

It was a pleasure to see so many patients at our last meeting, probably because we were offering the opportunity of a demonstration of the new robot system in the pharmacy – however it is hoped that those attending found the business meeting beforehand interesting and informative – enough perhaps to encourage them to come along again to our next meeting in March, when the guest speaker will hopefully be a specialist dietician.

We also welcomed the surgery's new reception manager, Annette Johnson, who will also be assisting Kirstie Lawes, the practice manager. It was reported that the new ECG machine had been purchased from Communicare funds and was now being well used by staff.

Thanks were expressed to John and Elizabeth Peake for their generous donation given in recognition of services provided by the practice over the years prior to their recent move to Wimbledon.

A report was given by Rev Parkes and Wendy Spencer, who both represent the practice on the Borderline Patient Forum, and as Chairman and Vice-Chair of that group also attend meetings of the joint LCGs (Peterborough and Borderline), and the Patient Reference Group of the CCG. In view of the progress that has been made within the two LCGs in setting up successful working arrangements, it has been decided to 'merge' the two organisations by creating a new body with effect from next April. This could have an impact on the structure of patient representation on the LCG which has to be resolved and the current two patient forums, Borderline and Peterborough, are in discussion regarding their own future format.

It was confirmed that the Oundle surgery is transferring to the Lakeside Consortium in Corby, but it is envisaged that they will continue within the working arrangements of the local LCG - all surgeries in Stamford are also transferring to Lakeside.

In relation to services for older people's care, information was requested about promised updates on progress of implementation by Uniting Care Partnership. However following the meeting, on Thursday 3rd December it was announced that UCP had terminated their contract with the CCG due to financial problems. All staff and services have been taken over directly by the CCG and patients will continue to receive care and services already in place. It was confirmed that phlebotomy services are still being provided by the practice, but if patients cannot be offered convenient appointments they can attend the City Care Centre.

Following the meeting everyone enjoyed a demonstration of the new robotic system installed in the pharmacy – our grateful thanks to Emily, the pharmacy manager, for providing an interesting and informative explanation of how new stock is processed, prescription entry into the system and how the machine then picks and issues the items requested.

Wendy Spencer

(464 words)