

Newsletter July 2017

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Appointments:

From the 1st to 29th June, **151 did not attend** their booked appointment.

Please help us to maximise our appointment availability and cancel as soon as possible if you don't need it. Even cancelling on the day is still better than just not turning up as it will allow your appointment to be offered to someone else who would like to be seen that same day.

Thank you to all of our patients who did cancel their appointment by either calling, using the automated telephone system or via the MJOG messaging service. During June, **223** patients cancelled their booked appointment which freed up valuable appointments for other patients.

Self-Check In Screen:

We understand it is a very British trait to enjoy queuing but we would like to remind patients that we do have a self-check in screen which is located on the wall to the left of the ground floor entrance door. If you are unsure how to use it and need help, please ask at reception and a member of staff will show you.

Barnsley Recovery Steps:

Recovery Steps Barnsley is an integrated drug and alcohol recovery service for Barnsley. The aim is to help as many people as possible to recover from and be free from drug and alcohol dependency, and to reduce the harm that is caused to individuals, families and communities.



They offer a range of free, confidential and non-judgmental services for adults aged 18+ and their families whose lives are affected by drugs and/or alcohol. Their aim is to support people to stay safe and live happier, healthy lives, free from drugs and alcohol.

They have experienced and professional teams who will work with individuals on their journey to recovery from drugs and/or alcohol.

Anyone can make a referral to the Recovery Steps Barnsley service e.g. self-referrals, family members or professionals.

Contact the team on 01226 779066, 9am to 5pm, Monday to Friday or visit the website www.disc-vol.org.uk

Dr Donald Fairclough:

Many of our patients will be aware that retired GP Dr Donald Fairclough sadly died on the 14th February, 2017, at his home in Scotland. The British Medical Journal (the bmj) has featured a tribute to Dr Fairclough in the obituary section of the May 2017 edition. A copy of the obituary is attached.

Measles:

Don't Let Your Child catch it – get them vaccinated with the MMR vaccine.

Measles is in the news again. There have been serious outbreaks in Wales and England and the number of children catching it is rising.

Measles can be a very serious disease, leading to ear and chest infections, fits, diarrhoea, and damage to the brain. Measles can also kill.

Your child is at risk of measles if he or she hasn't had the Measles, Mumps and Rubella (MMR) vaccination. Two doses of MMR vaccine are needed to get the best protection.

For more information about measles and MMR go to www.nhs.uk/conditions/measles

Do you have a learning disability?

Tell your doctor if you have a learning disability and they can check if you are on their learning disability register.

Patients who are on the register will be offered the support they need to make things easier, like:

- Extra time and support during an appointment
- Easy read/accessible information
- Help when making an appointment

Patients with a learning disability can also be offered a full health check every year (14 years+).



To find out more visit www.mencap.org.uk/dontmissout

Prescription Message:

Our patients should note that there are times when the doctor or another member of the practice team may need to add a message to the right hand side of your prescription. This could be about your medication or any other aspect of your medical care.

Please bear this in mind if you are asking a third party to collect a prescription on your behalf.

High Croft Parking Congestion:

Many of our patients and visitors have commented that vehicles parked on the road and straddling the pavement on High Croft are causing congestion and are a danger to pedestrians, people with disabilities, wheelchair users and other road users.

Patients and visitors to the surgery will be pleased to know that in order to tackle this problem, the Walderslade Surgery Patient Participation Group (PPG) has successfully campaigned and petitioned the local Highways Authority and Town Centre developer, Resilienti, to implement parking restrictions on the road.

This is an excellent result! Unfortunately it will take time to put the restrictions in place. However, the PPG is regularly updated on progress and has been assured that restrictions will be implemented and the situation should improve.

In the meantime please help to reduce the congestion by not parking on High Croft road. Please use and encourage others to park in one of the numerous free car parks in the town centre or the car park adjacent the surgery.

Surgery Closure Dates:

The surgery will be closed for staff training on **Thursday 6 July** from 1pm until 4pm and **Wednesday 19 July** from 12.30pm for the remainder of the day; re-opening on Thursday 20 July at 8.00am.



Donald James Fairclough

Donald James Fairclough was born in south Yorkshire to a general practitioner father and a former ward sister mother. Even so, his course into medicine was not entirely straightforward.

After school in Doncaster and five years at Bradfield College, he completed national service with the Green Howards, finishing as a second lieutenant in the Middle East. After Egypt, Khartoum, and the Red Sea, returning to take the Cambridge entrance exam held little appeal. Donald was tempted to stay in the army or study law, but parental counsel prevailed.

In 1957 he joined the practice that his father, James Fairclough, had established in 1927. Life in a mining village was far from the whirl of Cambridge and London, but, newly married and soon with two sons, Donald settled into family practice.

In 1978 he took the membership examination of the Royal College of General Practitioners and became a fellow in 1984. This led to his involvement in the vocational training scheme, which changed his career. He discovered a gift for helping trainee practitioners, and this became a source of enduring satisfaction. He also wrote extensively for *Pulse* and *General Practitioner*, emphasising the importance of observation and communication in diagnosis—and he was a master diagnostician.

He was proud to be appointed provost of postgraduate medicine for Trent, covering teaching hospitals in Sheffield, Nottingham, and Leicester. After retiring in 1993 he continued with attendance allowances and was the referee for Barnsley Crematorium until his mid-80s.

As well as a keen fisherman and a sought after shot, Donald was a much loved and respected member of his community. He served for many years as president of the Elsecar and Hoyland Musical Festival and the Chrysanthemum Society. Patients described him as a first class and caring doctor (even visiting on Christmas Day those whom he knew would be alone), and they enjoyed his stylish dress sense. Some members of the surgery attended the funeral in Scotland, while others held a parallel service in Wentworth Church.

He died from carcinoma of the oesophagus at the age of 89 and leaves his wife of 60 years, Lillias; his younger son; and two grandsons.