

## *Autumn/Winter 2015*

### **MERGER**

By now hopefully you are all aware that the Practices of Strathmore Surgery and The Calderwood Practice have merged together as of 1st June 2015. The name of the new Practice is "Strathcalder Practice" and the new practice telephone number is 01355 227220.

It was necessary to merge the two smaller practices of Strathmore Surgery and Calderwood Practice due to increasing strains on GP services. The main factors being reductions in income, increasing practice expenses and difficulties in employing locum doctors to cover sick leave and annual leave due to reductions in the number of locum doctors available. We feel that in the long term a larger Practice will have better GP coverage and a better service available for patients.

Unfortunately in the short term there have been many teething problems particularly with regards to computer systems. We still await a date for merger of the two Practices computer systems. We have been pressing the Health Board to help expedite this change as it is causing disruption both for reception staff, doctors and this is impacting on patients. The Health Board have advised us they have no control over this and it is due to the company who make the computer software. They have a significant waiting list for this procedure. A provisional date of December 2015 has been given for the work to be carried out.

The other big difficulty has been the telephone systems and we have an ongoing dispute with the telephone company regarding this. The Health Board is now involved with this and we are doing our best to quickly and effectively improve the problem.

We thank you all for your patience and cooperation during this period of change, but as mentioned, hope it will be of benefit to you all in the long term.

### **DR. GEDDES**

As of September 2015 Dr. Geddes is on long term sick leave. She is doing well and is expected to return to work next year at some point. We have employed a locum doctor to cover the majority of her sessions and are sure you all join us in wishing her all the best over the coming months.

### **NURSE MELDRUM**

After many years of service with the Practice, Nurse Meldrum has moved on to pastures new as of September this year. We wish to thank her for all her hard work and dedication over the years. She will be sadly missed by staff and patients alike.

We are in the process of recruiting a new Practice Nurse and are delighted to welcome Nurse Sine Campbell, Treatment Room Nurse, to join our team. Obviously there has been some delay with patients having their chronic disease management appointments and we hope to catch up with these over the next few months.

### **INFLUENZA VACCINATION**

All patients over 65 years will have received a letter from the Health Board by now. All patients under 65 years who are eligible for a flu vaccination will have received a letter from the Practice. Please make an appointment for one of our flu clinics if you wish to be

vaccinated and if you do not wish to be vaccinated please inform the reception staff who can mark this on your file. Alternatively we are holding walk in flu clinics where no appointment is necessary on:

- **TUESDAY 24TH NOVEMBER 5.00PM-6.00PM**
- **WEDNESDAY 2ND DECEMBER 5.00PM-6.00PM**
- **TUESDAY 8TH DECEMBER 5.00PM-6.00PM**