to our computer team who will make sure that your query is dealt with as quickly as possible.