

June 2011



# Beech Tree Surgery

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# Newsletter

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## PREMISES

### Extension to our main site in Selby

Work on the extension to the rear of our main site is on schedule and we are hoping to be fully functional by Wednesday 1 August.

The ground floor of the new extension will be utilised by the nursing team. Sessions with the Practice Nurse plus the various clinics we run will all operate from this new wing. The existing building will be used by doctors and the duty team running the Minor Illness clinics.



The first floor will give us much needed office space for admin staff plus additional consulting rooms for doctors and other health related professionals.

In addition, we have a new retail unit to the front of the surgery which we intend to let to an external health professional.



As part of the building programme extensive works are taking place on the car park with the aim to provide extra capacity and increase the number of disabled bays.

At present we expect all work on the car park to be complete by late June.

### Improvements to Branch Surgeries

It is envisaged that general improvement work will start on our Riccall site around October 2011 with our Carlton site being reviewed in early 2012.

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## GP COMMISSIONING CONSORTIA (GPCC)

This subject remains high on the political agenda with concerns over the future involvement of the private sector and reservations over who should be involved on the GPCC board. We are waiting to hear what changes to the Health Bill there may be as a result of the recent 'listening exercise'.

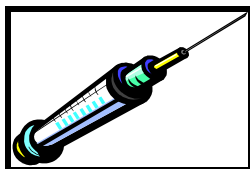
At present work is still underway with the Vale of York Commissioning Consortia (VYCC) and we are one of 33 practices covering 326,000 patients. Elections for board members are due to take place in October with the aim to take over the role of North Yorkshire & York PCT from April 2013.

Whatever decisions the coalition government make regarding the NHS it is clear to us that budgets will be squeezed and overspends will NOT be allowed. In order to achieve financial balance this year all practices in VYCC are being asked to assess all possible referrals before they are made and to review medications and drugs they prescribe to ensure they are the most cost effective. This is in addition to cuts in funding we have faced this year which will inevitably affect the level of service we can offer.

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## FLU SEASON



It will not be long before flu season is on us once again. As always we will be writing to all patients 'at risk' in early September with clinics starting early October.

Last year demand for the vaccine was lower than usual up until Christmas when because of media coverage demand rose sharply. This caused us and other practices across England severe difficulties with demand exceeding supply.

If you are eligible for the vaccination and receive an invite to a flu clinic we strongly recommend that you have the vaccination. If at all possible we ask that you attend the surgery for this vaccination, please **ONLY** request a home visit if you are **HOUSEBOUND**. Housebound patients are dealt with by the District Nurses and they have to fit this extra work in amongst their day to day work. By attending the surgery for your vaccination you will be protected from the flu virus earlier than you would if requiring a home visit.

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## HOME VISITS

On average each doctor spends 1-2 hours per day doing home visits. Home visits are for those patients who are housebound or too ill to attend surgery. Wherever possible we ask that patients attend surgery, we regret that we cannot provide home visits due to financial or transport difficulties

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## REPEAT PRESCRIPTIONS

Local pharmacies (chemists) provide a service whereby they will collect your prescriptions from us thus saving you a trip to the surgery. This can easily be arranged, all you need do is contact the pharmacy of your choice & arrange it through them. You can then collect your medicines direct from the pharmacy

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## STAFFING

### Carlton & Riccall Branch Surgeries

From 6 June both branch surgeries will have a weekly clinic with a Healthcare Assistant (HCA). These appointments are for blood pressure checks, dressings, stitch removal and blood tests for those patients who cannot for health reasons attend Selby Hospital

### Selby

From August we aim to increase the number of Minor Illness clinics each day. These clinics are run by our duty team (an experienced Nurse with assistance from the 'on call' doctor if required). The vast majority of these appointments are 'same day' appointments for conditions such as sore throats, water/urine infections, earache, abdominal pain, back pain, asthma exacerbations etc.

As part of our on going development of the nursing team we are pleased to advise that Jane Atkinson has recently joined us. Jane has been acting as a bank nurse for us for some time but has now become a permanent member of staff. She has many years experience of nursing in primary care and we are sure she will be a valuable asset to the nursing team.

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## Fundraising

One of our Dispensers, Sue Tute has recently taken the brave step of having her head shaved in order to raise funds for McMillan. To date she has raised £350.00, ..... well done Sue!



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The next newsletter will be published in September 2011

For more information about the practice please check our website, [www.beechtreesurgery.co.uk](http://www.beechtreesurgery.co.uk)

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