

Surgery News

Introducing a new member of staff always gives me an easy start to the Surgery News, so I am delighted to have our new Nurse Practitioner, Tracy Mooney to tell you about this month. You may well recall that Sue Webb, left us a few weeks ago to go to Frinton surgery, and Tracy is already proving that she's a more than adequate replacement.

Tracy joins us highly recommended by and from Earls Colne practice, where she held a similar position for several years. She is very experienced in all the usual chronic disease clinics, as well as women's health, family planning and weight management. I believe that she has very gentle hands when it comes to immunisations, which is always good news.

I get the feeling that Tracy must like driving, as she travels every day from Maldon where she lives with husband Mike and their two border terriers, Dexter and Maisie. She puts the dogs first on her list of hobbies, enjoys horse-riding and has a keen interest in nature – which makes her okay by me. Be warned though, that you would be well-advised to stay on the right side of her, as karate and target rifle-shooting also make it onto her list.

Mike, incidentally, is a paramedic, so you could probably script some of the conversations they have over the dinner-table each evening. As Tracy says, they are a very health-orientated family. Hopefully, she will be very happy here for years to come.

The flu jab season is now in full swing and it's good to be able to report that take-up this year is excellent so far. As ever, supplies of the jab are finite, so don't miss out by leaving it too late to claim yours. I've been asked to mention again that **all** children aged two or three on 1st September this year are now being offered annual immunisation against flu. No needles, so no excuses for them either – their protection comes from a nasal spray, which must be much less unpleasant. Please make sure that you book eligible offspring into one of the many clinics we are laying-on over the next month or two. You might well save them – and yourself – a rotten couple of weeks sometime later in the winter.

Sadly, this is going to be my last Surgery News as I have now retired from my old position as Practice Manager and cut down to a couple of days a week working just on finances. Your new Practice Manager, Richard Miller – whom many of you will already know as before promotion he was my Assistant Manager for three years or so – will take over the very pleasant job of keeping you abreast of what goes on here.

I've had a lot of fun writing this piece over the years, especially introductions to new personnel, and of course the now traditional April bits – remember the burger van and the underground car park amongst other stories? They certainly got a few of you going and made for good talking points. Anyway, I hope that Richard gets as much pleasure from the job as I've had over however many years it's been going.

Very best wishes to all of you.

Hugh Cronin
Great Bentley Surgery