

A Little Drop Goes a Long Way

I was recently privileged to be invited to an awards ceremony hosted by the NHS Blood and Transplant Service and was inspired anew by the quiet dedication of people who have been donating blood and plasma for many years.

We listened to the story of a young lady who, whilst giving birth to her first baby, needed an emergency caesarian and 23 pints of blood to save her life. This amount of blood would be approximately one quarter of the donations at an average donor session.

Apparently, just 4% of the population regularly give blood and it is such an easy way to help others. Have you ever thought of donating? If so take a look at the Service website www.blood.co.uk where you will find all the information you need to get started.

When we first came to live in Shipton I had to go to Burford to donate blood. Dr. Sandy Scott and Grace Rawlins (then our community midwife) fought hard to establish donor sessions in Milton Village Hall. Now I fear that due to falling support, we are in danger of losing this facility and we may have to travel once again to Burford or even Witney. It would only take a few more people to maintain the sessions here on our doorstep.

The next session will be held at **Milton Village Hall on Tuesday April 23rd, 14.30 to 16.30 and 17.15 to 19.30**. It is a quick and painless procedure which only takes about half an hour, and that includes time for a welcome cup of tea and a chat with whoever else is donating.

What are you waiting for? Sign up today and save a life.

Christine Halliday

Wychwood Pharmacy

Many of you will have noticed that the pharmacy is now open at Wychwood Surgery. There will be two pharmacists sharing the role of Responsible Pharmacist, Paul Jenner from Oxford and Julie Clouth from Milton-under-Wychwood. The rest of the dispensary team remains unchanged with Alison Galvin, Dina Morris and Jan Adams. The one major difference all patients will notice is that if following an appointment with your GP you require immediate medication, the prescription will be printed and signed by the doctor before you leave the consulting room. We can now offer a full dispensing service to all our patients. Patients who we were previously not allowed to dispense to will now be able to get their prescriptions, so following your consultation with your GP you will be able to go straight to our

pharmacy. Please note that medication can only be handed out to patients when the pharmacist is in attendance. The pharmacy will be closed for lunch between 1pm and 2 pm Monday to Friday. Our pharmacy will be able to sell OTC ('over the counter') medicines such as Calpol, paracetamol tablets, anti-inflammatory medicines (ibuprofen), anti-histamines, anti-fungal treatments and many others. It will provide this service to the whole community whether or not they are 'our' patients.

There are no changes to the way you have previously ordered your repeat medications either by telephone voicemail message, email, online ordering at www.wychwoodsurgery.co.uk, by post or by leaving your request at the surgery.

Vanessa Newman
Practice Manager