

HOLLY TREE NEWSLETTER

August 2022

Hi from all at Holly Tree Surgery

Well, the Surgery has really been through the mill over the past 2 years as many of you are aware. The workload has (despite media and government comments to the contrary!) escalated dramatically and it is more intense than it has ever been in the 24 years that I have been at the Surgery.

Things have been very difficult for you, our patients, as access to a doctor has become more difficult and we really do appreciate your patience. Dr Scott-Perry and our new Practice Manager, Louise Upton, really saved the day for Holly Tree Surgery over the winter of 2021/2022.

I unfortunately contracted severe sepsis with pneumonia in both lungs and urosepsis in August 2021 and it was certainly an education to see things from the other side of the fence. I was initially off work for 2 months, then after being back at work for 2 months I developed post-sepsis syndrome which meant I was unable to work for a further 2 months.

The good news is that Holly Tree is now very much back on track. We have finally recruited a new regular doctor, Dr Gemma Langridge who started on Friday, 5th August and we are delighted to welcome her to the team. We have been advertising in the BMJ for a new doctor since November 2021 and recruitment has become a serious issue in General Practice. However, we have been supported by a group of excellent locum doctors, many of whom work regularly for the Surgery and have enabled us to continue providing care at Holly Tree Surgery.

We are planning to restart regular face to face appointments with a doctor on 1st October though we have been seeing patients face to face regularly since the start of the pandemic (although this is following triage). The surgeries will be by appointment as "open" surgeries in the winter would present too high a risk of infection transmission.

We would like to thank all our patients for bearing with us during the covid nightmare. We really do hope to restore normal services in the near future.

We would also like to thank all our staff who have worked incredibly hard to keep services going over the past 2 years. It is really appreciated.

We have also recruited Eszter Bakody-Brown who is joining us as an Advanced Prescribing Nurse Practitioner. There are new faces in the Dispensary, Reception, Nursing and Health Care Assistants and the admin team and Holly Tree Surgery really has a great team again. We welcome them all to the Holly Tree family.

We hope you have been enjoying the new Mediterranean climate and remember some sun exposure is good for us as it is how we synthesise Vitamin D. We have a high prevalence of low Vitamin D in our practice population. This obviously has to be balanced with the risk of skin cancer and on that point, we are investigating in high quality skin cancer diagnostic equipment to further improve our management of skin cancer using contributions from the Friends of Holly Tree patient funds and we would like to thank all those who have donated over the years.

Best wishes,

Dr Rob Price
GP Partner