

# GREYSTOKE GAZETTE

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## Surgery News

### Dr Elphick

In March 2020 I will have been a partner at Greystoke for 32 years. It is a job I have loved and felt very privileged to do. I now feel ready to move onto the next stage of my life so plan to retire at the end of March. This will allow me to devote more time to my garden, dogs, all my many hobbies and hopefully, in the not too distant future, grandchildren. I know I am leaving the surgery and all of you in very, very safe hands with an exceptional team of doctors, nurses and receptionists who have made working at Greystoke so rewarding. I want to thank all my patients for allowing me to help, teaching me so much and on so very many occasions making me feel very humble and appreciate how lucky I am.

Two of our new registrar introduce themselves below:



### Dr Erin Bloxham

I trained at Newcastle University and have subsequently worked in many areas around the North East. I also worked abroad in New Zealand for a couple of years before returning to the North East to undertake GP training. I have particular interests in rheumatology, mental health and really enjoy teaching.

Outside of work, I spend my time chasing after my toddler on the beach, playing the piano and I also love photography.

Personally, one of the aspects of General practice that I enjoy most is getting to know people and providing continuity of care. I'm therefore looking forward to spending a year at Greystoke and meeting you soon.

### Dr Heather Sherriff

'Hello, I'm Dr Heather Sherriff a GP registrar in the practice. Before starting GP training, I worked for five years in various hospitals and particularly liked Paediatrics. I am really enjoying this placement because I get to combine General Practice with Paediatrics. I work part time at Greystoke and part time in the Great North Children's Hospital in Newcastle. I also enjoy teaching medical students so you may see me around the practice with them. Outside of work I play squash and although I'm not the best at it, it's really good fun! I look forward to meeting you over the next year. '



## Driving Up Sepsis Awareness At Greystoke

Our observant patients may have spotted a brightly coloured bus parked outside the surgery last month, as Greystoke used its monthly staff development afternoon to focus on an important and increasingly topical health issue: Sepsis. Sepsis is a life-threatening reaction to an infection, which can lead to organ failure and death. It is not a new condition, but has become an NHS priority with greater understanding that early recognition and rapid treatment with antibiotics can save lives.

With this in mind, the whole practice team spent the afternoon in small groups working on activities to improve how we as a surgery work efficiently together, and with our ambulance and hospital colleagues, to provide optimal care to patients with suspected Sepsis. We were assisted by the 'MELISSA bus' provided by Health Education North East, which offers a mobile clinical area to simulate treating sick patients. This led to some excellent learning points agreed by the whole team which will be rolled out in the coming weeks.



Whilst any of our practice staff are well trained to deal with patients with suspected Sepsis, we would still advise that Greystoke patients call 999 or go to A&E if they develop any of the following symptoms of Sepsis as part of an infection:

- acting confused, slurred speech or not making sense
- blue, pale or blotchy skin, lips or tongue
- a rash that does not fade when you roll a glass over it, the same as meningitis
- difficulty breathing, severe breathlessness or breathing very fast

In babies and young children, it is also important to look for:

- a weak, high-pitched cry that's not like their normal cry
- not responding like they normally do, or not interested in feeding or normal activities
- being sleepier than normal or difficult to wake

We'd like to thank our wonderful patients for their understanding of the importance and benefits of holding these regular staff training afternoons to maintain high standards at Greystoke.

**Dr Graeme Denman**



**Dr Kurian**

Hi everyone! Esther Hope Kurian here. I just wanted to say a huge thank you to everyone who supported and sponsored daddy during last months cycle challenge in the waiting room. Daddy was aiming to raise £1000 for Tiny Lives, the charity that supports the special care baby unit at the RVI. He smashed this target and with your help an astonishing total of £4437.01 was raised. Thank you for making such a difference to all the special babies and for all your support. Lots of love, EHK.

