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**Apologies for not producing an April—June newsletter but we were waiting to be able to announce our news:**

## Our Plans For Extending The Surgery

(Taken from Leatside Information Leaflet—June 2010)

### Why are we considering an extension?

It is now over 10 years since we moved into Leatside Surgery and so much has changed in this time that we now need to consider how we will continue to provide services over the next 15 to 20 years. In doing this we think we need to plan for:

A further increase in the number of people registered with us of 3000 or more.

A further increase in the amount and type of care we give to people because of NHS plans to transfer care from hospital and specialist centres to GP Practices.

### What changes to the building are we planning?

By extending the building at ground floor level and creating a first floor we will increase the overall size of the building which will provide an additional 7 rooms for use by doctors and nurses and a doubling in the size of Boots Chemists. A further 6 rooms can be created in the future through changing the use of other accommodation. We also plan an increase in the number of car parking spaces, provide a lift to provide better access to the first floor and improve the sound proofing of consulting and treatment rooms.

Some of the accommodation can be used for other individuals and organisations to provide services e.g. an opticians, an osteopathic practice and private practice of some local NHS consultants.

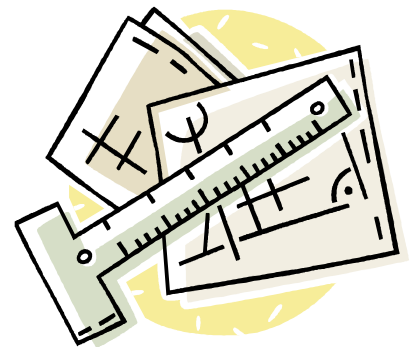
We will also have the opportunity to start up services to provide more specialist care currently provided in places like Torbay Hospital.

### How are we going to get this done?

We have been exploring possibilities for using temporary accommodation for the six months it will take to complete the building work and are currently looking at the old Dairy Crest site. Although we have some way to go to finalise our plans we are hopeful that we will be able to start our project by the autumn. Through our website [www.leatside.co.uk](http://www.leatside.co.uk) and through information sheets here in the surgery we will endeavour to keep you updated on our plans. Pick up the full version of this leaflet (June 2010) from the table by the Reception Desk or see our website.

### Your thoughts..

We are interested to know what you think and particularly if there are ideas or services not mentioned in this leaflet that you would like us to consider. Over the next month or so we will be publishing more details on our plans so please have a look and let us know. You can send an e-mail to [leatside.surgery@nhs.net](mailto:leatside.surgery@nhs.net) or write to Andrew Moore, General Manager.



### Training Afternoons:

The Surgery will be closed on the following date between 1:00pm and 3:30pm for staff training. The Chemist will remain open as usual.

- Wednesday 21st July
- Wednesday 15th September



## Linda's Retirement

Linda Oakden, one of our Administrators, retired in May. She had been with us for 19 years and will be missed by all of us here at Leatside. Linda has written a short article about her time here at the Surgery:-  
"I started working for the Surgery in 1991 as a Receptionist. The Surgery was in Fore Street at this time and I thought it was like something out of Alice in Wonderland, I didn't know which corridor to go down or where it would lead me! I did manage to get the Doctors their cup of tea on time though. The Surgery was all paperwork back then and it took up a lot of space! We then moved onto computers and I moved into Administration initially dealing with prescriptions and registration.

During my 19 years here I have also been very lucky to work closely with our Health Visitors and Midwives. Of course I will miss the buzz of the Surgery but I am looking forward to my retirement".

## Other Staff News.

Lots of comings and goings over the past months:

Midwife Team - Jane has left and Anna is now back from maternity leave and we have a new midwife, Victoria.

Health Visitors Team— a new Health Visitor Elizabeth Birch and a new Community Health Worker Melanie joined in April. Kate Stephens (Health Visitor) has now left.

We have two new Receptionists—Sarah and Sandra. They are replacing Stacey who is moving upstairs to become the Nurse Administrator as Lyn is retiring in July.

Nursing Team—Jan Stott has joined the Nursing Team to support her through her training while doing a Practice Nurse course in Exeter. She has worked with hospital patients with circulatory disease so will be able to help us with our clinics.

In August Dr Anna Holland (nee Corbett) and Dr Stephen Thake, our two Registrars, return for their final year of training in General Practice.

### MISSED APPOINTMENTS.

The number of people who missed their appointment with a Doctor or Nurse/HCA in May 2010 was:

Doctors: **118** Nurse/HCA: **138** Chronic disease clinic: **70**

Perhaps you could have made use of one of these appointments ?

\*Please cancel an appointment if you are unable to keep it so that someone else can benefit\*

We will shortly be sending letters to people who do not keep their appointments to see if we can reduce the wastage.

### Charity Fundraising.

Big Midnight Walk—in June Mandy and Sharon (Receptionists), and Lesley (HCA), completed this 13 mile overnight hike around Torbay (11:15pm—3:45am!) and raised £385 for MacMillan Cancer Support and Rowcroft Hospice.

Tea Party—In May the Nursing Team put on a tea party and raised £100 for Marie Curie and £105 for Rowcroft Hospice by selling homemade cakes.

### Leatside Car Park

It has been a problem for some time that people are parking in our car park and then going off to do their shopping without giving any consideration to our patients. The surgery is busy at all times and one of the grumbles from patients is that they are unable to find a parking space when attending an appointment or collecting a prescription.

We do have a sign near the entrance saying that 'Parking in this car park is for visitors to Leatside and the Pharmacy only'. If you see someone park their car and walk off please let one of the receptionists know so that we can deal with the problem.

### Devon Carers Link.

If you are helping to look after somebody—a partner, relative or close friend on a regular basis, you are a carer and can join the Devon Carers Link for free.

They can provide you with someone who can give you advice and support, as well as access to a Take-A-Break sitting service or a grant to give you some time off. There is also information and newsletters about local support and training opportunities. If something unexpected happens to you they provide emergency response cards to ensure the person you care for gets the help they need. You also have a chance to have your say about what affects you as a carer.

For more information call 0845 1551 007 8am—8pm weekdays and 9–1pm Saturdays.  
Textphone (Minicom) :0845 1551 020  
Mobile phone text messaging: 07773 333 231  
E-mail [csc.caredirect@devon.gov.uk](mailto:csc.caredirect@devon.gov.uk)  
Or visit [www.devon.gov.uk/socialcare](http://www.devon.gov.uk/socialcare)

Congratulations to Dr Richard Hawker and wife Caroline on the birth of Josephine on 25.5.10.



### Next Blood Donor Dates at Nearest Locations to Totnes:

At Totnes Civic Hall, High Street, Totnes. Thursday 26th August and 23rd September between 1:15pm – 3:15pm and 4:45pm – 7:15pm.

At Paignton, Methodist Church, Tower Road. Monday 12th July, Friday 30th July and Friday 17th September. All days are between approximately 1:00pm—3:15pm and 5pm—6:45pm.

An appointment time can be pre-booked for the above sessions by either phoning 0845 7 711 711, or using their website: [www.blood.co.uk](http://www.blood.co.uk) Also ring this number if you are not sure if you are eligible to give blood.



For more information about the practice please visit our website at: [www.leatside.co.uk](http://www.leatside.co.uk)